

Charity Number 1136552

Montessori Education for Autism

Report of the Trustees
and
Independently Examined Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

Montessori Education for Autism

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Montessori Education for Autism

Trustees of the Charity

Wendy Fidler	**	<i>Chair, Academic Director</i>
Roger Patenall	**	<i>Treasurer</i>
Shalini Modi	**	
Ashok Kumar		
Rachel Spooner		
David Stott		
Delphine Marcillaud		
Katalin Lovassy		

** *Members of the Executive Committee*

Reference and administrative details of the charity

Charity Registered Number 1136552

Registered Office

Montessori House, 135 Westcombe Hill, Blackheath, London, SE3 7DP

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd

Insurance Brokers

Northern Counties Insurance LLP

Third Sector Protect

Montessori Education for Autism

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2022

		Restricted Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
	Note				
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	1	5,349	70,314	75,663	74,384
Activities	2		25,632	25,632	31,096
Investment Income	3		78	78	4
Total Incoming Resources		<u>5,349</u>	<u>96,024</u>	<u>101,373</u>	<u>105,484</u>
Resources Expended					
Charitable activities	4	5,349	100,127	105,476	100,424
Governance costs	5		1,036	1,036	500
Total resources expended		<u>5,349</u>	<u>101,163</u>	<u>106,512</u>	<u>100,924</u>
Movement in total funds for the year		0	(5,139)	(5,139)	
Total funds at 1 January 2022		0	34,712	34,712	
Total funds at 31 December 2022		<u>0</u>	<u>29,573</u>	<u>29,573</u>	

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Balance Sheetas at 31 December 2022

		2022		2021	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Current Assets					
Petty Cash Floats		-		195	
Debtors	7	6,006		6,573	
Total at Bank		23,927		28,444	
		<u>29,933</u>		<u>35,212</u>	
Creditors					
Due within one year	8	360		500	
		<u>29,573</u>		<u>34,712</u>	
		<u>29,573</u>		<u>34,712</u>	
Charity Funds					
Unrestricted Funds	9	29,573		34,712	
Restricted Funds	9	-		-	
		<u>29,573</u>		<u>34,712</u>	
		<u>29,573</u>		<u>34,712</u>	

The notes and policies on pages 4 to 6 form part of these Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Trustees on April 28th, 2023
and signed on their behalf by:



Roger Patenall FCA

Montessori Education for Autism

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
1 Voluntary Income				
Donations	5,349	52,409	57,758	57,652
Gift Aid		17,905	17,905	16,732
	<u>5,349</u>	<u>70,314</u>	<u>75,663</u>	<u>74,384</u>
2 Income from Activities				
Registrations	-		350	430
Donations to Nurture Groups	-		15,802	23,512
Donations for SEN & Waldon Training	-		7,040	6,360
Proceeds of Insurance claim			1,727	
MEfA Conferences & Events	-	-		-
Other fundraising	-		713	794
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,632</u>	<u>31,096</u>
3 Investment Income				
Bank Interest			78	4
4 Expenditure on Charitable Activity				
Summary by Fund Type:				
General Overheads			4,376	2,603
Administration costs			11,121	6,067
Purchase of Piano			2,000	
Nurture Groups			81,327	82,901
Training			7,548	9,178
MEfA Conferences & Events			140	155
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,512</u>	<u>100,904</u>
Summary by expenditure type:				
Overheads and Admin			17,497	8,670
Nurture Groups			81,327	82,901
Training			7,548	9,178
MEfA Conference & Events			140	155
			<u>106,512</u>	<u>100,904</u>

Montessori Education for Autism

Notes to the Financial Statements, continued

		2022	2021		
		£	£		
5	Employee				
	In 2022there was one employee (2021 - one) involved in the provision of charitable activity				
	There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.				
6	Governance Costs				
	Accountancy Costs	500	400		
	Visa Licence renewal	536	-		
			-		
		<u>1,036</u>	<u>400</u>		
7	Net Income				
	This is stated after charging Accountancy Fees £500 (2021 - £400)				
	During the year, no Trustee received any remuneration for acting as a Trustee (2021 - nil)				
	During the year, no Trustee received any benefits in kind (2021- nil)				
	During the year, no Trustee received any reimbursement of expenses (2021 - nil)				
8	Debtors				
	Trade debtors, due within one year		2,750		
	Donation Pledged		3,256		
	Sundry Debtors		-		
9	Creditors				
	Fees received, due within one year		360		
##	Statement of funds	Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Carried Forward
		£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted funds	34,712	96,024	101,163	29,573
	Restricted funds	0	5,349	5,349	0
		<u>34,712</u>	<u>101,373</u>	<u>106,512</u>	<u>29,573</u>

1. Basis of preparation of the Financial Statements

The Financial Statements have been prepared using the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and with applicable accounting standards.

The books of account are kept on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with Charity Commission advice for a charity of this size. The Financial Statements have been prepared making adjustments to reflect timing differences between the receipt and payment of monies and the year in which the activity takes place.

Payments of deposits to landlords in respect of rent obligations have been carried forward as debtors.

2. Fund Accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with the specific restrictions imposed by donors and which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

3. Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with accuracy.

Gifts in Kind donated to the charity are included at valuation (subject to de minimis) and recognised as income at the time of receipt.

No amounts are included in the Financial Statements for services donated by volunteers. Donated services or facilities are included in income (subject to de minimis) at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such cost is quantifiable and measureable.

Income Tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid is recognised at the time funds are received from HMRC.

4 Resource expended

All expenditure is accounted for at the time the funds are expended, except where detailed in note 1 above. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to one particular activity they have been allocated, so far as is practicable, on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees of Montessori Education for Autism for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Respective Responsibilities of the trustees and of the Examiner.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (1) examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- (2) follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- (3) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records 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 the 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 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to:

keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act, have not been met, and furthermore, there are no matters to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Richard W Carey
London.

24th February, 2023

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their Annual Report together with the Financial Statements of Montessori Education for Autism ('the charity' also 'MEfA') for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees confirm that the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities".

Objectives and Activities.

The principal objectives of the charity, as defined by the Constitution, are:

- 1) to advance education of children with autism (and conditions related to autism) through methods of learning and education developed by Maria Montessori and in connection with this:
- 2) to provide advice and support to families and carers of children with autism.
- 3) to provide information, advisory and advocacy services, training, day services, education, leisure and recreation for children with autism and to support others making similar provision.
- 4) to promote, conduct and engage in research into autism, and to publish the useful results of such research.
- 5) to collect and disseminate information relating to autism and to exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects.

The principal activities of the charity, are to:

- 1) provide classes during term time aimed at all children, but principally those with special education needs.
- 2) provide post-graduate training to professionals and others with interest in the development of children and the principles of Montessori Education
- 3) provide input to conferences and workshops, both those organized by the charity and by third parties.
- 4) provide support to families and schools by means of telephone and email helplines, and by personal meetings and presentations.

Public Benefit and delivering Social Value

This year, again, all of our activities have provided immediate and visible benefit to those with special needs (principally autism related), their families and their carers. MEfA aims to keep its objects under review and to continue directing its energies to those who may benefit from the expertise of its people

Structure, governance and management:

Organisational structure and decision making:

Trustees

All trustees give their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity in their role as Trustees.

The trustees consider that the Board of Trustees provides a wide spectrum of experience to MEfA. This experience covers autism, special needs education, the principles of learning devised by Dr Maria Montessori and others and also provides an insight into care and education in countries other than the United Kingdom.

Risk Management

The trustees are aware of their obligations and the need to provide a safe, healthy environment in which staff, volunteers, visitors and clients and their families can have confidence.

Policies are in place, and are reviewed on a regular basis, covering, inter alia, Protection of Children and Vulnerable People; Health and Safety, Use of Cameras and Mobile Recording Devices, Data Protection and Staff, Trustee and Visitor protocols, which include induction into the ethics, standards and procedures of MEfA.

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Achievements and Performance:

Activity Report

All our child and parent activities, and assessments, are held at Montessori House. These groups continue their evolution from an Early Intervention Class for very small children and their parents with a strong focus on developing children's social, sensory, communication, language and coordination skills. Our flagship project, the Montessori Moles after-school nurture group for children ages 4-12 years, is often operating at capacity, helping children who are struggling to access their education at primary school because of difficulties associated with autism, such as sensory issues, social, communication and physical difficulties, anxiety, low self-esteem and poor self-regulation which often leads to behavioural problems.

We now have the following groups running each week during term time:

- Baby Montessori (children aged up to 18 months);
- Toddler Montessori (children aged from 15–36 months);
- Montessori Inclusive School (children aged from 2-9 years: 5 weekly groups);
- Montessori Moles: After-School Nurture Group (aged 4-12 years);
- Forest School / Wellbeing Sessions (two weekly groups);
- Support for Ukrainian Speaking families.

We are hugely indebted to the number of volunteers and interns who have supported our activities again this year; we have a continuing stream of interest and enquiries about this aspect of our work. We are grateful also to the young people from overseas who spend time with us in spite of the cumbersome procedure of obtaining the necessary visas.

By 31 December 2022 we had completed 23 cohorts of the MEfA Montessori post-graduate SEN CPD Short Course: Part 1 - A Blueprint for Observation, and as a result we have trained teachers, psychologists, social workers, early years educators, parents, a choreographer, an environmental designer, and other masters-grade students so they can apply Montessori special education methodology and philosophy to their work, thus providing other avenues for reaching out to children and adults with autism. We are also justifiably proud of our increasing professional links with mainstream organisations.

in 2022 the number of children registered to our various sessions at Montessori House remained below the level pre-pandemic. This was expected and our budgets were reduced accordingly. Building up to our pre-pandemic level of activity is taking time and, as the year progressed, enquiries picked up and we are starting 2023 with much increased activity in all classes.

Financial matters

Funding

The total income of MEfA for 2022 was £101,373 (2021 - £105,484). Expenditure amounted to £106,512 (against £100,924 in 2021). General overheads in 2022 amounted to £4,376 (2020 - £2,603). The significant item this year was the acquisition of a sophisticated electronic keyboard/piano for a notional sum of £2,000. This purchased was fully funded by a parent donation. The Trustees believe that the remaining level of overhead is acceptable for a charity of this size and includes: Subscriptions made, Insurance, Fundraising, Bank and credit card charges and Professional Fees.

These financial results reflect the ongoing challenging fundraising climate faced by MEfA in 2022, but also demonstrate the responsive manner in which the trustees have been able to match the expenditure to the income available. The trading loss of £5,139 in the accounts is accounted for by the shortfall in parent donations for classes, which match the shortfall against our budget.

The trustees attach great importance and commensurate effort into raising as much of our financial needs from the activities run on a regular basis, and thereby minimise our dependence upon grants from outside donors. This policy will continue during 2023 and we face the coming year with much greater optimism. Nevertheless, MEfA is extremely grateful to the donors listed below, and acknowledges that such donations will continue to be a vital part of our funding programme.

Donations

During 2022, grants, donations (including donations in kind) and funds were received from the following:

The Julia & Hans Rausing Charitable Trust (Special Covid Fund for 2021/22)

The Kelly Family Charitable Trust (Special Covid Fund for 2021/22)

The Stephen Taylor Foundation

The Bimal Family

Anna Potkina & Russell Ferguson

Royal Borough of Greenwich (Neighbourhood Growth Fund)

Greenwich GoodGym (who were unable to visit in 2022, but whose previous work continued to enhance the MEfA environment throughout the year, and whose visits will recommence in 2023)

The Page Family
The Elder Family
The Arthur Family
The Staal Family
Design for Print

MEfA is grateful to all donors, including many whose time has been freely given but are not acknowledged above.

Expenditure

As noted elsewhere, trustees are not reimbursed in respect of their activities as trustees and no expenses have been reimbursed to trustees during the year.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidelines the accounts have been kept using the receipts and payments method. In the Financial Statements, Deposit rents paid to agents of the landlord in respect of the properties at 135 and 135A Westcombe Hill are carried forward as prepayments. Payment of certain expenses for 2023 has been made in December 2022 and is carried forward as a prepayment. Deposits received in advance of 2023 training programmes are included in creditors

Expenditure has again been tightly controlled during 2022. As mentioned above, the opportunity arose to acquire a high quality keyboard/piano. The cost of this was fully met by a parent. During 2022, the charity also accepted invitations to make a major presentation at the Nordic Montessori Conference in Bergen, and to attend the annual Montessori Retreat in the Netherlands. The costs of attending both these events were fully met by private donations.

During the latter part of the year, our existing energy supply agreements terminated. The new contracts are not strictly comparable as the terms are not as 'consumer-friendly' as the expiring contracts. However, the initial indications are that energy costs will rise by at least 75%.

Reserves

The trustees consider that the level of reserves is satisfactory. The total annual expenditure of the charity is approximately £100,000 on an ongoing basis. Of this approximately £40,000 relates to salaries which are financed in full by a private donor. The remaining expenditure is approximately £60,000 per year, and the free reserves of the charity equate approximately to 6 months expenditure. All leaseholds are subject to three month notice of cancellation periods and the landlord holds deposits against much of this liability.

Investment Review

MEfA funds not immediately required are held on a bank deposit account. Investment returns have, for some years, been negligible. However, the last three months of 2022 generated income and we hope that this will now accelerate. The trustees consider that any extra returns that may be earned by seeking other uses for funds are outweighed by the inherent risks in taking such action

Plans for the future and appreciation

At the time of preparation of this report, the outlook for 2023 remains very unclear, in spite of the success of the Covid vaccines programme there still remains the possibility of future infection.

Our Forest School continues to be developed and is evolving with an eye to the future. Elsewhere our plans are all focussed on preparation of the environment and, in particular, staff training , to ensure that we are well prepared as numbers of children attending MEfA continue to build up.

We are confident that, whatever challenges are encountered, we will continue to offer as full a range as possible of activities through 2023. MEfA, in turn, could not operate without the continuing efforts of our staff, volunteers, donors and families for which we place on record our heartfelt thanks.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 28th April 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Wendy Fidler

I cannot thank you and the staff at MEfA enough for welcoming us in and giving A (and all of us!) those months of nurtured learning. I remember the warm and comforting atmosphere of your classrooms with fondness. I think it made the world of difference to be in that setting after A's bad experience and all of his family members who accompanied him there really appreciated that.

Dr R P

Hi Wendy . . . I just wanted to say thank you so much for your help with the girls. We really enjoy attending and we've learnt so much already. Sorry if I'm a bit distracted when you speak to me, I'm always making mental notes . . .

MF

We met when you came to X School some years ago to do some staff training . . . Your talk was fascinating and has stayed with me to this day. . . I now work at X College (Nursery through to 6th form) and wonder if you still offer staff training. It would be of great benefit to our SEND team and better equip us to meet the needs of some of our children?

Mrs S G

. . . I just wanted to thank you again for the most wonderful, captivating, emotional, inspiring and educational course I have ever been on. Your vast knowledge of how to use Montessori materials for children with special needs is something I will never forget . . .

Katherine N. a delegate at the Bergen conference workshop day

I have just attended the lecture and heard your closing comments. I just wanted to share my excitement at having your voice heard. I feel you have opened my eyes into a world I was not fully aware of. . . . I would love to find ways to improve my abilities and learn more ways to help (these children) to integrate in the class.

D, a teacher from Israel

I'd like to enrol on the second part of the course as I really enjoyed Part 1 . . . Cohort 23 has been for me life changing . . .

DC - An Italian student

Montessori Education for Autism

Testimonials - 2021

I Am currently pursuing my diploma course in SLD from India and just cannot forget the journey I had in MEFA. Thank you for the immense knowledge that you shared. As I'm doing my project I just can't stop thinking about my time in your school. Thank you so much

Sapna U. (SEN graduate)

Dear Wendy,

Thank you very much for the programme *(for M, during Lockdown)*. It is fantastic, we are implementing it well.

. . . .

Thank you very much for all your help, support and reassurance, having you in our lives is a great privilege!

M's Mum (June 2020)

Dear Wendy,

I just wanted to send you, Rathi and the rest of your team a huge thank you for your support and tutelage since September. We really appreciate the time you have spent planning the session and personalising the activities for R. I think this has made an enormous difference and helped R to make some progress this term.

Thank you also for making J *(sibling)* so welcome.

Moreover, even in these uncertain waters, MEFA has always remained a steady and constant vessel. Your commitment and bravery is incredibly admirable and we have been very grateful for this.

L - a Mum (December 2020)

"I have such fond memories of your Montessori preschool at Mycenae House. I remember you introduced me to the concept of children working hard through observation, that they are constantly learning even when they don't appear to be actively engaged."

The Mum of a former toddler pupil reaching his 11th birthday.

I discovered Montessori's Method, fell in love with it and qualified as a Montessori teacher. After that I did a post grad diploma with Montessori Education for Autism. What I learnt gave me the confidence to dismantle the various methods, choose what I needed, and re-build them into my own version. . . (Thank you Wendy Fidler)

Chi Boakye (SEN Training, Cohort 4)