



# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01ST	APRIL	2023		31ST	MARCH	2024

## Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

GRANDMOTHER CLARA'S DREAM

Other names charity is known by

n/a

Registered charity number (if any)

1158148

Charity's principal address

ARNIMEAN

BARRHILL

SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Postcode

KA26 0RF

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Emma Astles	Chairperson		Trustees themselves
2	Val Astles			Trustees themselves
3	Paul Astles			Trustees themselves
4				
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17				
18				
19				
20				

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

## Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

## Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Emma Astles (Chairperson)

# Section B Structure, governance and management

## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by a properly convened meeting of trustees

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees of Grandmother Clara's Dream are responsible for fundraising to support the work of the Educandário Creche Comunitária Sonho da Vovó Clara (ECCSVC). ECCSVC is a not for profit community school offering free of charge education and childcare to the community of Mata Escura in Salvador, Brazil.

ECCSVC is a registered charity in Brazil. There are 3 existing trustees of Grandmother Clara's Dream. Any new trustees must be appointed by a properly convened meeting of the existing trustees. New trustees are appointed for a term of 3 years after which time they may put themselves forward for reappointment at a properly convened meeting of trustees.

The constitution allows for a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 12 trustees. All charity trustees give their time freely and no remuneration was paid during the year. Trustees are entitled to be reimbursed from Grandmother Clara's Dream for reasonable expenses incurred when acting on behalf of the charity, however no expenses have been claimed for the financial year 2023/24.

None of the trustees receive any personal benefit as a result of carrying out the charity's purpose –we do not receive any gifts or enhance our business/personal reputations in any way via our work for Grandmother Clara's Dream. Charity trustees must declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect which he or she has in any proposed transaction or arrangement entered into by Grandmother Clara's Dream that has not been previously declared. Charity trustees must also absent themselves from any conversations of trustees in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of Grandmother Clara's Dream.

The ECCSVC school project is supported by the fundraising work of Grandmother Clara's Dream. Trustee and Chairperson Emma Astles

established ECCSVC in its current form in 2010. Emma Astles aims to remain in regular contact with the ECCSVC staff via email conversations to ensure that the school is being effectively and safely managed and that funds are being spent correctly. Emma Astles reports the details of her conversations with ECCSVC management to the other Grandmother Clara's Dream Trustees and any questions or problems which arise are discussed, with decisions taken at properly convened trustee meetings.

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

*To advance the education, relieve poverty and promote the good health of the pupils at the Educandário Creche Comunitária Sonho da Vovó Clara (ECCSVC) Community School in the poverty stricken favela of Mata Escura in Salvador, Brazil, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of grants for teaching staff, food and materials at the school.*

*To create sustainable local employment in the community of Mata Escura, Salvador, Brazil.*

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of Grandmother Clara's Dream and in planning future activities and setting policy for the year. Grandmother Clara's Dream benefits children aged 2-16 years in the favela of Mata Escura on the outskirts of the city Salvador in Northern Brazil by fundraising to support to the work of Educandário Creche Comunitária Sonho da Vovó Clara (ECCSVC).

ECCSVC is an independent community school, which operates without religious or political bias and offers free of charge education and child care to underprivileged children aged 2-16 years. The community of Mata Escura is deeply affected by violent crime, illiteracy, unemployment and a lack of quality housing and amenities. Many families are torn apart by drug trafficking and abuse.

There are 2 state schools in the favela, which accept children from age 7 upwards. However, lessons at these schools are regularly cancelled due to a lack of teaching staff and when they are operating children attend for 3 hour "half day" sessions only. Owing to the short school sessions, children are often fending for themselves for the majority of the day – and this can put them at risk

Another major issue faced by the inhabitants of Salvador's favelas is poor public health, nutrition and sanitation. Studies carried out in 2010 revealed that 10.72% of the city's babies are classified as seriously underweight at birth and 10.21% of children aged 6 and under are suffering from the effects of malnutrition.

So, how does ECCSVC benefit the local public in Mata Escura? ECCSVC offers a safe, caring, educational environment for the children of this community. It provides a place where local children can play, develop and learn. Students receive first time teaching in literacy, numeracy, social sciences, natural sciences, arts and crafts. ECCSVC also provides reinforcement classes to older children and teenagers – helping them with their homework and providing teaching on the regular occasions when lessons at the local state school are cancelled and, perhaps most importantly, keeping them off the streets in a positive environment, away from the gangs. All teaching is conducted in Portuguese and all the school's services are offered free of charge and free from religious and political bias.

ECCSVC also strives to combat malnutrition by providing daily fruit, breakfast and 2 hot meals for the children. This helps to improve their vitamin intake and reduce their susceptibility to illness. Whenever possible ECCSVC also provides weekend and holiday food packages to help ensure the children are fed whilst not at school.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

So, how does this relate to the activities of our charity, Grandmother Clara's Dream? ECCSVC as described above is supported with donations of funds raised by Grandmother Clara's Dream to assist them in their work in the community of Mata Escura.

ECCSVC is a registered charity in Brazil. The funds Grandmother Clara's Dream raises are used to support the continued operation of ECCSVC.

Grandmother Clara's Dream raises funds through donations from family, friends and former volunteers at ECCSVC, who have seen the work first hand.

With the funds we raise, Grandmother Clara's Dream previously sent a bi-monthly bank transfer to ECCSVC in Brazil. This transfer contributed to salaries for the school staff. This transfer also helped to cover food and fresh fruit for the students, teaching supplies and an agreed contingency for maintenance of the school buildings and petty cash. Grandmother Clara's Dream Chairperson Emma Astles discussed the transfer amount with the ECCSVC staff prior to sending the funds and if any adjustments were required these were discussed and approved by all trustees. We are very careful to ensure that ECCSVC does not have a shortage or an unmanageable excess each month.

In July 2023 Grandmother Clara's Dream ceased accepting donations and transfers to ECCSVC were paused indefinitely. The school director, sadly passed away following a long battle with cancer. The director owned the land upon which the school was built and was responsible for all the school's financial management – including the complex process of visiting the bank every 2 months to confirm receipt and withdraw the funds we sent. In early 2023 we started to receive notification that our bi-monthly transfers were being returned to the charity bank account by the banking system – it became clear that the transfer procedure we had been using for the previous 8 years was no longer functioning and nobody from ECCSVC was claiming the funds on the Brazilian side. We reached out to the school, but communications became increasingly irregular and the situation unclear. We immediately informed a regular donor to cease his monthly contribution and we have paused transfers to the school indefinitely whilst we try to establish what is happening.

#### **Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Grantmaking Policy - The sole purpose of Grandmother Clara's Dream is to support the work of the Educandário Creche Comunitária Sonho da Vovó Clara (ECCSVC) community school. Grandmother Clara's Dream only makes grants to ECCSVC and does not support any other individuals, groups or projects. Currently we do not intend to expand our purpose to include support for other individuals, groups or projects. The reason for this is that we know ECCSVC in great depth - the school in its current form was established by one of our Trustees, who spent 2 years managing the operation. We have first-hand experience of the poor conditions in the favela of Mata Escura and the need for this school to continue its good work. We have witnessed the effects of the lack of quality, reliable schooling in Mata Escura, and the great need for childcare to assist parents seeking employment to support their families. We also have excellent lines of communication with the staff on the ground and understanding of the challenges, costs and bureaucracy they face, all of which allows us to work effectively together.

We would not get involved in a project that we did not have this level of understanding of and therefore we do not intend to expand to support other projects. We are currently not accepting donations, so there will not be an increase in available funds.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

During the financial year 2023/24 we can summarize the main achievements of Grandmother Clara's Dream as follows:

-Raised a total of £100 through fundraising from family and friends.

Fundraising has been put on hold in 23/24 whilst we assess our next steps.

Following the sad passing of the ECCSVC's former director and financial administrator communication with the school has become erratic. Repeated bank transfers were returned unclaimed by the bank. As a result we have ceased to accept donations. We have also paused all transfers indefinitely whilst we assess the situation and as it was clear they were no longer being received.

We have begun to discuss the possibility of closing down the charity.

In anticipation of this discussion we approached the major donor for GCD over the last 2 financial years. As it has been impossible recently to successfully transfer funds to the school we asked if he would like his donations returned. He assured us that he was happy for us to continue trying to reestablish the relationship with the ECCSVC and if this was not possible to donate his contribution to a similar Brazil-based educational charity – this is an option we are currently researching.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It has always been Grandmother Clara's Dream policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 2 months unrestricted payments – to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. However, we are currently reviewing this policy and the role of our charity moving forward. In recent years ECCSVC had success in securing local funding in Brazil and our role has become a less critical one - we have switched to playing a supporting role - providing additional funds - no longer critical to the school's continuing operation. In addition, the school's long time director very sadly passed away, leaving the future operation on pause whilst new administrative structures were put in place at the school. As a result of this upheaval bank transfers have been uncollected and have been returned to our charity account. It has also been increasingly difficult to maintain regular contact with the school. We know that the school is still in operation and we still remain hopeful that lines of communication will be restored, but we have been careful to ensure that no new donations are accepted and we have begun to discuss the possibility of closing down the charity.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

none

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Grandmother Clara's Dream is entirely dependent on donations from the public, family and friends to operate.

Total receipts for 2023/24 were £100 of which 100% were unrestricted funds.

We ceased accepting donations from July 2023 onwards.

We have paused transfers to the ECCSVC project in Brazil indefinitely, whilst the situation remains unclear.

We have begun to discuss the possibility of closing down the charity.

In anticipation of this discussion we approached the major donor for GCD over the last 2 financial years. As it has been impossible recently to successfully transfer funds to the school we asked if he would like his donations returned. He assured us that he was happy for us to continue trying to reestablish the relationship with the ECCSVC and if this was not possible to donate his contribution to a similar Brazil-based educational charity – this is something we are currently researching.

The net result for the year was £100 in unrestricted funds.

Adding bank balances brought forward at the beginning of the financial year and returned bank transfer, the balance carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 totalled £1147.41

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Emma Astles	
<b>Full name(s)</b>	Emma Astles	
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chairperson	
<b>Date</b>	13/02/2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
Grandmother Clara's Dream

No (if any)  
1158148

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

Period start date  
01-Apr-23

To

Period end date  
31-Mar-24

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
01/04/23 - donation from supporter	25	-	-	25	-
01/05/23 - donation from supporter	25	-	-	25	-
01/06/23 - donation from supporter	25	-	-	25	-
07/06/23 - returned funds	997	-	-	997	-
01/07/23 - donation from supporter	25	-	-	25	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	1,097	-	-	1,097	-
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	1,097	-	-	1,097	-
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	1,097	-	-	1,097	-
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	51	-	-	51	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	1,148	-	-	1,148	-

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	in current account at 31/03/24	1,148	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	1,148	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Emma Astles	Emma Astles	13/02/2024	