

THE A S NEILL SUMMERHILL TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1089804

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ending 31 August 2025

Objectives and Public Benefit

The objects of The A S Neill Summerhill Trust are to advance public education in the educational philosophy, ideas, life and writings of Alexander Sutherland Neill and Zoë Neill Readhead, with particular emphasis on supporting educational approaches that encourage children to become happy, sincere, balanced and sociable individuals.

The Trust exists to preserve and promote the educational legacy associated with A.S. Neill and the wider Summerhill tradition, while supporting practical educational access through bursaries and related initiatives. In doing so, the Trust seeks to provide meaningful public benefit through educational support, archival preservation, and the dissemination of ideas that continue to contribute to educational debate in the UK and internationally.

During the year, trustees had regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when reviewing activities, expenditure and future planning.

Activities and Achievements

Educational Support and Bursaries

The Trust continued its long-standing commitment to widening access to education through direct bursary support. Supporting children and families who may otherwise find access difficult remains a central practical expression of the Trust's charitable purpose.

During the reporting period, bursaries totalling **£16,500** were awarded. These funds directly assisted educational participation and access.

Additional educational support included:

- **£525.28** for educational extras and lessons
- **£400** towards Class 2 educational accommodation connected with an educational Italy trip

These expenditures directly furthered the Trust's charitable objectives by reducing barriers to educational opportunity and supporting enriching learning experiences.

Archive Preservation and Educational Heritage

The Trust continued to support the preservation of archive materials connected with A.S. Neill, Summerhill School, and the wider educational legacy associated with democratic and child-centred learning.

Archive-related expenditure totalled **£83.80** for preservation materials and associated archive expenses.

Although modest in financial scale during this reporting period, trustees recognise the long-term significance of preserving educational records, documents and materials that may support future research, scholarship and public understanding.

The Trust considers this archive work an important public benefit activity, ensuring historically significant educational material remains available to researchers, educators and interested members of the public.

Outreach and Public Awareness

The Trust undertook limited but purposeful promotional activity designed to raise awareness of its charitable mission and encourage wider public engagement with its educational aims.

This included:

- **£240** spent on social media promotion

Trustees considered this expenditure proportionate and aligned with the Trust's public benefit objectives, helping to maintain awareness of its educational and charitable work.

Financial Review

Income

Total income for the year amounted to **£63,955.52**.

Income sources included:

Source	Amount
General donations	£5,805.07
Archive/research donations	£1,100.00
Royalties / contracts	£5,746.36
Bequest (Mr Forrest)	£50,000.00
Zoë Barefoot sales	£734.46
Auction proceeds	£254.60
PayPal income	£315.03

The most significant contribution was a legacy bequest of **£50,000**, which substantially strengthened the Trust's financial position and will help support future charitable activities.

Trustees remain grateful for all donor support, whether through individual giving, legacy support, royalties or other fundraising activity.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was **£18,044.86**.

The majority of expenditure was directly applied to charitable purposes, particularly bursary support, demonstrating the Trust's continued focus on practical educational benefit.

Trustees monitor expenditure carefully to ensure charitable resources are used efficiently and in accordance with the Trust's objectives.

Surplus and Reserves

The Trust recorded a net surplus of **£45,910.66**, increasing reserves from **£28,353.10** at the beginning of the year to **£74,263.76** at year end.

Trustees consider this reserve level prudent and appropriate, particularly given the variable nature of charitable income and the importance of maintaining financial resilience.

Reserves may support:

- future bursary commitments
- archive preservation work
- educational initiatives
- charitable outreach
- continuity of operations during periods of reduced income

Governance

The Trust continues to operate under its governing Declaration of Trust.

Trustees met during the year to oversee:

- charitable activities
- expenditure approvals
- financial management
- bursary awards
- compliance obligations
- strategic planning

No trustee received remuneration for acting as a trustee.

Where appropriate, trustees may be reimbursed for legitimate out-of-pocket expenses incurred in carrying out trustee duties.

Trustees remain committed to good governance, transparency and responsible stewardship of charitable resources.

Risk Management

Trustees regularly consider the principal risks affecting the Trust and the measures required to manage them.

Financial Risk

The Trust remains partially reliant on donations and irregular larger gifts such as legacies.

Mitigation includes:

- maintaining prudent reserves
- reviewing expenditure carefully
- monitoring income patterns

Governance Risk

Trustees recognise the importance of maintaining effective governance and regulatory compliance.

Mitigation includes:

- regular trustee oversight
- independent financial examination
- documented decision-making

Reputational Risk

Trustees recognise that charitable credibility depends upon activities remaining clearly aligned with charitable purposes.

Mitigation includes:

- scrutiny of expenditure decisions
- oversight of outreach activity
- maintaining clear public benefit focus

Safeguarding

The Trust supports the charitable and educational objectives associated with Summerhill School through bursaries, archive preservation and related educational initiatives. However, the Trust does not directly

provide services to children, does not operate educational provision, and does not interact operationally with pupils.

Responsibility for safeguarding, child protection procedures, DBS compliance, welfare monitoring and direct duty of care in relation to children rests entirely with Summerhill School as the regulated educational provider.

Trustees nevertheless remain mindful of safeguarding principles as part of good governance. No safeguarding incidents relating to the Trust's own activities were reported during the reporting period.

Overseas Activity

The Trust did not undertake direct charitable operations outside the United Kingdom during the reporting period.

Any incidental international educational relevance associated with supported activities did not amount to formal overseas charitable delivery.

Trustee Benefits and Related Party Transactions

No trustee received payment for acting in their role as trustee.

No material related party transactions requiring additional disclosure were identified during the reporting period.

Independent Examination

The accounts were independently examined by **Martin Fuller, CRASL Accounting Services**.

The independent examiner confirmed that no material matters came to attention during the examination and that the Trust ended the year with reserves of **£74,263.76**.

Plans for 2025–26

Trustees intend to continue developing the Trust's charitable work in line with its objectives.

Planned priorities include:

- continuation of bursary support
- further archive preservation activity
- strengthening public awareness of the Trust's mission
- supporting educational and research initiatives consistent with the Trust's purposes
- maintaining prudent financial stewardship

Trustees remain committed to preserving and advancing the educational legacy of A.S. Neill in ways that provide meaningful and lasting public benefit.

The A S Neill Summerhill Trust

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2025

INCOME

Donations General	£5,805.07
Donations Archive/research	£1,100.00
Royalties/contract	£5,746.36
Bequest - Mr Forrest	£50,000.00
Zoë Barefoot Sales	£734.46
Mander – Auction	£254.60
Paypal	£315.03
TOTAL INCOME:	£63,955.52

EXPENDITURE

Bursaries Paid	£16,500.00
Extras/Lessons	£525.28
Archive	£83.80
Social Media Promotion	£240.00
Class 2 Italy Accommodation	£400.00
Paypal return cheque	£157.51
General Expenses	£138.27
TOTAL EXPENSES:	£18,044.86

BALANCES

Opening balance 01.09.2024	£28,353.10
Income	£63,955.52
Expenditure	£18,044.86
Closing Balance 31.08.2025	£74,263.76

Accounts prepared from bank records

Lynn Kersey

Date: 09.09.2025



Accounting Services

The A S Neill Summerhill Trust

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtained written assurances from the Trustees of all material matters.

Independent Examiner's Statement, Report and Opinion

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above. I have completed my examination: and can confirm that:-

This is a report in respect of an examination carried out under 145 of the Act and in accordance with the directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act which may be applicable;

and that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:-

accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by with Section 130 of The Charities Act 2011;

the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

the financial statements do 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 and 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination;

have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principals set out in the FRS 102 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting by Charities) 2015, (as amended by the Bulletin issued in February 2016), (The SORP).

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 financial statements to be reached.

For the year ending 31st August 2025 I agree to the trust ended with a surplus of £45,910.66, leaving a reserves balance of 74263.76 as of 31st August 2025.

Martin Fuller

Signed on 1st April 2026