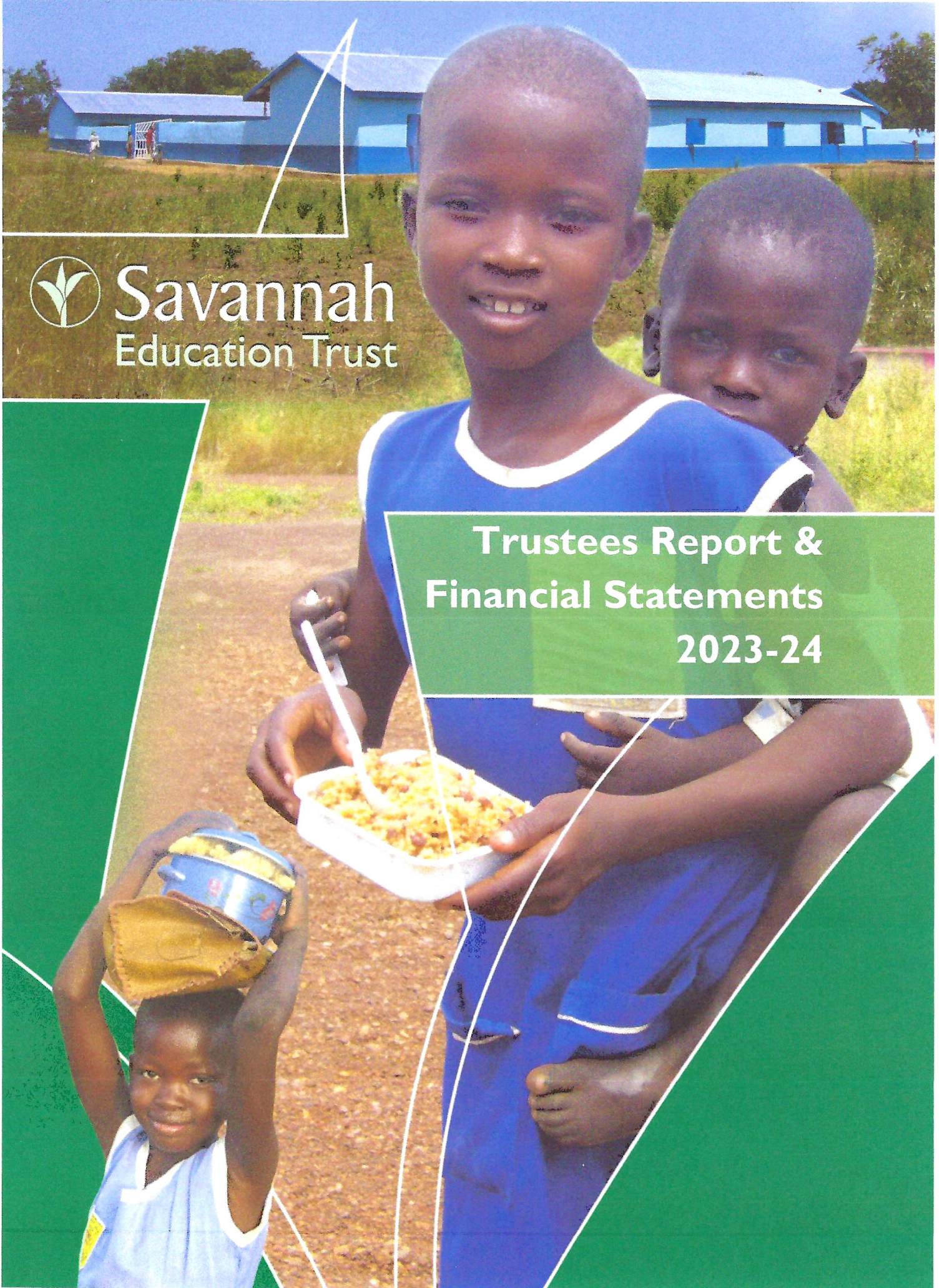




Savannah
Education Trust

**Trustees Report &
Financial Statements
2023-24**



SAVANNAH EDUCATION TRUST

REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 5 April 2024

Charity name: Savannah Education Trust

Address: 58 Appledore Gardens
Lindfield
West Sussex RH16 2EU

Trustees: Paul Ramsbottom (Chair)
Richard Cooper
Howard Hickman
Stephen Ramsbottom
Matthew Roe (from 31 January 2024)
Helen Skelton (from 31 January 2024)

Charity number: 1104896

Website: www.savannahtrust.org

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Objectives and activities

Governance

The Savannah Education Trust is a charitable trust governed by a trust deed dated 23 June 2004. Apart from the founder Trustees, any Trustees are appointed or reappointed for a term of three years by a resolution of Trustees. During the year, two new trustees were appointed to support the expanding work: Helen Skelton (a teacher and Head of Science at a successful UK secondary school) and Matthew Roe (currently undertaking postgraduate research at the University of Oxford).

The work of the Trust in Ghana is managed by Alfred Sogsuo (who leads a small team based in Lawra), and the Trust works in partnership with the local tribal leadership and district government. The management of our schools is through a Committee drawn from the church and the local village community and the ongoing cost of the majority of our teaching staff is funded by the Ghanaian government through the Ghana Education Service.

Objectives

The charity's objectives are the advancement of education and the relief of poverty of people living in Ghana. In particular, the charity provides an education for some of the most disadvantaged children in Upper West Region (Ghana's most impoverished region) by:

- building and running Christian primary schools in rural villages which currently have little or no access to education.
- providing essential resources for schools which are not provided by government. This includes physical resources (e.g. borehole, books) and a targeted programme for teachers (a teacher training programme to ensure a steady supply of qualified teachers).
- educating every child in each village in which the Trust works, no matter how poor, whether girl or boy, whatever their disadvantage, disability or religion.
- tailoring, where possible, the education to suit the particular needs of children in this region.

The projects are managed at the local level by local people. Savannah Education Trust works in close collaboration with Ghanaian partners: the Baptist church, the local Municipal Education Directorate, tribal leadership and parents. The schools are embedded within the Ghana Education Service (GES), who have the ongoing responsibility for teachers' wages, basic school resources and inspecting the quality of teaching. Savannah Education Trust is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people with whom it comes into contact. The schools which we create and run are government schools and the immediate responsibility for safeguarding therefore sits with GES. Our own staff are committed to these principles and work closely with government officials and teaching staff who have overall responsibility for child protection issues. Our safeguarding policy is publicly available. We continue to organise safeguarding conferences for our staff (and other educational staff in the area).

Activities

At the end of the calendar year (2023), Pastor Charles Karbo retired. He had led the work in Ghana from the start of Savannah's activities, and the trustees pay tribute to him for his leadership across many years. He remains a valuable source of wisdom and advice for the team. Following a competitive recruitment process, Alfred Sogsuo was appointed as Country Manager. He had previously held the position of accountant and assistant Country Manager for Savannah Education Trust.

The villages in which the charity works are in the savannah countryside clustered around the market town of Lawra in Ghana's Upper West Region. Our first Christian primary school was opened in the village of Bagri during Autumn 2006 and we currently have ten schools, namely (in order of construction): Bagri, Gberi, Pavuu, Mettoh, Korh, Tungan-Zagkpee, Boo, Baapari, Danko-Buree and Lyssah.

Alongside the day-to-day business of school life across busy schools, the year was also one of continued building work.

In our existing schools at **Tungan-Zagkpee** and **Danko-Buree** there was a need to provide Junior High Schools (i.e. loosely similar to what in the UK would be called senior school, running from age 11 to 14). During the year, the building work, for the new JHS at Tungan-Zagkpee was completed, and work was started at Danko-Buree.

Across all of the Savannah schools, there is an **ongoing maintenance programme** of painting and of rewiring. This continued during the year.

We are pleased that our **new teacher training and conference centre** in Lawra continues to be well utilised – both as an office for Savannah staff and as a training and resource centre. Life as a teacher in a village school can often be lonely. The centre has become a gathering place for sharing experiences and for more formal learning. It also houses resources – both digital and traditional – to support staff.

The centre forms a central element of our ambition to maintain a high standard of education in our schools and provide support to our teaching and ancillary staff. The multi-purpose facility has been used as a Savannah office for our staff from 2021. Alongside the centre a small number of guest rooms have been constructed. These are already proving useful for the centre, and may also be a source of income in the future (given the general lack of accommodation available in this remote area). We continue to work with a UK NGO, PEAS, working together to improve the quality of education at the schools (see <https://www.peas.org.uk/countries/ghana/> for more about this partnership).

A **feeding programme**, providing a meal for each schoolchild each day, has been an important part of our activities since we started. In this region, children are used around the home and in the fields to help with domestic chores and farming. A meal helps to ease acute pressure on families, and encourages them to release children from this type of work. Increasingly, the Ghanaian government is taking over the responsibility of this element of our work. Lunch for children attending Junior High Schools has until now not been part of the government's programme and so remains the responsibility of the charity.

The Trust is supporting the schools (and indeed the whole district) through a **teacher training programme**. Many schools, particularly in rural locations, struggle to attract qualified teachers. This is compounded by the fact that many qualified teachers choose to work in more affluent areas of Ghana. The scholarships have been given on the understanding that, once training is completed, the teacher will return to work in Lawra Municipality, Upper West Region. It is the intention that the new teacher training centre will complement this programme, not least with continuing professional development.

As funds allow, we aim to provide **accommodation for teachers and their families** alongside our schools. The first such provision was under construction at **Boo** during the year (chosen because it is one of the furthest schools away from the market town of Lawra).

Nearly 20 years after we started the work, the impact on the village that we work in is evident. An education in these villages is not primarily about job opportunities – but improvement to the quality of life: from farming improvements to learning simple hygiene lessons. The Trust can point, for example, to the evidence that education produces an improvement in farming and a reduction in child mortality. Nonetheless, many of the children in our rural schools have gone on to further education and training (often with the help of Savannah). For a long time, the team in Ghana have felt that there is a real need for vocational training – to help children who leave school at 14 who wish to develop a skill or craft, and perhaps eventually set up a small business. We are therefore hoping, if the Lord will, to build what is known as a ‘Technical High School’ and have identified a plot of land on the edge of the market town of Lawra. The intention is to start relatively small with practical skills such as construction, carpentry or electrical skills. The local government are supportive of the venture.

Funding

The Savannah Education Trust is extremely grateful to supporters who have generously funded its work during the last year.

Without this support, our ongoing activities would not have been possible. It has been a source of much encouragement to trustees and the executive team during the year. We continue also to acknowledge, with gratitude, the kind voluntary help that we have received.

Income in the year totalled £334,684 the majority of which was voluntary income. We continue to find regular, pledged income through direct debits particularly helpful in planning future activities. We are also very grateful to have received a number of grants from grant-making charities during the year.

The level of surplus or deficit varies year to year, largely depending on the capital infrastructure investment in any given year. This year we report a surplus of £13,579.

Reserves policy and future plans

Trustees have reviewed the charity's need for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

The reserves are held for three purposes. First, Trustees deem it prudent to hold contingency funds to cover the costs of the future maintenance of schools and associated buildings. There is therefore a growing need as our school network has expanded to ten schools. Secondly, we have the ambition of expanding into further villages. The speed of expansion into new villages will be dictated to a considerable extent by availability of funds, particularly as funding is also needed to continue the work in existing villages. In addition, and as mentioned above, the Trust has plans to create a Technical High School. Thirdly, as well as these planned and potential capital projects, the charity continues to have considerable ongoing costs, particularly for the feeding and teacher training programmes. We are very conscious that the annual recurrent costs are increasing year by year, not least as the schools reach pupil capacity. It is helpful to hold at least one year's worth of the charity's core costs (i.e. staff and core programmes) in reserve.

The Trustees have nominally designated £125,000 from the reserves towards these future capital costs and £75,000 towards maintenance costs. On 5 April 2024 the charity held reserves (net of these funds nominally designated for capital projects and maintenance) of £326,182.

Approved by Trustees and signed on their behalf



Date: 31 December 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 5 April 2024 which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's 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(2) 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;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to 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 statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T. A. L.

Name: THOMAS MAIN ACA (ICAEU)

Relevant professional qualification or body:

Address: MILL COTTAGE, UPPER WEATHAM MILL LANE

Date: 27/1/25 HOLYBONE, HANTS, GU34 4EP

SAVANNAH EDUCATION TRUST

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 5 April 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds (£)	2023 Total Funds (£)
<i>Voluntary income</i>					
Donations		210,971	-	210,971	239,417
Direct debit contributions		84,155	-	84,155	86,412
Gift aid		15,405	-	15,405	15,991
Legacies		9,191	-	9,191	-
		319,722	-	319,722	341,820
<i>Other income</i>					
Interest received	2	14,962	-	14,962	6,503
Total incoming resources		334,684	-	334,684	348,323
<i>Resources Expended</i>					
<i>Cost of Generating Funds</i>					
Newsletters and circulars		2,861	-	2,861	2,611
<i>Direct Charitable Expenditure</i>					
Building projects	3	96,759	-	96,759	167,542
Pupil feeding programme		39,403	-	39,403	25,375
Teacher training scholarships		20,701	-	20,701	22,583
Transport		10,993	-	10,993	13,238
Building maintenance & resources		30,862	-	30,862	52,043
		198,718	-	198,718	280,781
<i>Support Costs</i>					
Trip to Ghana		5,108	-	5,108	3,961
Admin – Ghana (incl. all staffing)	4	97,331	-	97,331	74,004
Admin - UK	5	3,920	-	3,920	4,514
Depreciation		8,807	-	8,807	8,808
Exchange difference		4,360	-	4,360	(2,400)
		119,526	-	119,526	88,887
Total resources expended		321,105	-	321,105	372,279
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		13,579	-	13,579	(23,956)
Total funds brought forward		512,603	-	512,603	536,559
Total funds carried forward		526,182	-	526,182	512,603

SAVANNAH EDUCATION TRUST

Balance Sheet as at 5 April 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	6	16,807	25,614
Current assets			
Cash and bank balances	7	497,604	486,989
Loans to staff		11,771	
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		0	0
Net current assets		509,375	486,989
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>526,182</u>	<u>512,603</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		0	0
Unrestricted funds		526,182	512,603
Total charity funds		<u>526,182</u>	<u>512,603</u>

**NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 5 APRIL 2024**

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005), the Charities Act 2011 and applicable UK accounting standards, using the following accounting policies:

(b) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, legacies and grants are recognised on receipt. Income is only deferred when the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods or the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

(c) Volunteers and donated services and facilities

The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. We acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the significant contribution made by volunteers (both in the UK and Ghana).

(d) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended if there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. The irrecoverable amount of VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

(e) Depreciation

During 2011-12 it was decided that depreciation should be provided to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of assets, over their expected useful lives. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at 25% per annum. The charity does not capitalise items with a cost below £500.

(g) School buildings and related assets

School buildings and related equipment are not capitalised in the financial statements as they are not considered to have any realisable value by the charity. In the event that the charity was not able to continue operations, the intention would be for them to

continue as government schools and with the same governance structure (albeit not supported by the programmes provided by the charity).

(h) Funds structure

The charity has historically had a small number of restricted income funds to account for situations where a donation has been specified for a particular purpose. All other funds are unrestricted income funds.

2. Interest received (£s)

	2024	2023
UK accounts	14,962	6,503
Ghanaian account	-	-
	<u>14,962</u>	<u>6,503</u>

3. Building projects (£s)

	2024	2023
Conference/training centre	27,274	67,216
Baapari JHS	-	21,445
T-Z JHS	38,377	11,390
Danko-Buree JHS	3,045	-
Lyssah	-	50,306
Boo teachers' accom	25,320	-
Electricity	666	-
Improvements	<u>2,077</u>	<u>17,185</u>
	<u>96,759</u>	<u>167,542</u>

4. Ghana Admin expenses (£s)

	2024	2023
Admin	14,416	12,306
Staff costs	<u>82,914</u>	<u>61,698</u>
	<u>97,330</u>	<u>74,004</u>

5. UK Admin expenses (£s)

UK Admin

	2024	2023
Bank charges	171	174
Website	642	834
Admin	852	780
Consultancy	336	1,077
CAF fees	<u>1,919</u>	<u>1,649</u>
	3,920	4,514

6. Tangible fixed assets

The new pick up and Kia truck have been given a residual value of £1,500

The tipper truck, purchased in 2021, is being depreciated at a rate of 25% per year, less a residual value of £5,000.

	New pick up	Kia truck	New Tipper truck	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£
Cost 6.4.2023	16,125	11,283	40,231	67,639
Additions				
Disposals				-
Cost 5.4.2024	16,125	11,283	40,231	67,639
Depreciation 6.4.2023	14,625	9,784	17,616	42,025
Depreciation charge for yr	-	-	8,807	8,807
Depreciation 5.4.2024	14,625	9,784	26,423	50,832
Written down value 6.4.2023	1,500	1,499	22,615	25,614
Written down value 5.4.2024	1,500	1,499	13,808	16,807

7. Cash and bank balances

	2024	2023
COIF deposit account	102,784	122,441
UK current account	58,288	23,456
Lloyds savings accounts	83,792	65,480
Cambridge & Counties	127,781	122,611
Redwood	99,611	121,319
Cash at bank and in hand in Ghana	25,348	31,682
Cash in transit to Ghana	-	-
	<u>497,604</u>	<u>486,989</u>