Charity registration number 1204953

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

CHARITY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Trustees	Venerable Richard Ormston	
	James Bloomfield	appointed 1 January 2026
	Amanda de Choisy	
	Greg Cracknell	
	Christine Eccles	appointed 22 January 2026
	Valerie Griffiths	appointed 22 January 2026
	Rev Beverley Hollins	resigned 27 May 2026
	Rev Katrina Hutchins	
	Lynda Johnson	
	Wayne Jones	
	Susan Lamb	
	Suzanne Lawrence	appointed 22 January 2026
	Rev Douglas Spenceley	
	Hilary Spenceley	resigned 31 December 2025
	Ruth Walker-Green	appointed 26 May 2026
	Ronald Whittaker	
	Fiona Yardley	
Diocesan Director of Education	Peter Cantley	
Charity registration number	1204953	
Registered office	Diocese of Peterborough Education Unit Unit 1 Bouverie Court The Lakes Northampton NN4 7YD	
Solicitors	Stone King Boundary House 91 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HR	
Independent examiner	Kerry Hilliard ACA FCCA CTA Price Bailey LLP 36 Tyndall Court Commerce Road Lynchwood Peterborough PE2 6LR	

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 and confirm the financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's governing document, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (UK Generally Accepted Practice) and the Charities Act 2011.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education (PDBE) was registered with the Charity Commission on 27 September 2023 in response to the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021. The Diocesan Board of Education Scheme dated 12 May 2022 came into operation on 1 January 2023. Those persons who are normally referred to as members of the Board of Education are trustees in charity law.

Trustees

The trustees shown below have held office since 1 January 2025.

Venerable Richard Ormston	Chair	
James Bloomfield		appointed 1 January 2026
Amanda de Choisy		
Greg Cracknell		
Christine Eccles		appointed 22 January 2026
Valerie Griffiths		appointed 22 January 2026
Rev Beverley Hollins		resigned 27 May 2026
Rev Katrina Hutchins		
Lynda Johnson		
Wayne Jones		
Susan Lamb		
Suzanne Lawrence		appointed 22 January 2026
Rev Douglas Spenceley		
Hilary Spenceley		resigned 31 December 2025
Ruth Walker-Green		appointed 26 May 2026
Ronald Whittaker		
Fiona Yardley		

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charity are to advance or assist in the advancement of education consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England for the public benefit in the Diocese, in particular by carrying out the functions of the Diocesan Board of Education for the Diocese under the provisions of the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021.

The PDBE seeks, as required by the Measure, to:

a) promote or assist in the promotion of education in the Diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England;

b) promote or assist in the promotion of religious education and religious worship in schools in the Diocese;

c) promote or assist in the promotion of church schools in the Diocese;

d) promote co-operation between itself and other persons concerned with education in the Diocese.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Public benefit statement

The Board exists under the Diocesan Board of Education Measure (2021). The Measure sets out the core purpose of the Board of Education, which is to:

- promote or assist in the promotion of education in the diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England;
- promote or assist in the promotion of religious education and religious worship in schools in the diocese;
- promote co-operation between itself and other persons concerned with education in the diocese.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commissioner's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have carefully referred to this guidance when reviewing the Board's aims and objectives and when planning its future activities, acting in accordance with the Church of England's Vision for Education for the common good of the whole human community and its environment: hospitable to diversity, respecting freedom of religion and belief, encouraging all to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings, inviting collaborations, alliances and negotiation of differences in order to serve the flourishing of a healthily plural society and democracy.

Organisation

The Board of Education, as defined in statute, has overall control of the activities of the charity. The operates with five committees:

- Executive Committee
- Resource Management Committee
- Schools Standards and Effectiveness Committee
- Strategy and Leadership Committee

Trustee appointment, induction and training

When recruiting new trustees, consideration is given to the skills and experience of existing trustees in order to ensure a sufficiently wide range of skills is in place to enable furtherance of the charity's objects. Induction and training is given to new trustees and is ongoing for existing trustees.

New trustees undergo a comprehensive period of orientation and induction with the Chair of trustees, Diocesan Director of Education and other members of the Board, to brief them on their legal obligations under charity law, role and responsibilities, vision, strategy and support, as well as an overview of how the PDBE fits in with the other entities within the Diocese.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Organisation structure and decision making

The Board of Education administers the charity.

A Diocesan Director of Education is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity.

The staff of the PDBE are:

Peter Cantley	Director of Education
Andrew Read	Associate Director of Education - started 1 February 2025
Jane Lewis	Assistant Director of Education
Andrew Lakatos	Schools' Effectiveness Adviser
Lesley Pollard	Schools' Safeguarding Adviser
Ziggy Brown	RE Adviser for Schools - started 1 September 2024
Sandy Ettridge	Schools Collective Worship Advisor - Started 1 August 2025
Richard Meekings	Schools Effectiveness Advisor - started 1 January 2026
Elizabeth Heaton	Personal Assistant to the Director of Education - started 5 January 2026
Louise Ross	Administrator
Tish Shah	Executive Administrator - started 1 December 2024, left 11 April 2025
Corinne Broughton	Executive Administrator - started 14 April 2025, left 25 September 2025

Remuneration of key management personnel

The Board is responsible for setting the pay for the key members of staff and any annual increments are agreed by the Chair of the Board.

Custodian Trustee

The charity is the custodian trustee for all Voluntary Aided Church of England Schools in the Diocese except in cases where it is the actual trustee either by right of the trustee document or following an order under section 86 of the 1944 Education Act.

Under the 2021 Diocesan Board of Education Measure, governors are required to consult the Board and seek written permission to do any work on the school building which involves governor liability. The Board's main objective is to support Christian education and governors in the maintenance and development of school buildings.

Achievements and performance

Support and Challenge for Church School Leaders

All our schools benefitted from many free services provided by the DBE Education Team, which are funded by the Diocese to ensure that schools meet their statutory responsibilities. In addition, 95% of our schools continued to buy into our SLA at the highest level, the Gold Level or a bespoke version of this, far above the level of DBE engagement from Church schools in many dioceses; providing access to a high-quality programme of courses, conferences and consultancy support, all year round. We continued to receive very positive feedback on all aspects of the services we provide. The main focus of our support was for school leaders and what was particularly pleasing in 2025 was once again the commitment shown by our headteachers to attending our termly headteachers' conferences; on average, 77 attended each one, with 100% of attendees finding them helpful, and over 90% rating them as very useful or extremely useful. Consequently, our Ofsted and SIAMS inspection reports reflect this continuing progressional development of the leaders in our schools and the benefits this brings to the children and young people in our care, and we again had a relatively low level of turnover in school headships (just under 8%, and half of these being internal promotions or promotions from other Church of England schools within the Diocese, suggesting that Church school leaders enjoy working in the Diocese).

Stewardship of our Educational Governance and our System Leadership

We continue to rejoice in the opportunity to oversee the delivery of Church-based schooling to over 20,900 learners and their parents and carers, through a 'hard-wired' structure of governance across the diocesan area. Our schools and academies continue to provide a distinctly Christian offer, for those of all faiths and none and for the common good. Thus, from a missional perspective, and being so evenly spread, they remain a God-given anchor of Christian presence in our communities, still funded by an increasingly secular state.

A key lever of influence in maintaining such presence remains our diocesan supported and appointed school stewards in the form of our maintained school governors and academy trustees. We support over 480 governors and academy trustees in this role, of which 150 are nominated and put forward by their local Anglican church. All such trustees and governors remain a key delivery arm of the Diocese, and their contribution is both instrumental and hugely valued and appreciated, particularly in the case of our Chairs and our hard-working clergy.

This year the DBE continued to provide lots of training for all our governors and operated a support line to any governor seeking support from our schools, trusts or academies. We were, and continue to be, in need of more Foundation governors though, so if you think this might be of interest please do contact us – our governors and trustees all agree it is a hugely rewarding role (contact education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk) and, within reason, engagement can be proportional to your capacity to be involved.

The Directorate also contributed to the work of local government in the form of representation and strong input on the strategy and scrutiny boards of local government councils (as co-opted members). Whilst this involves many a long evening attending council meetings, it remains an essential part of the DBE remaining in the public square and providing a Church-based presence in an ostensibly secular system.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Strategic Advice and Long-Term Sustainability

In 2025 our schools faced two particular and interacting risks, leading to the possibility of closure for some schools – a risk that has come to fruition with one school facing a proposed closure. Firstly, our schools face many risks associated with financial sustainability, compounded by a very serious drop in primary aged pupil numbers (circa -10% in many localities; a national theme). This demographic change has impacted our southern schools much more harshly, with the northern A14 corridor sustaining pockets of population growth to attenuate the shortfalls of the south.

Financial uncertainties facing schools sit in tension with the plethora of educational and social care expectations placed upon them, which continue to 'ratchet-up', despite capacity degradation from under resourcing. Over the year we continued to offer strategic advice and support to headteachers, governors and trustees, in regard to the longer-term future of their schools. The DBE continues to operate a policy of encouraging all schools to make sure that they operate within strong structures, whether that be a multi-academy trust, or formal federation. Unfortunately, the majority of local authority services have fallen away through local government reorganisation.

School Chaplaincy

We continue to foster a diverse range of school chaplaincy provision. Schools such as Uppingham are able to bring the whole school together for worship in their Chapel on every school day, whereas in most other schools there is a mixture of tutor group collective worship and year group or house worship. Serving a diverse school community, with few church connections, requires worship to be particularly inclusive, invitational and contemporary in a school such as the Malcolm Arnold Academy, for example, but most of our Church of England secondary schools are able to build on strong churchgoing traditions amongst a significant proportion of their families. Most of our School Chaplains are ordained priests in the Church of England, spanning Anglo-Catholic, liberal, evangelical and charismatic traditions, and with one serving as a Lay Chaplain, having previously pursued a career as a midwife in the NHS. All are a great blessing to their school communities. Over 200 young people were once again confirmed in diocesan secondary schools over the course of the year. The School Chaplains also gathered for a day of fellowship and teaching at Oundle School in May, led by Professor Trevor Cooling, with Revd Maria Coulter hosting us and leading us in worship with Revd Joachim Foot.

The DBE Education Team and DBE members

The DBE staff team continued to develop, under the guidance of the Director, with Canon Andrew Read becoming part-time Associate Director for two days per week and Sandy Ettridge joining as our new Collective Worship Adviser for one day per week, coinciding with our Assistant Director, Jane Lewis, reducing to one day per week, and two new Diocesan Schools Consultants were recruited – Carolyn Fairbrother, Headteacher of Little Houghton CE Primary School, and Gilly Paterson, SIAMS Inspector and former Headteacher of Kibworth CE Primary School. Rachel Beeson took on the additional role of Collective Worship Adviser Associate and we also recruited Nathanael Robinson, former Headteacher of Fawcet CE Primary School, as a Collective Worship Adviser Associate.

We mourned the tragic loss of Rachael Hutchinson, a much-loved DSC and former Headteacher of All Saints CE Primary School in Peterborough, who died unexpectedly at the beginning of December, following a short illness. Sue Parkinson, a long-serving former DBE member passed away in the previous month, and we said farewell to Hilary Spenceley, Vice Chair of the DBE, who served the DBE faithfully and diligently for several decades, and who continues to serve in several other governance roles throughout the Diocese.

The Performance of Church Schools Inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in 2024-2025

Schools in the Diocese of Peterborough have continued to perform well as they have received their judgements for SIAMS. The outcome of the inspection is reflected in the school being awarded either Judgement 1 or 2. The wording for Judgement 1 states that: 'Through its vision and practice the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish'. The wording for Judgement 2 states that: 'The school's vision and practice are not enabling it to fully live up to its foundation as a Church school. This is for the following reasons…' (A carefully crafted set of words are used to express why the school has been given this judgement). In many cases, this does not mean the Church school is not doing some things well and living out its deeply rooted Christian vision in some areas of school life. However, the inspector has found insufficient evidence to be sure this is the case regarding all 6 Inspection Questions, and therefore the school is given Judgement 2.

Across the Diocese of Peterborough, there were 23 inspections carried out in the academic year 2024-25. They are as follows: Blakesley, Staverton, Peakirk-cum-Glinton, Clipston, All Saints- Wellingborough, All Saints – Northampton, Barby, Braunston, Boddington, Brigstock Latham's, Collingtree, Exton & Greetham, Freeman's Endowed, Geddington, Green's Norton, Kislingbury, Loddington, Malcolm Arnold Preparatory School, Ryhall, Stanion, Titchmarsh, Trinity, Weldon. All but one of these schools were awarded Judgement 1. The DBE and Diocesan Education Team are delighted with this outcome. It bears testament to the hard work, commitment and vision of school leaders, governors and teachers across these schools.

One school was given Judgement 2. A new headteacher had recently begun work in the school and this meant that their vision and ambition for the school as a Church school had not been implemented or fully shared with stakeholders. Since receiving this judgement, the Diocesan Schools Consultant and other members of the Diocesan Education Team have been working with the school to enable them to move forward. Good progress is being made.

Nationally there were 912 inspections across 2024/2025. As the table below shows the vast majority of these received a Judgement 1, with just 11 receiving Judgement 2.

	J1		J2	
	Number	*%*	*Number*	*%*
Diocese Schools	**23**	**96**	**1**	**4**
National Schools	901	99	11	1

Strengths are identified in all reports. Those noted for schools in the Diocese of Peterborough tend to reflect those in schools nationally. These include a secure, deeply rooted Christian vision driving the work of the school. Collective worship that inspires and motivates pupils and adults to live out the vision, and so to be courageous advocates in their school and community, was highlighted. Developing pupils' spirituality was also noted as a strength in many of the reports.

Along with many other Church schools across the country, the impact of monitoring by both leaders and governors often featured as a development point. Whilst monitoring was taking place, it was sometimes not resulting in evaluations that led to change and development. Another development point often identified was that of RE. This ranged from ensuring a curriculum that meets the needs of all learners, and takes a worldviews approach, to continuing professional development for teachers. Exploring diversity within religions and worldviews has become a key development point during this year for some schools.

The Performance of Church Schools Inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in 2024-2025 (continued)

Ziggy Brown, our RE Adviser is working with schools on a range of issues related to RE to ensure the best outcomes for pupils. Ziggy has worked with almost half of our 103 schools since she took up post in September 2024. In addition, she has worked with schools in, and leaders of, multi-academy trusts, supporting developments in RE. Her work includes helping schools in their preparation for SIAMS, developing the RE curriculum with school leaders in line with our Diocesan Syllabus for RE, providing INSET (In Service Training) for school staff on a range of issues related to teaching and resourcing RE. Ziggy produces a newsletter outlining good practice in RE and leads network meetings for RE leaders. The impact of her work has been significant. Schools report how her professionalism and expert knowledge in RE is transforming their approach to teaching RE and their curriculum developments.

In the national SIAMS report, published in September 2025, David Tait, the Deputy Director of SIAMS wrote: 'Evidence continues to demonstrate that SIAMS inspections are being carried out in a way that minimises stress on school leaders whilst ensuring a robust and incisive evaluation of school effectiveness. The depth and clarity of the data gleaned from inspection provide knowledge to all who are invested in the rich ecology of Church schools: the National Society for Education (NSE), Church of England Diocesan Boards of Education (DBEs) and education teams, Methodist Academies and Schools Trust (MAST) and, not least, school leaders including governors. These insights ensure that those responsible for doing so are deftly placed to offer the most appropriate training, guidance and support to Church schools. SIAMS inspection holds schools to account: rejoicing in each school's successes as the inspection report amplifies and evaluatively tells the school's story whilst also giving direction as to priorities for development.'

It has been a joy to present some of the schools in Peterborough Diocese with the Church School Excellence Award. The Director, Associate Director and the Assistant Director meet each half-term to consider whether schools that have been given Judgement 1 should receive this award. Other evidence is taken into account in making this decision, such as the outcomes of the recent Ofsted reports and logs of visits by Diocesan Schools Consultants. A plaque is presented to schools achieving this at a visit by either a Bishop or an Archdeacon, accompanied by the Diocesan Director of Education. During 2024/2025 Stanion, All Saints – Wellingborough, Exton & Greetham, Staverton, Braunston, Freeman's Endowed Junior School, Loddington & Weldon were given this award. These presentation events are times of real celebration for the school and community providing much needed opportunities to acknowledge the work of the school in all its dimensions, as it lives up to, and promotes, its distinctly Christian vision that is deeply rooted in the life of the school.

The Performance of Church Schools Inspected by Ofsted in 2025

Since January 2025, Ofsted has conducted 17 inspections of schools in the Diocese. Of these, 4 were conducted as Section 8 (ungraded) inspections and 13 were conducted as Section 5 (graded) inspections. In an effort to enhance comparability and manageability of Ofsted outcomes data, we have allocated a best-fit overall judgment, based on the previous criteria. However, it is important to note that an overall effectiveness grade has not been used since September 2024.

Of the previously inspected 'Good' schools (18), all were reclassified as 'Good'. Additionally, one school, previously judged as 'Requires Improvement', improved its grading to 'Good'. Furthermore, two previously 'Outstanding' schools were also inspected during this period. One of these schools maintained its 'Outstanding' grading, while the other achieved a 'Good' rating.

Of the previously inspected 'Good' schools (9), all remained 'Good'. However, 1 of these was considered to need a full inspection to re-evaluate the grading of 'Good'.

Of the previously inspected 'Outstanding' schools (5), 1 could be considered to remain 'Outstanding', whilst the others could now be considered to be 'Good'.

Of the previously inspected 'Requires Improvement' schools (3), 1 could now be considered to be 'Outstanding' and the other two to now be 'Good'.

Peterborough Diocese Ofsted Outcomes, as of December 2025, compared to National Ofsted Outcomes, most recently reported in August 2025

	Outstanding			Good			Requires improvement			Inadequate		
Year	*25*	*24*	*23*	*25*	*24*	*23*	*25*	*24*	*23*	*25*	*24*	*23*
	%	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*	*%*
Diocese Primary	**2**	**5**	**7**	**95**	**90**	**87**	**3**	**5**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**0**
National Primary	*	11	14	*	81	76	*	7	8	*	1	2
Diocese Secondary	**66.7**	**33**	**33**	**33.3**	**33**	**33**	**0**	**33**	**33**	**0**	**0**	**0**
National Secondary	*	15	15	*	70	66	*	13	13	*	3	5
Diocese Primary and Secondary	**3.9**	**5.8**	**7.8**	**93.2**	**88.3**	**85.4**	**2.9**	**5.8**	**6.8**	**0**	**0**	**0**
National Primary and Secondary	*	14	16	*	77	73	*	8	9	*	2	3

* single word judgements are no longer used by Ofsted, so it is not possible to plot 2025 national averages.

Using this ‘older’ categorising methodology, it can be seen in the primary phase, that the number of good and better schools continue to increase; now at 97%, up from 95% in 2024 and 94% in 2023. In the secondary phase 100% of schools are good or better, with 66.7% of schools that could be considered outstanding.

Admission Appeals

All appeals progressed well. Year 7 intake appeals increased from 116 appeals last year to 176 appeals in 2024. We also saw a high number of in-year appeals. Our Appeals Clerk, Robert Hargroves, has also been able to recruit and begin training 6 new panellists who will be ready to participate in appeals in time for the busiest part of 2025.

New School Buildings and Building Projects

On behalf of the DBE, Mark Bedford managed the funding for the following building projects using SCA (Schools condition allocation) funding, both projects below (Roof fabric repairs) commenced Nov 2025 and are due to be completed up to retention April / May 2026:

Peterborough	All Saints	£65,483	Roof Terrace
West Northamptonshire	Hackleton	£332,640	Roof fabric repairs
West Northamptonshire	Newbottle and Charlton	£217,162	Roof fabric repairs

Other major projects that were allocated SCA funding during 2025/26 and are expected to commence in 2026 include: Newbottle & Charlton – fencing, Peterborough All Saints, security gate and St Mary & St John (Rutland) security gate.

School Buildings and Net Zero Targets

The Diocese continues to own the majority of school buildings and sites occupied by its schools, albeit with the majority of buildings and land being the maintenance and improvement responsibility of the Responsible Body operating the school or academy (i.e. local authority or trust). In the case of most schools and academies, funding shortages mean keeping schools warm, safe and dry with little capacity for work beyond such basic priorities.

In the case of our 11 remaining voluntary aided schools, we operate a significant administrative role in the controlled distribution, on the DfE's behalf, of over three quarters of a million pounds worth of strictly ring-fenced funding for building maintenance and repair. We operate an annual process of accepting and reviewing bids for this funding and liaise with school leaders, business managers and external project management to ensure a fair and best-value approach, not least in terms of accounting rigour – a process for which the DBE remains grateful for the support of Mark Bedford in the DBF Office.

As part of our diocesan remit to encourage and facilitate all actions possible to address the climate crisis, all building works conducted in our schools are specified to national building standards, including boiler replacement/alternatives. We also encourage schools and trusts to review energy usage/efficiency and cover the global climate issues with learners at a curriculum level. All our schools have undertaken a review of their environmental impact and energy efficiencies – some funded by the Diocese. The estimated cost of the measures needed to help our ageing school estate fully meet net zero carbon 2030 targets is around £500K - £700K per school and, as such, therefore, and not for want of trying, such targets remain unachievable on current levels of funding. It is a responsibility of the state to make sure funding exists at a level that ensures that all buildings used for state funded education remain fit for purpose. We worked hard to seek ways of mitigating this huge funding challenge and continue to do so. In practice, 50% of the targets set by the National Church can only be met through net zero schools, and thus such a barrier is material to the likelihood of Diocese meeting its own net zero national targets.

Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET)

2025 was the eleventh year of operation of Peterborough Diocese Education Trust.

PDET grew to consist of 36 academies in 2025. These schools differ in size, ranging from 37 pupils to 491 pupils, and are located in varying geographical contexts, in three different local authorities, ranging from urban to rural settings.

The latest school addition to the PDET family, in April 2025, was The Glenvale CE Primary School. This church school was previously Wilby CE Primary School. With the relocation of the school into an impressive new school site, the school continues to serve the community of Wilby, whilst also serving the growing community sited in the new housing development of Glenvale Park. The official opening, which took place on 9th July 2025, was a joyous occasion led by Bishop Debbie.

2025 has been another very successful year for PDET.

Eleven church school inspections (SIAMS) took place in the Trust in 2025 – all achieving strong 'J1' outcomes i.e. the schools are living up to their foundation as church schools and are enabling pupils and adults to flourish. Quotes from SIAMS reports include the following:

'The Christian vision is deeply embedded, creating 'the spark that lights the fire'. As a result, both adults and pupils flourish at this warm, welcoming school...Teachers and other adults at Blakesley gain fulfilment and flourish in their careers.'
– Blakesley CE Primary School

Peterborough Diocese Education Trust (PDET) (continued)

'Kindness and respect are at the heart of Barby Church of England Primary School, creating a culture where pupils are valued for their uniqueness. The support given to both pupils and adults in this nurturing community enables them to shine.'
– Barby CE Primary School

'The school's Christian vision and values are clearly articulated by the whole school community. They provide a remarkable culture of care and compassion. This enables pupils, including those with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) and those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged, to succeed.'
– Collingtree CE Primary School

Five schools in the Trust also achieved the diocesan Church School Excellence Award: Braunston CE Primary School, Freeman's Endowed CE Junior Academy, Loddington CE Primary School, Staverton CE Primary and Weldon CE Primary School.

During 2025, the trust continued to procure the services of three Diocesan School Consultants, in a bespoke way. These consultants provided quality SIAMS support and served each individual school's needs most effectively.

In other areas, the Trust's pupil outcomes continued to remain strong, with the achievement of its highest pupil outcomes for Reading, Writing and Maths Combined since the Covid pandemic and achieving above the national average for 2025. In addition, Ofsted outcomes also remained strong with all four schools inspected during the calendar year achieving good or outstanding individual judgements across all areas inspected. 100% of schools inspected within the Trust are, therefore, judged to be good or better. Furthermore, the Trust's People Strategy continues to go from strength to strength, reflecting the Trust's commitment to the flourishing of all, working together as one, through the affirmation of God's love within a distinctly Christian ethos. The Trust's values of Wisdom, Respect, Belonging, Service and Hope continue to underpin the trust's aspirations for inclusivity and excellence, as outlined in its theologically rooted Christian foundation.

Meetings of the Board of Education

The Board met as a full Board three times during the year, in January, May and September. The Board continued to implement its strategy for the development of Church schools and academies, whilst responding to the many and various needs of schools and trusts. The work of the Board was supported by frequent meetings of the Board's Executive Committee and by regular meetings of its other Committees: Schools' Standards and Effectiveness, Strategy and Leadership, and Resource Management. Of these other Committees, Schools' Standards and Effectiveness continued to meet the most frequently, to encompass an extensive annual programme of school performance reviews with multi-academy trust leaders and the heads of schools causing concern, reflecting the Board's commitment to maximising its impact on school improvement.

Financial review

Principal Funding Sources

There is an annual grant agreed in advance by the PDBF as agreed by the Diocesan Synod. A grant of service is provided in addition to cash for the provision of finance.

Reserves & Management

Having considered financial risk, liquidity requirement and the timing of cash flows throughout the year, The Board's policy is to aim to hold reserves equivalent to 3 months budgeted unrestricted expenditure for the year. At the year end, the PDBE had no unrestricted reserves - but can use expendable s554 monies. The Board is working to create a strategy to start building these reserves.

Going concern

The Board recognises the risk of financial viability and this is reflected in the actions taken by the Board. The PDBF has agreed an annual grant for the next two years, with an expected on-going commitment. Other income sources are being explored by the Board.

Accordingly, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and do not believe that there are any material uncertainties as to the going concern of the charity. Therefore, the trustees are content that the charity continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual accounts.

Risk Management

The trustees are responsible for the identification, mitigation and management of risk. The PDBE maintains a risk register to identify and support the mitigation of risks, via implementation of a management and mitigation strategy. This will be reviewed by trustees annually, with the responsibility for risk management delegated to the Resources Committee, where it is a standing item on each meeting agenda.

Principal risks and uncertainities

The risks identified as most significant for the period of this report, and their mitigation strategies are identified below:

The risk that there is a lack of clarity of responsibility for financial management, policies and procedures, including lack of commercial banking arrangements leading to material errors in administration.

The mitigation strategies in place for this are:

• Close liaison with the Diocesan Board of Finance to support

• Agreement of new processes and procedures for financial transactions, budget setting and monitoring.

Principal risks and uncertainities (continued)

The risk that there is a loss of "Corporate Memory" due to staff and trustee turnover leading to inefficient practices or decisions made without understanding of consequences.

The mitigation strategies in place for this are:

• Skills audit of trustees and provision of training as identified necessary

• Support from broader DBF and DBE team

• Recruitment of high-quality staff

• Good quality induction processes

• To ensure accurate recording of key decisions.

The risk that there is a reputational risk caused by pressure on school budgets affecting their staff turnover, viability, effectiveness and ability to find a ‘good home’ within a MAT landscape.

The mitigation strategies in place for this are:

• Close working with Local Authority on debt reduction plans

• Advocacy around solutions to issues at regional and national level.

Thank you

The DBE is indebted to numerous volunteers who serve as Board Members, Foundation Governors, Chairs, Directors, Bishop’s Visitors, Bishop’s School Supporters and SACRE Representatives; as well as to the support of so many clergy and parachurch organisations and charities, which give tremendous support to our schools and academies. Our Church schools continue to be at the centre of our local communities, working in partnership with churches, local food banks and social services. We are truly grateful to all our Church schools for the vital part that they play in our diocese, and look forward to continuing to help equip, support, guide and inspire them in their mission and ministry in 2026.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 24/09/2026

On behalf of the board

Richard Ormston

Venerable Richard Ormston
Chair of Trustees

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 15 to 28.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

• examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;

• follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act;

• state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

• accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

• the accounts do not accord with such records; or

• the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.; or

• the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

I have come across no other matters, in connection with the examination, to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.



Kerry Hilliard ACA FCCA CTA
Price Bailey LLP
36 Tyndall Court
Commerce Road
Lynchwood
Peterborough
PE2 6LR

Date: 28 September 2026

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income:						
Income from charitable activities	**2**	147,119	-	-	147,119	163,978
Income from other activities	**3**	187,919	68,000	-	255,919	236,313
Investment income	**4**	51,548	-	22,452	74,000	86,436
Total income		386,586	68,000	22,452	477,038	486,727
Expenditure:						
Charitable activities	**6**	404,185	67,927	79,039	551,151	441,690
Total expenditure		404,185	67,927	79,039	551,151	441,690
Net income for the year before investment gains		(17,599)	73	(56,587)	(74,113)	45,037
Net movement on investments	**11**	-	-	(43,822)	(43,822)	24,528
Transfer between funds		17,599	-	(17,599)	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		-	73	(118,008)	(117,935)	69,565
Fund balances brought forward		-	365,956	2,104,813	2,470,769	2,401,204
Fund balances carried forward		-	366,029	1,986,805	2,352,834	2,470,769

For detailed fund by fund comparisons, a copy of the 2024 Statement of Financial Activities is included in note 21

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	**11**		1,777,585		1,821,407
			1,777,585		1,821,407
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	83,317		37,290	
Cash at bank and in hand		633,860		857,969	
		717,177		895,259	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	(141,928)		(245,897)	
Net current assets			575,249		649,362
Net assets			2,352,834		2,470,769
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**14**		-		-
Restricted funds	**14**		366,029		365,956
Endowment funds	**14**		1,986,805		2,104,813
Total charity funds	**15**		2,352,834		2,470,769

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24/09/2026

Richard Ormston

Venerable Richard Ormston
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 17 to 28 form part of these financial statements

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments and fixed asset land and buildings being measured at fair value through income and expenditure within the Statement of Financial Activities. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

1.2 Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions, that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and cash flow projections and have factored in pressures on grants and donations with the situation being kept under constant review. After making enquiries the trustees have concluded that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable, except for monies which are for specific periods crossing over the year end.

Grant from Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance

The annual grant is agreed in advance by the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance as approved by the Diocesan Synod. A grant of service is provided for the provision of finance and other services in addition to cash.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All resources expended are accounted for gross, and in the period in which they are incurred. VAT is not recoverable by the charity and as such is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the accountancy fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

1.5 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.6 Pension costs

The PDBE’s staff are members of the Church Workers Pension Fund.

Staff who were formerly employed by Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance, participate in a direct contribution scheme at the same employer's contributory rate.

1.7 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for income and expenditure during the period. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

1.8 Investments

Investments are shown at market value at the balance sheet date with any gain or loss taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Investments held by the Board as custodian trustee are not included in these financial statements.

Realised gains or losses on investments are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on the revaluation of investments.

Investments and their gains and losses are allocated to funds based upon the nature of the investment source.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

1.10 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short term maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.12 Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Endowment funds - these are funds consist of funds where there are imposed restrictions on their use.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the note 15 to the accounts.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 Income from charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Appeal income	37,590	34,550
SLA income (including courses and conferences)	109,529	129,428
	147,119	163,978

3 Income from other activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grant income from PDBF	252,275	235,312
Capital management fee	2,638	471
Sundry income	1,006	530
	255,919	236,313

4 Investment income

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Rents received	22,452	21,418
Dividends received	31,915	31,308
Interest received	19,633	33,710
	74,000	86,436

5 Income and expenditure netted off

The Diocesan Accounts Group (DAG) recommends that Education income and expenditure relating to building projects entered into by the Governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools is not included in SOFA other than as short term loans repaid by ESFA Grants and Governors contributions. This is due to the PDBE not acting as principal in the arrangements. The effect of this recommendation is that £489,027 (2024 - £374,968) of receipts and payments does not appear in the SOFA as it is effectively "netted off".

Additionally, the monies held by the DBE are not recognised in the balance sheet as they are holding this as custodian trustee and it is shown in note 19 to these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6 Charitable expenditure

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Salaries	308,249	244,583
Travel	9,471	9,374
Meeting costs	2,266	2,591
Hospitality costs	1,336	1,150
Staff development	1,365	1,176
Consultant costs	47,340	52,376
Appeal costs	21,495	22,510
Other s554 costs	79,039	28,464
Conference costs	35,741	41,124
Stationery and postage	491	465
Telephone	120	110
Books	223	87
Photocopier costs	1,013	910
Legal and professional	24,018	19,231
SIAMS costs	8,250	5,500
Sundry	4,374	5,993
Subscriptions	2,311	2,255
Bank charges	68	95
Governance costs (note 7)	3,981	3,696
	551,151	441,690

7 Governance costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Trustee indemnity insurance	2,091	2,046
Independent examination	1,890	1,650
	3,981	3,696

8 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's fee	1,890	1,650

9 Analysis of staff costs and numbers

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	258,094	210,467
Social security costs	27,323	16,690
Pension costs	22,832	17,426
	308,249	244,583

The number of staff whose emoluments (including benefits in kind but excluding national insurance and pension contributions) amounted to more than £60,000 were as follows:

	2025	2024
£70,000 - £79,999	1	1

The average staff numbers during the year are as follows:

	2025	2024
Average monthly head count during the year	7	7
Average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year	4	4

The charity considers its key management personnel comprises the trustees, the Director of Education, Assistant Director of Education and the Associate Director of Education. The total employment benefits (including pension contributions) for the year of the key management personnel were £173,474 (2024 : £134,153).

10 Trustee expenses

No remuneration has been paid to the trustees during the year.

No expenses have been reimbursed to the trustees during the year.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

11 Fixed assets investments

	Investment properties £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Market value at 1 January 2025	725,250	1,096,157	1,821,407
Revaluation in year	-	(43,822)	(43,822)
Market value at 31 December 2025	725,250	1,052,335	1,777,585
Historical cost	630,301	750,000	1,380,301

The investment properties were valued as at 31 December 2023 by Andrew Granger & Co Ltd, Chartered Surveyors. The basis of valuation was on an open market basis based on existing use and prevailing permissions.

All the unlisted investments of the Board are in the CCLA Investment Fund.

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	69,535	11,525
Other debtors	11,124	10,865
Prepayments	2,658	14,900
	83,317	37,290

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	61,984	167,095
Other creditors	1,920	3,652
Accruals and deferred income	62,633	66,747
Taxation	15,391	8,403
	141,928	245,897

14 Movement in funds

	At 1.1.25 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfer between funds £	At 31.12.25 £
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	-	(17,599)	17,599	-
Restricted funds				
Section 554 capital	335,004	-	-	335,004
Religious Education Adviser funding	27,212	73	-	27,285
Diocesan Schools Consultant funding	3,740	-	-	3,740
Expendable Endowment fund				
Section 554 fund	2,104,813	(100,409)	(17,599)	1,986,805
Total Funds	2,470,769	(117,935)	-	2,352,834

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted fund				
General fund	386,586	(404,185)	-	(17,599)
Restricted fund				
Religious Education Adviser funding	40,000	(39,927)	-	73
Diocesan Schools Consultant funding	28,000	(28,000)	-	-
Expendable Endowment fund				
Section 554 fund	22,452	(79,039)	(43,822)	(100,409)
Total Funds	477,038	(551,151)	(43,822)	(117,935)

The transfer in the year, between the General fund and the s554 income Fund is to fund the deficit on this fund, as costs allocated exceeded the income generated.

Revaluation Reserve
Included in the fund balances above is a revaluation reserve of £94,949 (2024 - £94,949) relating to investment properties and £283,587 (2024 - £327,410) relating to investments. At 31 December 2025, the revaluation reserve totalling £378,536 (2024 - £422,359) is allocated to the Expendable Endowment fund.

Restricted funds

Religious Education Adviser funding
Funding was received from the PDBF to fund the salary and on costs for a Religious Education Adviser. The adviser was appointed in September 2024.

Diocesan Schools Consultant funding
Funding was received from the PDBF to fund additional remuneration for Diocesan Schools Consultants.

14 Movement in funds (continued)

Endowment fund

Section 554 capital fund
The income of these funds primarily represents income from the Department for Education and Skills for specific building projects and repairs carried out during the year. The Education Act 1996 fund balance is made up of sale proceeds from closed schools and is used primarily towards improvement costs at Church Aided Schools.

These principally represent funds and income held under trusts arising from the sale of redundant educational properties. The Board as trustees may, after payment of any expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the trusts, apply the capital and income of the relevant trust assets for any of the following purposes:

in or towards the purchase of a site for, or the erection, improvement or enlargement of:

- the premises of any relevant school in the area
- the premises of a teacher's house for use in connection with any relevant school in the area
- for the maintenance of any relevant school in the area or of a teacher's house for use in connection with any relevant school in the area.

The income arising from these trusts may additionally be used, after payment of any expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the trust, for any of the following purposes:

- in or towards the provision of advice, guidance and resources (including materials) in connection with any matter related to the management of, or education provided at, any relevant school in the area

- the provision of services for the carrying out of any inspection of any relevant school in the area required by Part I of the School Inspection Act 1996 (a); and

- to defray the cost of employing or engaging staff in connection with the application of capital or income of the relevant trust assets.

15 Analysis of charitable funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 December 2025 are represented by:				
Investments	-	-	1,777,585	1,777,585
Current assets	140,968	366,029	210,180	717,177
Current liabilities	(141,928)	-	-	(141,928)
Net assets	(960)	366,029	1,987,765	2,352,834

16 Pension costs

The charity's staff are employed by the charity, but the payroll function is administered by the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (PDBF). The staff are included within the PDBF's monthly payment to the pension board.

The paragraphs below are taken from the latest PDBF accounts.

Pension Builder Scheme (PBS)

For eligible salaried employees who commenced employment after 1 January 2000, the charity participates in the Church of England Pension Builder Scheme, within the Church Workers Pension Fund, which is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board.

The PBS of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined contribution schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contribution paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions cost charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable.

A valuation of the scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent was carried out as at 31 December 2022.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £34.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2026, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 10% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 1997 service so that the pension increase was also 10% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to an annual cap of 5% for pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 2006 and 2.5% for pensions in payment in respect of service post April 2006). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2025. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the valuation revealed a surplus of £8.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payment at the current time.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, PDBF could become responsible for paying a share of that employer's pension liabilities.

17 Related party transactions

The Board is related to Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance (PDBF).

The Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance provides financial support to the charity in the form of an annual grant, and also administrative support to the charity in the form of providing accounting and payroll services at no cost.

Two of the charity's trustees are directors of the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance.

During the year, the charity received grants of £252,275 (2024 : £235,312) from PDBF.

18 Custodian holdings

Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education holds, as Custodian Trustee, for a number of school funds, investments and bank deposits with an aggregate value of £950,201 (2024 - £735,492), which are not included in the Balance Sheet. This includes monies from the Department for Education, which are held in individual accounts for schools for their building works. These investments are held on behalf of schools whose charitable purposes are similar to those of the PDBE. These assets are held securely and separately from those of the PDBE, which is responsible for their safe custody.

19 School building and IT projects

The Peterborough Diocesan Board of Education assists diocesan voluntary aided schools with the administration of funding for school building projects. The PDBE acts as the agent of school governing bodies in receiving funding from the Department for Education, local authorities and other funding sources and settling and matching it with the contractors' costs and professional fees. This activity of the PDBE is not reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as the transactions are those of the school governing bodies rather than the PDBE. Total expenditure on school building projects and IT equipment during the year was £489,027 (2024 : £374,968).

20 Control

No one individual has overall control of the charity.

21 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income:				
Income from charitable activities	163,978	-	-	163,978
Income from other activities	168,313	68,000	-	236,313
Investment income	65,018	-	21,418	86,436
Total income	397,309	68,000	21,418	486,727
Expenditure:				
Charitable activities	376,178	37,048	28,464	441,690
Total expenditure	376,178	37,048	28,464	441,690
Net income for the year before investment gains	21,131	30,952	(7,046)	45,037
Net gains on investments	-	-	24,528	24,528
Transfer between funds	(21,131)	-	21,131	-
Net movement in funds for the year	-	30,952	38,613	69,565
Fund balances brought forward	-	335,004	2,066,200	2,401,204
Fund balances carried forward	-	365,956	2,104,813	2,470,769