

School Ground Sounds - Trustees' Annual Report

For the period 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025

Section A – Reference and administration details

Charity Name	School Ground Sounds (Trading name: Grounded Sounds)
Registered charity number	1159676
Principal Address	14 Henderson Road, London SW18 3RR
Trustees	Tom Keohane – Chairman (retired 31.12.2025) Charles Scott – Trustee & Treasurer (Chairman since 31.12.2025) Jack Keeling – Trustee Stephen Cartwright – Trustee (retired 31.12.2025) Cristina Barone – Trustee (retired 31.12.2025) Tom Scott – Trustee (appointed 11.11.2025)
Senior Leadership	Sharon Noble – Interim CEO & the Managing Director (to Oct 2025) Jess Loveless – Creative Director (March – September 2025)

Section B – Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection method	Open advertisement, selection and appointment by resolution of existing trustees.

Section C – Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects set out in SGS' governing document	The advancement of musical education for the public benefit, in particular for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds by helping young people and school communities to access musical instruments and musical activities which develop skills and promote engagement.
Summary of main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the objects	We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Our activities include: For 11 – 16 year olds from lower income backgrounds: • A programme of after-school song-writing and music-making workshops for groups of young people in schools (now known as School Ground Sounds) For 15 – 17 year olds who are interested in considering further study and engagement with music but face barriers to doing so: • A four-week programme of structured workshops, seminars and practical sessions led by talented musicians and industry professionals in the early summer after exams (known as Bridge) For 18 – 24 year olds from lower income backgrounds with musical aspirations who are often NEET (not in education, employment or training)

	• A crash course in the music industry ('Spotlight'), with input from music industry professionals and opportunities to collaborate, perform and set goals and plans for the future • One-to-one mentoring • The provision of performance opportunities We also run the EP Accelerator programme to support early-career artists to write, record and release an EP, with songwriting development, 1-1 mentoring and music industry advice workshops. As well as engaging the young people in positive, worthwhile pursuits and developing their musical skills, all activities are intended to build participants' confidence, self-discipline, teamwork and resilience. We also manage a fund, 'Hatty's Fund', which donates instruments to selected keen young musicians who cannot otherwise afford them.
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Section D – Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	Unfortunately, we had a very disappointing year and were unable to raise sufficient funds to deliver all the programmes that we wished to do. In accordance with our reserves policy (below), in September the trustees took the difficult decision to wind down the programme activities of the charity and to make the team redundant in an orderly fashion. Going forward we will be focussed on Hatty's Fund only, administered by the trustees directly, with no paid employees. In summary: • We secured c. £92k of funding, compared to £196k in 2024 • We ran the School Ground Sounds programme in two schools throughout the whole year • We ran the Bridge programme at the start of the summer holidays • We completed the EP Accelerator programme for two early-career artists • Through Hatty's Fund, we delivered 8 musical instruments for young people and also funded 10 piano lessons • In total we had over 80 young people participating in SGS activities At the end of the year Charles Scott took over as chairman of the trustees and each of Tom Keohane, Stephen Cartwright and Cristina Barone retired as trustees. We thank them, along with Sharon Noble, our Managing Director up to October, for their considerable efforts in steering the charity through a difficult period. We enter 2026 with remaining funds of £18,896.
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Section E – Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	SGS' aim is to build and maintain a level of reserves that will cover at least 4 - 6 months' forward committed expenditure. We will never let the level of reserves drop below 3 months of forward committed expenditure.
Commentary on deficit	Income for the year was £92,093 and total expenses were £153,568, so the deficit for the year was £61,474, funded from reserves. As explained above we had to wind down our activities so that we remained solvent and conformed with our reserves policy. Closing cash funds were £18,896.

Section F – Other Optional Information

We would particularly like to thank all our funders, both private individuals and grant funders. The latter include:

• National Foundation for Youth Music • PRS Foundation • The Sheldon Trust • Albury's Charitable Trust • Gowling WLG Charitable trust	• Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation • John Thaw Foundation • The Black Fund • Asda • Tesco
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We would also like to thank those organisations that have supported the charity through monthly donations, fundraising events and offers of pro bono facilities or resources:

• Official Charts Company • Soho House • Raw Material, Media & Music	• Brixton Hill Studios • Baltic Studios • Nottingham Trent University
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Finally, we would like to thank all those who contributed to our Crowdfunder campaign, including Ninja Tune.

All trusts and donors were informed in advance of the trustees' decision to wind down the programmes and their funds were spent as agreed prior to the programmes stopping.

Section G – Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Full name:

Charles Scott

Position:

Chairman of the Trustees

Date:

9/4/2026

School Ground Sounds (trading as Grounded Sounds)

Registered Charity Number: 1159676

Period: 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025

Section A - Receipts and Payments

All figures in £	Latest period (12 months to 31 Dec 2025)	Restricted funds	Total	Prior period (12 months to 31 Dec 2024)	Notes
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			
A1 Receipts					
Grant funding	5,300	54,545	59,845	124,923	
Donations from private individuals	22,991	-	22,991	14,363	includes Hatty's Fund donations (Note 3)
Corporate donations	3,000	-	3,000	18,950	
Fundraising event income	-	-	-	29,332	
Earned income	6,257	-	6,257	6,853	
Investment income	-	-	-	1,820	
Total Income	37,548	54,545	92,093	196,241	
A2 Asset and investment sales					
	None	None	None	None	
A3 Payments					
Core team people costs:					
Salary and pension costs, including tax	57,190	39,652	96,842	88,195	
Freelance contractors	10,348	-	10,348	30,447	
Total core team people costs:	67,539	39,652	107,190	118,642	
Direct project costs:					
Freelance contractors - non-core team	-	32,155	32,155	42,619	excl. core team time on projects
Performance fees	-	249	249	1,400	
Studio / workshop space hire	-	3,445	3,445	2,906	
Artist fund	-	1,500	1,500	1,870	
Video/photography/live streaming	-	520	520	800	
Equipment hire (and support technicians)	-	250	250	-	
Instruments for young people	-	458	458	2,407	
Showcase ticketing fees	-	-	-	14	
Travel and accomodation expenses	-	270	270	768	
Travel expenses for participants	-	421	421	463	
Project consumables / stationery	-	1,016	1,016	199	
Food / refreshments	-	1,660	1,660	1,164	
Social media & offline promotion	-	-	-	120	
DBS checks	-	356	356	218	
Total direct project costs (excl. core team time):	-	42,299	42,299	54,948	
Direct fundraising costs:					
Fundraising event costs	(167)	-	(167)	7,502	excl. core team time on fundraising
Online fundraising tools	133	-	133	231	
Total direct fundraising costs:	(33)	-	(33)	7,733	
General overheads:					
Office space	550	-	550	600	
Website hosting	768	-	768	163	
Insurance	622	-	622	622	
SGS/GS branded merchandise	-	-	-	418	
Online software tools	1,204	-	1,204	3,512	
Training & staff away days	500	-	500	822	
Stationery (general)	-	-	-	54	
Equipment - IT, mobiles, other	387	-	387	420	
Recruitment costs	-	-	-	1,203	
Miscellaneous expenses	80	-	80	72	
Total general overheads:	4,112	-	4,112	7,886	
Total Expenses	71,617	81,951	153,568	189,209	
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
	None	None	None	None	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(34,069)	(27,406)	(61,474)	7,032	
A6 Opening cash funds					
	80,205	165	80,370	73,338	
Transfer of unrestricted funds	(27,241)	27,241	-	-	See Note 2
Closing Cash funds	18,896	-	18,896	80,370	See Note 3

Notes

- Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, i.e. on cash in and cash out. Since, at this stage, we are not issuing any customer invoices and we aim to pay supplier invoices as soon as they are received, this gives an accurate view of the financial position.
- Some spend on projects for which we have restricted funding is funded from unrestricted funds. All expenditure on these projects is shown under restricted funding. Total restricted funds actually used has been £54,710. The amount of unrestricted funds used on these projects has been £27,241.
- Closing unrestricted funds are designated for 'Hatty's Fund' - set up to purchase musical instruments for selected young people in need of support.

Section B - Assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Latest period (12 months to 31 Dec 2025)			Prior period
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	12 months to £
B1 Cash funds				
HSBC Account			18,896	80,370
Total cash funds	-	-	18,896	80,370
B2 Other monetary assets	None	None	None	None
B3 Investment assets	None	None	None	None
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	None	None	None	None see Note 4
B5 Liabilities	None	None	None	None

Notes

- 4 Our accounting policy is to treat purchase of equipment less than £3,000 (e.g. camera, recording equipment, laptop, iPads) as an expense. SGS/GS branded merchandise is bought for promotional purposes rather than for sale so is not treated as an asset.

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Date of

Printed Name

Charles Scott

9/4/2026

CHARLES SCOTT

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Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Date of

Printed Name

Charles Scott

9/4/2026

CHARLES SCOTT



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
School Ground Sounds

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1159676

Set out on pages

1

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 December 2025**.

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 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:

DocuSigned by:

Ed Massey

24D2B787B757464...

Date:

02/06/2026

Name:

Edmund Massey

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

ICAEW

Address:

4th Floor, One Strand

London

WC2N 5HR

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.