



Ambler Primary School, Blackstock Road, London, N4 2DR

friendsofambler@gmail.com

02072264708

www.ambler.islington.sch.uk

Friends of Ambler is registered with the Charities Commission (England & Wales no. 1157725) and HM Revenue & Customs (for Gift Aid: EW39301)

FRIENDS OF AMBLER - AGM REPORT 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024

ABOUT US

Friends of Ambler ('FoA') is a registered charity which supports Ambler Primary School and Children's Centre by raising funds for facilities, equipment and activities, and running fun events for the children and their families. Everyone involved does so voluntarily - contributing their personal time and skills.

Events range in focus from fundraising, entertainment for the Ambler children as well as their parents and carers, and also providing opportunities for all to discover more about the school and our community.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Every parent and carer with a child attending Ambler Children's Centre and Primary School is automatically a member of FoA. Everyone is welcome to join in as little or as much as they wish.

The main elected Committee members are required to be Trustees, registered with the Charities Commission, with associated legal responsibilities. We elected a new committee at the start of the school academic year and therefore there was a change mid way through the financial year.

The elected committee members registered with the Charities Committee from April 2023 to October 2023 were Nicola Dawkins (Chair), Jenny Chiu (Treasurer), and Emma Guirao (Secretary).

The elected committee members registered with the Charities Committee from October 2023 to April 2024 were Lucy Carraz (Chair), Tom Edwards (Treasurer), and Siobhan McKenna (Secretary).

The 2023/2024 Committee included: Dom Bouloux, Jeni Burt, Amy Colori, Lucy Carraz, Louis Carraz, Meriel Cartwright, Sorrel Challands, Nicky Dawkins, Asier Domaica, Gale Foster, Yvonne Halsey, Catherine Kenyon, Siobhan McKenna, Sultana Moosun, Illiana Ortega Alcazar, Lou Ramsden, Sayyeda Salam, Zalaya Simmons and Natalia Yanez-Stiel.

The Committee liaises directly with the school to make decisions on the timetable of events and expenditure of profits. In addition to regular Committee meetings, we hold occasional ad hoc open meetings for any

member to attend. These provide the opportunity to join in with event



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planning, make suggestions and volunteer to do many other valuable tasks.



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FoA has a Charities Aid Foundation bank account and is a Charity registered with the Charities Commission and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to which it files the necessary documents required by law.

FoA follows the School and Governing Body's lead for safeguarding, the type of events run (and their timing) and the priorities for expenditure of funds or funding applications.

In addition, FOA supports **Amber Arts and Grow Ambler**, which are sub-groups of FOA which focus on enhancing arts provision and improving the environment school-wide.

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023/2024 school year was extremely busy. We held discos for all year groups. A special thank you to Jack Baker and Rosie Baker for the excellent tunes and Jono Kenyon for arranging all the disco lighting. We also ran the Greetings Card Project, which we do annually, and organised a Silent Auction which was even more popular than the previous year. This was, once again, a huge community effort with many people donating their time and skills.

We also put on a Winter Day of Fun for the kids, which they all enjoyed. Stalls ranged from a golf game to face painting, to guess the name of the Reindeer. By doing it during the school day, it meant that every Ambler child got to be there. The school caterers then hosted a Winter Party at the end of the school day to include parents with festive music and hot chocolate.

We also ran a number of second-hand uniform give aways and a second hand Christmas jumper swap in order to create a culture of reuse at Ambler. Finally, we continued with the Ambler Community Fund, which is a separate fundraising campaign, where the money goes to support individual families in Ambler struggling with the costs of school trips and clubs.

Team members continues to liaise with the school on initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint, and continued to lobby the relevant authorities to



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introduce measures to improve air quality, reduce pollution and traffic.

In February 2024, we put on four movie nights to cover all the year groups. The kids loved getting dressed in their PJs and watching movies whilst chomping on popcorn.

Whilst outside of the formal reporting period for the benefit of completeness of the academic year we note that in May 2024 we held an 80's night for parents and carers to come and socialize and dance along to live music performed by the band of one of our school's parents. We also had two fantastic parents organize a DJ Evening in July at the Worlds End Pub to help raise awareness of FoA.

We held our Summer Fair on 6th July and had an amazing turnout. This was despite the crazy weather and a number of other events happening at the same time. We had a new International Food Stall which we plan to expand next year to really reflect the great diversity of our school and community.


Ambler Arts

Ambler Arts helped organize and fund screen printing with Sarah Pimenta for Children's Centre and Reception to Y6. They also held the Summer Exhibition and bunting workshops and ran the crafts stall at the Summer Fair. Ambler Arts sponsored materials, provided art expertise support and have already organized a Graffiti workshop for Y6 already this term.

A big thank you to Illiana Ortega Alcazar, Natalia Yanez-Stiel and Sorrel Challands for continuing to lead Ambler Arts events and nurturing creative talent and showcasing the wonderful artistic pieces created by our Ambler community.

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Grow Ambler
Grow Ambler hosted two very successful

gardening days where families volunteered and helped to do tasks such as planting, weeding and maintaining the planters, spreading woodchip in the



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forest, and tidying up the school grounds. A local professional gardener joined the first session. Families brought a picnic, and everyone enjoyed a fun, relaxed and sociable day.

Grow Ambler leadership also changed during the reporting period. Louis Carraz, Al Hutchinson and Katie Watson took over from Carolyn Payne and Barbara Rainbird. We thank all those who have led and continue to lead this really important part of our Ambler community and give all families a chance to learn how to grow fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers and experience the mental and physical benefits of gardening.

FINANCES

FoA funding decisions are guided by the school's requests and needs for fundraising and expenditure, regularly liaising with the Management team to establish where the funds can make the most valuable difference. This helps to ensure that the school is able to deploy funds where they are most needed.

Raising money is an important way FoA can support the school, particularly with the recent cuts to school budgets. FoA and the school carefully consider how to make trips and extra-curricular activities affordable for all pupils. FoA looks to raise money creatively, and to strike a balance between asking Ambler families to contribute and looking for sources of funding outside of the school community. We know this will be even more important in the year ahead as we tackle the impacts of the cost of living crisis.



It has been agreed that FoA accounts will be drawn to coincide with the school's

annual financial year-end (not the School academic year). It has also been agreed that the School Auditors can on request audit the FoA bank



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account and records, giving assurance to the stakeholders of FoA.

While events were the main source of income for FOA, we also raised money throughout the year via commission-raising collaborations including estate agent board sponsorship with Winkworth Estate Agents.

We have been fortunate to benefit from generous payroll giving as well as funding from several parents' donations via the Benevity platform. These contributions make a significant difference to fundraising levels and are greatly appreciated.

In the 2023-24 financial year we were able to fund:

	£1,21
Wonderdome	5
	£1,98
Graffiti project	4
	£1,89
Bookstairs (all)	6
	£1,40
Arts week (all)	6
First aid course	£974
	£1,69
Yoga	5
	£2,75
Reception resources	0
	£2,00
Year 1 resources	0
Reading roadmap (all)	£3,22



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	5
	£8,40
	0
Trips (all - £20 per pupil)	£700
Anti-Bullying Workshop	£1,29
ACF Transfer	5
Movie night licences (all)	£182
	£27,7
Total	22

Headline for the year ending 31 March 2024 are:

Income:	
Commissions	£606
	£8,68
Corporate	1
	£4,34
General Donations	8
	£8,22
Community Fund Donations	4
	£21,6
Fundraising Income	20
	£1,99
Year 6	6
Interest	£49
	£2,02
Gift aid income	5
	£47,5
Total	49
Expenditure:	
	£27,7
CCA	22
	£3,02
Fundraising Costs	3
Running Costs	£220
	£30,9
Total	64
	£32,3
Closing balance	50





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SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks go to Mrs McNicholl and all the School and Children's Centre staff and Governors. In particular the office staff, all the Class Reps, and Maira and Paul for all their support.

We are very grateful for the amazing support from local businesses and from Arsenal football club.

Of course, we also thank **every parent, carer and child** who has volunteered, donated to, attended and supported our events throughout the year. Without these vital volunteers lending their skills, displaying estate agent boards, contacting local businesses, passing on ideas and so much more we could not have had such a successful and fun year!

GETTING INVOLVED

We are always looking for more people to volunteer their time and skills!

We welcome all volunteers, positivity, enthusiasm and suggestions. If you would like to join the Committee, or are able to take on a smaller more discrete role, please do let us know. We need your skills and ideas to help support Ambler.

Get in touch at any time by speaking to a Committee Member, leaving a note with the School Office, emailing friendsofambler@gmail.com or contacting us via our Facebook or Twitter (@FoAmbler) pages. Please look out for text messages/WhatsApp messages/School Gateway app messages, email and our social media pages. We hope everyone will find an opportunity to be involved!

Thank you to all the Ambler pupils, staff, teachers, carers and families for a wonderful year. The 2023/2024 financial year was a great one. As this was my first year as Chair, a final personal thank you to the previous Chair, Nicky Dawkins, and the fantastic committee for helping me navigate my first year.

Lucy Carraz, Chair, Friends of Ambler



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Friends of Ambler

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Commissions	606	-	-	606	-
Corporate	8,681	-	-	8,681	-
Donations	4,348	-	-	4,348	-
ACF donations	-	8,224	-	8,224	-
Fundraising income	21,620	-	-	21,620	-
Year 6 leaver activities	-	1,996	-	1,996	-
Interest	49	-	-	49	-
Gift Aid	2,025	-	-	2,025	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	37,329	10,220	-	47,549	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	37,329	10,220	-	47,549	-
A3 Payments					
Contributions to meet charitable aims	27,722	-	-	27,722	-
Fundraising costs	3,023	-	-	3,023	-
Running costs	219	-	-	219	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	30,964	-	-	30,964	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	30,964	-	-	30,964	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	6,365	10,220	-	16,585	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,765	-	-	15,765	-
Cash funds this year end	22,130	10,220	-	32,350	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Account	32,350	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	32,350	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Cash float held	200	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name:
Friends of Ambler

On accounts for the year ended

31/03/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1157725

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

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 Trust's 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 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; 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.

Signed:

Date:

22/01/2025

Name:

James McDonald

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Address:

30 Crown Place, London EC2A 4EB