

**CENTRE FOR SELF MANAGED LEARNING LIMITED**

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Company Number: 02814910**

**Charity Number: 1110315**

**Year ended 31 August 2024**

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## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Registered Charity Number** 1110315

**Registered Company Number** 02814910

**Trustees (who are also Directors)**

Ian Cunningham  
Carol Dyer  
Randall Hardy  
Lorena Zurbano  
John Carden

**Registered Office**

Gardner Road  
Portslade  
Brighton  
East Sussex  
BN41 1PN

**Independent Examiner**

Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE  
independent-examiner.net  
PO Box 9864  
Poole  
BH15 9JZ

**Bankers**

CAF Bank Ltd  
25 Kings Hill Avenue  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4JQ

Cambridge & Counties Bank  
Charnwood Court  
5B New Walk  
Leicester LE1 6TE

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees of Centre for Self Managed Learning are pleased to present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

**1.0 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

**1.1 Charity status**

The Centre for Self Managed Learning is a registered charity, receiving charitable status on 5th July 2005. It is a company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 4th May 1993 under the Companies Act 1985. The Centre for Self Managed Learning was established under a Memorandum of Association, which describes the objects and powers of the charitable company; it is governed under its Articles of Association as amended by special resolution on 6th June 2005. Under those Articles, the Trustees are elected by the existing trustees.

**1.2 Governance and decision making**

The Board of Trustees governs the Centre for Self Managed Learning and meets at least once a year to discuss and review strategy, planning, development and financial matters. Day-to-day management of the current main project, Self Managed Learning College, is delegated to the Governing Body.

**1.3 Recruitment, appointment, induction and training of Trustees**

Trustees are recruited and appointed on the basis of their knowledge of and/or dedication to understanding and upholding the principles and practice of Self Managed Learning. They must be committed to working in the interests of and actively supporting the aims of the Charity. Trustees must be age 18 or over.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**2.1 Objects**

The advancement of education among young people and adults within the UK and abroad by the provision of resources, facilities, materials, information, advice and support to those advancing education policy and practice both in and outside state systems.

**2.2 Aims and principal activities**

The principal aim of the organisation is the promotion and development of Self Managed Learning for people of all ages and in all contexts. The principle activity currently is Self Managed Learning College focusing on programmes for young people. SML College organises events promoting the Self Managed Learning approach, engages in educational research and publishes materials on

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learning issues. Our principle sources of income are fees from parents and from local authorities, grants from funding bodies wishing to support community groups and advancement in education and donations from social enterprises, principally Strategic Developments International Ltd (SDI). Our main expenditure is attributed to the running costs of the College. This growing project allows the charity to provide sustainable support to young people engaging in SML. Our key objectives are:

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED**

- Promote and develop the Sussex college
- Assist the creation of other SML centres
- A trial project to provide GCSE level examinations to college students and local candidates
- Provision of a web site with free access to published articles and information about SML
- Organise the “Festival of learning”
- Supporting research on learning and on education
- Publication of free newsletters and articles about our work
- Provision of events to disseminate SML
- Provision of seminars on educational issues
- Work with other local organisations to develop the College in Sussex
- Collaboration with universities – including research, organising educational events and taking students on placements at the College
- Providing volunteer opportunities for adults
- Welcoming visitors to the College to learn about our work
- Making presentations at conferences and contributing to webinars and podcasts

### **2.3 How the Centre for Self Managed Learning activities deliver public benefit**

Public benefit is delivered through the activities of the Self Managed Learning College which provides opportunities for young people age 9 – 17 (the beneficiaries) to take responsibility for their learning and future direction whilst supporting and challenging one another. In this way, they develop the capability for life-long learning and are far better prepared to take their place in society as self-reliant citizens. One example of the results achieved is that all the students leaving the College at 16 have gone on to further education, sixth form college, jobs or self-employment, i.e. the College has had no NEETs since its beginnings in 1999. This record is particularly impressive given that some students in the College are those who have not succeeded in school.

## **3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2023/24**

### **3.1 New Premises and Restructuring**

The academic year 2023-24 saw a continued development of the premises in Fishersgate. This has allowed us to widen our offer to students. One example of this is the opening of the new Design Technology workshop.

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In the previous year the Trustees had agreed to a new structure whereby the post of coordinator was replaced by three new positions, Director, Property Manager and Learning Support Officer. The latter two posts were soon filled but finding the right person for the Director post proved very difficult. In the end Carmel Kent stepped down from her position as a Trustee to take up the post on a part time basis from January. The post of Property Manager was enlarged to that of an Operational Manager and Phil Poling took up that post in February.

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - CONTINUED**

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### **3.2 Board of Trustees**

In the November Trustee meeting Sam Story stepped down as Chair of Trustees after five successful years in the role. The Trustees thanked him for steering the charity through a significant move and an important restructuring. Sam stayed on the Trustees until 2024 but needed to leave due to increased work pressure. However we were able to recruit new Trustees in Carol Dyer and Randall Hardy who brought significant expertise in home education to the Board. Ian Cunningham took the post of Chair the Trustees. Carmel Kent joined the Trustees but then applied to be Director and stepped down as a Trustee in December.

### **3.3 Self Managed Learning College**

After a difficult previous year due to the problems of the premises move the College settled down much more. The innovation of developing a second programme in the afternoons has progressed well and proved popular, though numbers are generally still lower than the morning programme.

We are seeing an increase in young people not coping well in school and this reflects the national picture of lowered school attendance. Also our students with special needs have continued to experience difficulties in areas such as support from local authorities, where funding problems are severe.

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### 3.4 New and Other Projects

The charity is committed to the further progress of Self Managed Learning. Now that the College is on a firmer footing this has allowed us to develop our outreach work. For instance we assisted the setting up of a new centre in Oxford and other groups interested in doing the same elsewhere in the UK are being supported. By contributing to webinars, conferences and other events the SML approach is gaining greater support. Our publications are now well read and the book 'Self Managed Learning and the New Educational Paradigm' continues to sell well. We are not neglecting the use of SML in organisations. For instance the book on 'Leadership Development for Real' that Ian Cunningham and Anne Gimson were involved in editing has promoted SML.

### 4.0 Financial Review

The financial statements are set out on pages 8 to 14. 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 102.

#### 4.1 Overview

The year ended 31 August 2024 ended with net expenditure over income of £41,885 (2023 – net expenditure over income of £72,737). Of this, there was a deficit of £41,855 (2023 – deficit of £44,444) in unrestricted funds and there was £nil (2023 – deficit of £28,293) in restricted funds. At 31 August 2024, there was £160,603 (2023 - £202,488) in unrestricted reserves and £nil (2023 – £nil) in restricted funds.

Total income for 2023/24 amounted to £307,055 (2023 – £305,258), an increase of £1797. Total expenditure for 2023/24 amounted to £348,940 (2023 – £377,995), a decrease of £29,055.

#### 4.2 Financial outlook

A fee increase from January 2024 allowed staff and volunteers to invest time and energy into new projects. A dedicated professional fundraiser has now been engaged to increase donations income. Although global economic uncertainty is still high, we have healthy reserves and there is a continued need for our services and demand for places is still high. In 2023/24 college is forecast to generate a surplus, Trustees are therefore confident about the financial outlook.

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As part of this, the Trustees are committed to finding sustainable ways to support families in financial need, allowing them to continue benefiting from the Centre's offerings. The financial outlook for the upcoming period includes an emphasis on securing additional funding to support these initiatives.

### **4.3 Reserves policy**

The Centre for Self Managed Learning is committed to using its resources in pursuit of its charitable objectives. It is also committed to maintaining a level of reserves that is prudent to meeting ongoing liabilities, sufficient to ensure that all delivery commitments can be met and to protect the long-term future of the Centre for Self Managed Learning operations. The Centre for Self Managed Learning reserves policy seeks to balance these priorities.

As income is comprised almost entirely of student fees, the trustees consider it prudent to maintain their level of reserves at a level that represents approximately 12 months expenditure of the charity, based on planned expenditure for that year.

## **5.0 STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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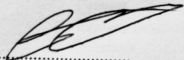
Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the results of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at anytime the financial position of the charitable company and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees on **25 March 2025**  
and signed on their behalf by.



.....  
**Ian Cunningham**  
Trustee / Director

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CENTRE FOR SELF  
MANAGED LEARNING LIMITED (the 'Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ACCA and ACIE, which are both listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities.

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.



Jason Foxwell FCCA FCIE  
independent-examiner.net  
PO Box 9846  
Poole  
BH15 9JZ

25 March 2025

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

No te	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Total 2023 Funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations & grants	4,122	- 4,122	14,837	17,202	32,039	
Charitable activities	298,024	- 298,024	269,327	-	269,327	
Investments	4,909	- 4,909	3,892	-	3,892	
<b>Total</b>	<b>307,055</b>	<b>- 307,055</b>	<b>288,056</b>	<b>17,202</b>	<b>305,258</b>	
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities	348,940	- 348,940	332,500	45,495	377,995	
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,940</b>	<b>- 348,940</b>	<b>332,500</b>	<b>45,495</b>	<b>377,995</b>	
<b>Net income</b>	<b>(41,885)</b>	<b>- (41,885)</b>	<b>(44,444)</b>	<b>(28,293)</b>	<b>(72,737)</b>	
Transfers between funds	-	- -	(27,094)	27,094	-	
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(41,885)</b>	<b>- (41,885)</b>	<b>(71,538)</b>	<b>(1,199)</b>	<b>(72,737)</b>	
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward	202,488	- 202,488	274,026	1,199	275,225	
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>160,603</b>	<b>- 160,603</b>	<b>202,488</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>202,488</b>	

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

There have been no recognised gains or losses other than the result for the financial year and all surpluses or deficits have been accounted for on an historical cost basis.

The Statement of Financial Activities also complies with the requirements of an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

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**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

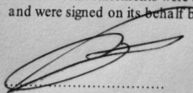
	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets	7	55,107	61,995
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	8	5,580	6,447
Cash at Bank and in hand		165,422	181,094
		<u>171,002</u>	<u>187,541</u>
<b>Creditors:</b>			
Amounts falling due within 1 year	9	(65,506)	(47,048)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>105,496</b>	<b>140,493</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>160,603</b></u>	<u><b>202,488</b></u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
Unrestricted Funds		160,603	202,488
Restricted Funds	10	-	-
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u><b>160,603</b></u>	<u><b>202,488</b></u>

For the year ending 31 August 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006,
- preparing financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance to the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

The financial statements were approved by the board of Directors on 25 March 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
.....  
Ian Cunningham  
Director / Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these financial statements

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

#### a) *Basis of Preparation*

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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

These financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The charity has sufficient reserves, and the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### b) *Income*

All income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from contracts is recognised on an earned basis in the year in which the conditions for receipt are met.

#### c) *Funds*

The accounts distinguish between restricted and unrestricted funds. The former have been raised by the charity for specific purposes or are received from donors and are subject to restrictions on the purposes for which they may be used. Unrestricted funds are those where there are no externally imposed restrictions and are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees for expenditure on its objects or appropriated to reserves for internally designated purposes.

### □ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 – CONTINUED

#### d) *Expenditure*

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred.

Expenditure on grants is recorded once the Charity has made an unconditional commitment to pay the grant and this has been communicated to the beneficiary or the grant has been paid, whichever is the earlier.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on the basis consistent with the use of resources. Allocations are predominantly based on usage and staff time expended.

#### e) *Depreciation and Fixed Assets*

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life which in all cases is estimated at 3 years. The company does has a minimum value of £500 for capitalisation of fixed assets.

Leasehold improvements are capitalised and amortised over the length of the lease.

#### f) *Operating leases*

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the terms of the lease.

## 2. Income - Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
SDLC Fees	263,491	-	263,491	204,655
SDLC Fees (hardship awards)	6,905	-	6,905	45,495
Student deposits	26,138	-	26,138	18,331
Other income	1,490	-	1,490	846
	298,024	-	298,024	269,327

## 3. NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR

2024 2023

£ £

This is stated after charging :

Independent examiner's fees 640 625

## □ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 – CONTINUED

## 4. EXPENDITURE

2024 2023

### Charitable activities:

£ £

#### Direct costs

Property costs associated with new lease	-	61,925
Amortisation of leasehold improvements	6,888	6,888
Tutoring fees	108,959	88,802
Training	1,941	1,396
Subsistence & travel	917	127
Awards	881	295
Volunteer costs and expenses	774	44
Projects	7,166	11,220
Computer, website & I.T. costs	1,886	592
Rent	36,250	20,000
Service charges	43	1,070
Insurance	4,006	1,861
Utilities & phone	25,653	15,275
Maintenance & cleaning	9,637	3,479
Canteen	293	381
Hardship payments (restricted)	-	45,495
Donations	-	3,459
Festival of learning	-	5,012
DBS checks	332	656
Exam centre	1,163	353
	206,789	268,330

#### Support costs

Salaries and employers NI	103,299	67,383
Pension	2,850	-
Recruitment costs	4,093	-
Marketing fees, printing & advertising	5,010	13,739
Subscriptions	1,193	218
Office costs inc events & meetings	819	812
Stationery & resources	1,663	3,163
Book-keeping	4,487	3,878
Payroll	720	-
Bank charges	65	60
Bad debt charges / refunds	10,828	6,169

Other support costs	450	2,121
	135,477	97,543

#### Governance

Accountancy & independent examination	640	625
Service agreement	6,157	4,572
Legal fees	(123)	6,925
	6,674	12,122
<b>Total charitable activities</b>	<b>348,940</b>	<b>377,995</b>

### □ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 – CONTINUED

#### 5 STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	87,222	61,710
Social Security costs	16,077	4,739
Pension costs	2,850	934
	<b>106,149</b>	<b>67,383</b>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was 3.7 (2023: 2).

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Centre for Self Managed Learning Limited considers that the key management personnel comprise the Board of Trustees, the Chair of Governors and the Director. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £19,043 in the year (2023: £39,371), which were made in respect of the Director.

#### 6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND REIMBURSED EXPENSES

No Trustee received any emoluments (2023: £NIL) or reimbursed expenses (2023: NIL).

#### 7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Improvements	Computer Equipment
	£	£
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 September 2023	68,883	4,807
Additions	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<b>68,883</b>	<b>4,807</b>
<b>Depreciation/Amortisation</b>		
At 1 September 2023	6,888	4,807
Charge for the year	6,888	-
At 31 August 2024	<b>13,776</b>	<b>4,807</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 31 August 2024	<b>55,107</b>	-
At 31 August 2023	<b>61,995</b>	-

8. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Rent deposit	5,000	5,000
Other deposits	580	1,447
	5,580	6,447

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 – CONTINUED

9. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,668	13,869
Fees in advance	61,198	32,555
Accruals	640	625
	65,506	47,049

10. TAXATION

The company is a Registered Charity and, under section 505(i) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, is exempt from Corporation Tax on its charitable activities.