

# Annual Report of Stort Valley Schools Trust for 2024/25

## Registered Address

c/o Sawbridgeworth Evangelical Congregational Church  
London Road  
SAWBRIDGEWORTH  
Hertfordshire  
CM21 9EH

[enquiries@svst.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@svst.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1001619



## ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to present a report of the life and work of the Charity for 1 Oct 2024 to 30 Sep 2025.

The Stort Valley Schools Trust is a Christian organisation, established in 1990, to serve schools in and around Sawbridgeworth, Bishop's Stortford, Newport and Saffron Walden. Our passion is helping young people to thrive.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide a positive representation of the Christian faith to the young people and staff we work with through our words and actions.

## OUR AIMS

- To help young people thrive
- To demonstrate God's love
- To develop purposeful and caring relationships
- To enable children and young people to consider Christianity in a meaningful way

## OUR VALUES

- Jesus focussed
- Inclusive
- Accountable
- Relational

## OUR BELIEF

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16*

We believe the Good News of the Bible, that God loves everyone without exception. This is what motivates us in our love and support for young people. SVST holds to the [statement of faith](#) as laid out by the Evangelical Alliance UK.



## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Stort Valley Schools Trust (SVST) offers a free chaplaincy service to both primary and secondary schools across the Stort Valley area. We currently employ two schools' workers:

Kt Haynes our Team Leader

Nicola Williamson our Schools Support Worker

In addition we have volunteers who have a range of different roles from direct contact and work with young people in schools to representing the trust in local churches.

In 2025 our workers have been working in several schools in the area and have been able to offer support in a number of areas. Both are trained and experienced mentors, youth workers and mental health first aiders.

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the Trust should undertake.

During 2024/25 these have included:

- Mentoring

We offer children and young people 30-minute 1:1 mentoring sessions, offering a private but not confidential service. These are safe spaces for young people to be heard and to share their anxieties. Any issues can be flagged up to school pastoral care, and we signpost to other services if appropriate.

- Offering input into collective worship and Christian input to lessons,
- Seasonal workshops
- Create Soul Spaces

These are opportunities to create a space for pupils to pause and reflect on life. In 2024 we were able to create these around the themes of Easter, Remembrance and Christmas.

- Lunchtime clubs

Our Rooted Hubs are opportunities for pupils to explore who they are and what they believe about life. Rooted seeks to provide space for each young person to grow, flourish, and be nurtured in a safe, committed, and compassionate Christian community. Rooted embraces the messiness of life and encourages young people to



wrestle with big questions authentically and openly in an environment that respects difference and promotes tolerance.

- Chaplaincy drop-ins

We offer a listening ear and an opportunity to express thoughts and worries in a creative manner.

- Support year 6 pupils as they transition to secondary school
- Pastoral support to both students and staff

## GOVERNANCE

The Charity is constituted as a Trust, governed by a Trust Deed. New trustees are selected and confirmed by the existing trustees.

The trustees during 2025 have been:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Rev John Walford     | Chair              |
| Rev Gary Hanson      | Secretary          |
| Nicholas Hewish      | Treasurer          |
| Rev Brenda Brundritt |                    |
| Margaret Sherwin     | Safeguarding       |
| David King           | Grant applications |

David King became a trustee in February 2025 to offer his expertise in areas related to grant applications and business relationships.



# ACCOUNTS

The Trust’s principal source of funds comes from donations from local churches and individuals.

In 2025 we celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a campaign to encourage people to donate £35 as a thank-offering raised some additional funds. In addition we have received a grant with the objective of employing a further part-time worker.

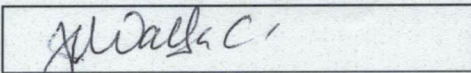
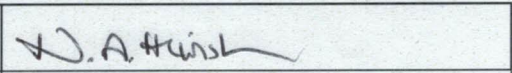
Our policy does require us to ensure that reserves are not less than one quarter of total annual payments, to guarantee a full notice period for our employees in the event that the Trust is terminated. We would like to see our regular income ~~must~~ increase in the coming financial year to ensure that the Trust operates on a firm financial footing.

A primary objective of the trustees in the coming year is therefore to strengthen finances to allow us to expand our work.

# DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

|                                          |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Signature(s)                             |  |  |
| Full name(s)                             | JOHN COLLINS WALFORD                                                                | NICHOLAS ANTONY HEWISH                                                               |
| Position<br>(e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc) | CHAIR                                                                               | TREASURER                                                                            |
| Date                                     | 27 / 02 / 2026                                                                      |                                                                                      |

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

|                                | Unrestricted<br>Funds | Restricted<br>Funds | Total<br>Funds<br>£ | Year ended<br>30 Sep 2024<br>£ |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>                |                       |                     |                     |                                |
| Donations                      | 35,857                |                     | 35,857              | 20,720                         |
| Donations for special projects |                       | 3,900               | 3,900               | -                              |
| Interest                       | 347                   |                     | 347                 | 696                            |
| Gift Aid Tax Recovery          | 2,622                 |                     | 2,622               | 2,139                          |
|                                | <b>38,826</b>         | <b>3,900</b>        | <b>42,726</b>       | <b>23,555</b>                  |
| <b>Payments</b>                |                       |                     |                     |                                |
| Salaries                       | 43,022                |                     | 43,022              | 46,099                         |
| Training                       |                       |                     | -                   | -                              |
| Equipment                      |                       |                     | -                   | -                              |
| School expenses and resources  | 1,611                 |                     | 1,611               | 2,184                          |
| Printing and postage           | 179                   |                     | 179                 | -                              |
| Travel                         | 723                   |                     | 723                 | 688                            |
| Administrative expenses        | 3,021                 |                     | 3,021               | 2,714                          |
| Special projects               |                       |                     | -                   | -                              |
|                                | <b>3,923</b>          | <b>0</b>            | <b>48,556</b>       | <b>51,684</b>                  |
| Excess receipts over payments  |                       |                     | (5,830)             | (28,130)                       |
| Funds brought forward          | 32,558                | 0                   | 32,558              | 60,687                         |
| Funds carried forward          | 22,828                | 3,900               | 26,728              | 32,557                         |
| Cash funds held                |                       |                     |                     |                                |
| Barclays current account       |                       |                     | 3,820               | 997                            |
| Barclays deposit account       |                       |                     | 22,908              | 31,561                         |
|                                |                       |                     | <b>26,728</b>       | <b>32,558</b>                  |



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

#### Report to the trustees

Charity Name

STORT VALLEY SCHOOLS TRUST

On accounts for the year 30 Sept  
ended 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1001619

#### Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

#### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting 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.

I have no concerns and 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.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

Julia Kelly

14/11/25

Name:

Julia Kelly

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body (if  
any):

ATII  
ATT

Address:

5 WALNUT TREE CRESCENT  
SANDBRIDGEWORTH  
HERTS, CM21 9EB

### Section B

### Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

any items that the  
examiner wishes to  
disclose.

|  |  |
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