

The David School Trust

Trustees Annual Report for Calendar Year 2020

Annual Accounts

The accounts for the calendar year 2020 show a closing balance of £25,964 compared with £20,214 twelve months ago. Total income for the year amounted to £34,209 including contributions of £5,500 from Norway.

The Trustees would like to thank Roy Thomas for his work in preparing the accounts and supporting documentation. He has worked tirelessly with us since the formation of the Charity in 2009 and, due to his changed circumstances, he would like us to find a successor. The Trustees are actively seeking a willing volunteer. Again this year the accounts will need to be independently examined.

Review

The major issue has been the continuing decline in income, not helped by Covid restrictions. It has not been physically possible to update interested and supportive groups by visiting them and so printed material has been the principal source of communication. Publicity through newsletters, website postings and occasional newspaper articles have all been tried.

Donations have shown a further reduction of £9000 which is in addition to the £21,000 loss experienced in 2018. This is reflected in fewer significant contributions from larger organisations with a slight reduction in the number of regular donors.

Despite this we can continue to assure donors that all funds raised are spent directly for the benefit of the pupils at the school. There are no employees in the UK and no running costs for the charity. The Trustees are proud to report that every pound raised will be used to promote the Trust aims in advancing education at Mile 36.

We would also like to acknowledge the physical, moral and financial support offered by all our many loyal supporters. These include Rotarians and their clubs, schools, other organisations and committed individuals.

Savings have increased the overall balance but most of these have been forced by the current situation. There has been no change to the physical provision of accommodation at the school. Maintenance and repairs have been minimal without the oversight of volunteers and staff training has seen a reduction. The Government now pay the salaries and related pension contributions of three teachers which also helps to balance the books.

Whilst in lockdown the rate of inflation in Sierra Leone has increased dramatically and many prices are beyond the reach of our community members. Fortunately food is being supplied to school so all our primary children receive one substantial meal each school day. This is provided by World Health organisation and cooked by local volunteers. The benefits are improved health and reduced financial pressures on family economies.

The Covid-19 pandemic has raised other major implications for the UK and Sierra Leone. There have been no visits since October 2019 with planned trips in Spring 2020 being cancelled. The outlook of any possibility for 2021 is looking increasingly bleak with international travel seeming unlikely. Without these trips we are only able to provide support and advice at a distance. This has had a detrimental impact on teacher training, contact with the Ministry of Education and other agencies together with the satisfaction of being an integral part of this exciting project.

In Sierra Leone there have been a series of lockdowns affecting the school. The first in March saw the school closed and exams postponed and then rescheduled for the Autumn. Children are aware of safe hygiene practices especially as this pandemic follows on quickly after their own Ebola crisis.

Most of the Covid cases have been in Freetown which is densely populated. The school is quite remote and as such remains unaffected with no cases reported.

Money continues to be allocated to transporting and shipping much needed resources. Three shipments were completed this year which included health related supplies, sanitary wear for girls, classroom furniture, school clothing and shoes, books and other teaching and learning materials. This was achieved using the Marie Sinneh Shipping Company based in Bermondsey. We enjoy a good relationship with them and receive generous charity discounts. They also clear our goods

in Freetown making them ready for collection. Normal shipping takes up to four weeks.

We are pleased to report that several teachers have improved their personal qualifications and thanks go to our colleagues and friends in Norway who provide finance for the college courses.

Despite difficulties the staff have done a tremendous job in maintaining the development of the school. They have become a cohesive unit, supporting and helping one another in the best interests of our pupils.

Pupil numbers are stable with 400 now on roll with an average class size of 40, although the Ministry would like to see this figure raised to 50.

Learning at the school continues to make progress. Sadly this year the interruptions and changes forced by the pandemic have reduced overall exam success rates. All the junior school pupils take their final exams called National Primary School Examination (NPSE) at the end of Year 6. Three years later the 14+ Test (BECE). We are looking to continue education for another three years beyond this point which leads to (WASSCE), a requirement for Further Education. These qualifications allow entry into further courses and training for all pupils at different levels. Subsequent employment opportunities are away from our community which normally requires our students to live with relatives. Extended family living is regarded as normal within their society.

Projects started in previous years continue to develop. These include some adult education and the major initiative to keep girls in school. Marion Wartman, one of the school's longest serving teachers, is the key person in this work.


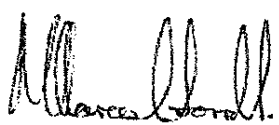

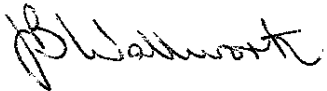
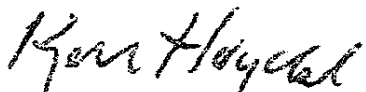
We see more families suffering hardship and we are increasingly aware of the numbers of orphaned or abandoned pupils. Working with teachers we estimate that more than twenty children have no relatives or places to live. They often sleep rough and beg for food. This worrying situation has prompted a search for foster carers who, with financial help with food, are prepared to provide care. An initial project have been very successful and our volunteers will be looking to develop the idea when next there.

The Trustees are able to report that there have been no serious incidents at the school.

It is now ten years since the Charity was first registered and eleven since the school opened. The Trustees, on quiet reflection, applaud all

that has been achieved and pay tribute to the volunteers who have travelled and worked tirelessly in trying conditions, all at their own expense. Together we are all making a difference to the life chances of our pupils, and feel that we are fulfilling the School's motto: 'Education Changes Lives'.

Original Signed by Trustees as a true record:

David Wallwork		Trustee	Date 24/04/21
Marcus Horrell		Trustee	Date 23 April 2021
Catherine Thomas		Trustee	Date 26/04/21
Janet Wallwork		Trustee	Date 26.04.21
Kjell Høydal		Trustee	Date 26 APRIL 2021

THE DAVID SCHOOL TRUST
Charity Number 1129314
HMRC Reference XT19571
Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31st December 2020

Income	2019	2020		
Gift aided donations				
Lump sum and small donations scheme	15085	7392		
Direct debits	6350	6450		
			21435	13842
				13842
Other donations, contributions& income	12139	15743.21		
Gift aid tax reclaim	4771.25	3460.5		
Interest	15.72	8.07	16925.97	19211.78
Sierra Leone non-UK receipts			5500	1156
			43860.97	34209.78
Expenditure				
Teachers salaries/wages	11400	12073		
Volunteer costs	10234.19	3460		
Vehicle, transportation, shipping costs	2103.5	2992.4		
School stationery and equipment	1487.65	805		
School clothing/reports/medical/printing	599.29	365		
School building costs	2372.02			
Repairs and maintenance	2617	451		
Teacher trg and University fees	8500	4910		
Web site	120	118.64		
Food for pupils	1523	1649		
Bank charges		187		
Miscellaneous	190	222.21		
Pension provision	1200	1226		
	42346.65	28459.25	42346.65	28459.25
Excess/deficit income over expenditure			1514.32	5750.53
Balance brought forward 1st January			13699.99	20214.31
2018 bill now paid			5000	
Balance carried forward 31st December			20214.31	25964.84
Balance at bank (UK) current account	4980.98	6632.19		
deposit account	9682.08	11690.15		
Cash in hand UK	250	250		
Cash/bank Sierra Leone	530	3932		
			15443.06	22504.34
Add: Income due not yet received	15443.06		4771.25	3460.5
				22504.34
Less: Bills due not yet paid				22504.34
			20214.31	25964.84

THE DAVID SCHOOL TRUST
Charity Number 1129314
HMRC Reference XT19571
Balance Sheet at 31st December 2020

		2019	2020
Current assets			
Sundry Debtors		4771.25	3460.5
Balance at Bank	UK	14563.06	18322.34
Balce bank/in hand	S.Leone	530	3932
Cash in hand	UK	250	250
Total assets		20214.31	25964.84
 Less Current Liabilities			
Sundry Creditors			
Total funds at 31st December		20214.31	25964.84

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The David School Trust.

I report on the accounts of the David School Trust for the year ended 31 December 2020.

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act.
- follow the procedures laid down by the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect the:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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.

Name: Michael John Houlden

Address: 4 Stocken Hall Mews, Stretton,

Oakham LE15 7RL

Signed:



Date:

11/4/2021