

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Charity No: 1144395

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

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THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees present their report and accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Trust Deed, the Charities Act 2011 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

OUR PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

The Trust was formed to advance the education of people with autism and / or language, communication or interaction difficulties, particularly those currently or previously attending or supported by Phoenix School.

It also aims to support international work with link organisations working with people with autism and / or language, communication or interaction difficulties.

Grant making policy

Grants are awarded after submission of applications to the Trust. Applications are assessed to establish whether they are in the Charity's objectives and the Trustees review applications that meet their requirements in terms of the benefit given. Grants have been paid during the year of £15,000 (2023– £16,912).

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Teacher Training Programme

The Trust administers the Trainee Teacher Bursary in conjunction with Phoenix School and the London East Teacher Training Alliance (LETTA).

Five trainees completed the programme in July 2023 and three subsequently went on to be employed by Phoenix School in September 2023.

A further three trainees were taken on from September 2023 and are set to complete their programme by July 2024. Two trainees have been offered teaching positions at Phoenix School.

Model school in Sylhet, Bangladesh

Phoenix Sylhet is a model special school in Bangladesh opened in September 2019 in partnership with Apasen UK and its sister organisation Apasen International. The project involved the development of the building to provide suitable classroom space including the outdoor play area; recruitment and appointment of teachers and teaching assistants; and their subsequent training and development.

The Executive Headteacher, along with staff at Phoenix School support Phoenix Sylhet through weekly online meetings and by developing curriculum resources. This year, there have been no visits to Phoenix Sylhet, however a visit is anticipated for 2024/25.

Youth Club and Holiday Scheme

There were approximately 50 young people registered for the youth club and holiday schemes. Average attendance during the two weekly club sessions is around 15 young people and around 30 young people access the holiday schemes, which run during the Easter break, three half terms and summer holidays.

Ten students travelled with staff to Tonbridge, Kent, for two nights that included swimming, visiting Brighton, country walks and lots of games. They stayed in a stately home with a lot of character and very nice facilities. All the students and families were appreciative of the opportunity.

The two weekly club sessions continue to explore every corner of the local community and further afield - visiting museums, leisure centres, cinemas and country parks. Thursday sessions are focused more on independent skills including sensory play, music therapy, cooking and playing games.

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (Cont/d)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Public benefit statement

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance "public benefit: running a charity" (PD2). The achievements and activities above demonstrate the public benefit arising through the Charity's activities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trust is in a very healthy financial state although the reserves have dropped by around £20,000 this year. The Trustees can be very satisfied with the Trust's financial position with a total cash balance amounting (at the year end 31 March 2024 to £168,345 (2023 - £189,209)

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain reserves at a sufficient level to enable activities in the medium term. Reserves are set at the level required to guarantee the continuation of activities despite any unexpected shortfalls in income. The Trust has set aside some of its reserves for the operating costs of Phoenix Sylhet. The Trust is committed to fund a further £16,000 in 24/25.

With expected reductions in education funding, the Trust will explore how it can use of its reserves to develop and maintain out of school activities at Phoenix School and to support the school with any other activities that it may be able to fund. The Trust will review this on an ongoing basis.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Teacher Training Programme

The current three trainees are due to complete their teacher training programme for the 2023/24 academic year. A further three trainees have been recruited by the school to start in September 2024.

International programme: Model School in Sylhet, Bangladesh

The Trust along with Apasen International has committed to fund this programme for a further one year and the Trust will support Apasen International in its efforts to find a sustainable funding model to enable the school to continue long term.

Youth Club and Holiday Scheme

The Trust has supported the development of a Youth Club and Holiday Scheme for young people with autism. The project encourages young people to develop their social and life skills whilst improving their well-being through participation in activities within the local community. Activities include cooking and art activities, off-site visits and residential trips.

The project has been awarded grants from the John Laing Charitable Trust (£15,000), Clifford Chance Global Foundation (£6,000) and DFN Project Search (£20,000) with Phoenix School funding staffing costs related to these activities. The Trust will seek to find longer term funding opportunities to support the continuity of the youth club provision.

Risk management

The financial operating risk of the Trust is managed by regular financial reporting at Trustee meetings, analysing existing liabilities, projected income and forecast costs. These figures are updated as necessary over the course of the financial year.

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (Cont/d)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Trust was formed through the establishment of a Trust Deed dated 3rd March 2010 and amended on 2nd December 2014 and 22nd March 2016. It was registered as a charity on 21st October 2011 under charity number 1144395.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity. The Trustees meet termly to review the affairs of the charity and to consider grant applications which are only paid to a beneficiary upon the approval of the Trustees.

The Trust supports Phoenix School's work with the local community and follows the school's financial management protocols.

Appointment of Trustees

There are currently three Trustees, all of whom are either part of the local community or a member of staff or a governor of the Phoenix School. Any new Trustee must have some connection with either the local community or the school.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Number: 1144395

Trustees Stewart Harris MBE – Chair
Lorraine Wright (Resigned on 26/01/2024)
Jonathon Caunt
Veronica Armson

Principal Office: Phoenix School, 49 Bow Road, London E3 2AD

Independent Examiner: Mr David Terry
Ramon Lee Ltd, 93 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4BA

Bankers: NatWest Plc, Stratford Broadway Branch,
Ground Floor, Gredley House, 1-11 Broadway, London E15 4BQ

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (Cont/d)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

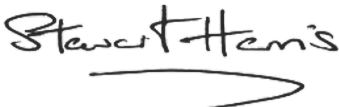
The Charity Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Harris', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

**STEWART HARRIS MBE (CHAIR)
TRUSTEE**

23 January 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my Independent Examination, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trustees' accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's statement

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 accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

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.



**D TERRY – Chartered Accountant
RAMON LEE LTD
93 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON EC2A 4BA**

23 January 2025

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Receipts</u>					
Grants and donations	2	100	35,531	35,631	62,001
Rental income		11,050	-	11,050	19,065
Investment income		1,164	-	1,164	452
Total Receipts		12,314	35,531	47,845	81,518
<u>Payments</u>					
Charitable activities:					
Donations		-	-	-	10,435
Bursaries		-	41,000	41,000	47,000
Grant funded activity	3	15,310	11,103	26,413	36,320
Governance costs	4	1,296	-	1,296	2,340
Total Payments		16,606	52,103	68,709	96,095
Net of Receipts/(Payments)		(4,292)	(16,572)	(20,864)	(14,577)
Cash Funds Last Year End		146,826	42,383	189,209	203,786
Cash Funds This Year End		142,534	25,811	168,345	189,209

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form part of these accounts

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Cash Funds</u>					
Cash & Bank	3	142,534	25,811	168,345	189,209
Total Cash Funds		<u>142,534</u>	<u>25,811</u>	<u>168,345</u>	<u>189,209</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 23 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
STEWART HARRIS MBE (CHAIR)

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form part of these accounts.

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The receipts and payment accounts have been drawn up as a summary of the receipts and payments made during the year by the charity. Amounts are included as received by the charity or as cheques are drawn. The accounts and statements do not include accruals and prepayments in respect of income and expenses.

The receipts and payments accounts and statements of assets and liabilities have been prepared following the guidance for accounting for smaller charities issued by the Charity Commission.

2. GRANTS AND DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<u>Grants and Donations</u>				
Trainee Teacher - Bursary Scheme				
Phoenix School	-	35,000	35,000	50,000
Youth Club and Holiday Scheme				
Clifford Chance Global Foundation	-	531	531	6,000
Sylhet donations	100	-	100	5,807
Other donations	-	-	-	194
	<u>100</u>	<u>35,531</u>	<u>35,631</u>	<u>62,001</u>

Donations income in 2023 totalling £62,001 was attributed to unrestricted funds of £194 and restricted funds of £61,807.

3. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Grants paid</u>		
Apasen International	15,000	15,000
University College London	-	1,912
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>16,912</u>
<u>Other charitable expenses</u>		
Phoenix Sylhet School expenditure	310	7,791
Youth Club and Holiday Scheme	11,103	11,617
	<u>11,413</u>	<u>19,408</u>
	<u>26,413</u>	<u>36,320</u>

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. GOVERNANCE COST

	2024 £	2023 £
<u>Governance Costs</u>		
Independent examiner's fees	1,296	2,340
	<u>1,296</u>	<u>2,340</u>

4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance as at 01.04.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance as at 31.03.24 £
Restricted funds				
Phoenix School	13,000	35,000	41,000	7,000
Youth Club and Holiday Scheme	29,383	531	11,103	18,811
Total restricted funds	<u>42,383</u>	<u>35,531</u>	<u>52,103</u>	<u>25,811</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	146,826	12,314	16,606	142,534
Total unrestricted funds	<u>146,826</u>	<u>12,314</u>	<u>16,606</u>	<u>142,534</u>
Total funds	<u>189,209</u>	<u>47,845</u>	<u>68,709</u>	<u>168,345</u>

THE PHOENIX SCHOOL FOR AUTISM CHARITABLE TRUST

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (Continued)

Movement in funds – previous year

	Balance as at 01.04.22 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance as at 31.03.23 £
Restricted funds				
Phoenix School	10,000	50,000	47,000	13,000
Youth Club and Holiday Scheme	35,000	6,000	11,617	29,383
Sylhet Donations	-	5,807	5,807	-
Total restricted funds	<u>45,000</u>	<u>61,807</u>	<u>64,424</u>	<u>42,383</u>
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	158,786	19,711	31,671	146,826
Total unrestricted funds	<u>158,786</u>	<u>19,711</u>	<u>31,671</u>	<u>146,826</u>
Total funds	<u>203,786</u>	<u>81,518</u>	<u>96,095</u>	<u>189,209</u>

Description, nature and purpose of restricted funds:

Phoenix School – Grant provided to pay for the bursary scheme for trainee teachers.

Youth Club and Holiday Scheme– Grant provided for a Youth Club and Holiday Scheme for young people with autism. The Project encourages young people to develop their social and life skills whilst improving their wellbeing through participating in activities in the local community. Activities include cooking, physical activities, off-site and residential trips.

Sylhet Donations – The Charity raised funds to provide curriculum resources and building improvement work for Phoenix School Sylhet.

5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, a restricted grant of £35,000 (2023 – £50,000) was received from Phoenix School where Veronica Armson, Lorraine Wright and Jonathon Caunt are governors.

None of the Trustees received any remuneration during the year (2023 – Nil).

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.