

The Childrens Art School

Charity number 1161225

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025



The Childrens Art School

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

The Childrens Art School

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Jael Williams		
Sally Brown		
Maire Tracey		
Shamyla Younas		Appointed October 2024
Shafina Akhtar		Resigned August 2024
Charity number	1161225	Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address

22 Back Lane
Holmfirth
Huddersfield
HD9 1HG

Bankers

The Co-operative bank
P O Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent examiner

Alan Dodd FCCA

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) foundation formed on 9 April 2015.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed at a meeting of the trustees.

The Childrens Art School

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To promote the education of children and young people in the United Kingdom, particularly in West Yorkshire, by: providing visual and other arts classes and workshops advising and training teachers and arts facilitators; and raising awareness of the value of teaching creativity and innovation and its impact on the development and well-being of children and young people.

The charity's main activities

During the financial year 2024–25, The Children's Art School continued to deliver its charitable objectives by providing high-quality, accessible creative opportunities for children and young people aged 2–18. The charity's activities are designed to promote creativity, confidence, wellbeing and social connection, particularly for children and families who face barriers to accessing arts and cultural provision due to cost, geography or socio-economic disadvantage.

Public benefit statement

In planning and delivering its activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The paid for classes and Saturday Art School in Holmfirth continue to provide a sustainable core whilst all other programmes free at the point of access with a particular focus on town-centre and community-based provision that supports inclusion and family participation.

Achievements and performance

MakerWorld Huddersfield

MakerWorld Huddersfield continued to be the charity's flagship programme, delivering regular weekly term-time sessions and extensive holiday provision for children, young people and families. Activity included Saturday drop-in sessions, pre-school Little Makers sessions and additional workshops during school holidays. Delivery was supported by ongoing Reaching Communities funding from The National Lottery enabling consistent and accessible provision throughout the year. A donation for additional music offers in 2023 meant we could trial musical experiences alongside making at our Little makers sessions and also offer **MakerNoise** djembe drumming and singing at our Saturday and holiday family drop-in sessions.

In 2024–25, the charity expanded its Huddersfield presence by taking on an additional unit in the Piazza Centre, formerly the Toyland store. This was identified as a strategic opportunity to respond to local need by expanding the charity's offer to older children and young people, a group under-represented in town-centre cultural provision.

Through a partnership with Skate It Yourself, the space was developed as a temporary skatepark and creative hub, piloting **MakerSkate** sessions. These combined skateboarding with creative workshops including T-shirt printing, ramp artwork and music sessions. The project enabled the charity to engage a new demographic of young people aged 11+, promoting physical activity, creative expression and positive use of public space.

The additional unit also supported the charity's aim to increase the visibility of children and young people's creativity. Building on the success of earlier large-scale exhibition projects, the space enabled the development of MakerWorld Gallery, providing a dedicated area for showcasing work created through the charity's programmes.

MakerWorld Gallery and Intergenerational Engagement

The creation of the gallery space allowed The Children's Art School to broaden its engagement beyond children and families. When delivering a project for Kirklees Libraries between January and March 2024, linked to the development of their Maker Spaces, the charity was able to offer adult creative sessions alongside family workshops, as well as publicly exhibit work created by MakerWorld families and the wider community.

The Childrens Art School

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

This approach supported public benefit by encouraging intergenerational participation, increasing access to creative learning for adults, and celebrating community creativity within a town-centre setting.

MakerWorld Dewsbury

Following the success of the *Little Makers* pilot in Dewsbury in 2023, the charity worked closely with Kirklees Council during 2024–25 to develop a pathway towards longer-term MakerWorld provision in the town.

When meanwhile space became available at Princess of Wales Precinct, in June 2024 the charity secured funding from the Town Improvement Programme, Holiday Activities and Food (HAF), Dewsbury Arcade and WYCA PACE to deliver activity throughout summer, parts of the autumn term, and January–February 2025. This enabled regular free creative provision for children and families during school holidays and peak demand periods.

During this delivery period, the charity successfully applied to National Lottery Awards for All, securing one year of funding commencing on 1 April 2025. This marked a significant step in transitioning MakerWorld Dewsbury from a pilot project to a more sustainable programme, extending the charity's public benefit reach within Kirklees.

Schools, Festivals and Commissioned Work

Alongside its place-based programmes, The Children's Art School continued to deliver paid-for clubs, commissions and festival activity, supporting the charity's financial sustainability while extending its reach.

This included:

- Regular art clubs at Holmfirth Tech and Salendine Nook High School
- Workshops for Huddersfield Literature Festival, Holmfirth Arts Festival, Batley Festival and the University of Huddersfield

These activities enabled children and young people to participate in high-quality creative experiences, while strengthening partnerships with cultural, educational and civic organisations.

Outreach and Community Engagement

The charity delivered a programme of outreach activity designed to reach communities with limited access to arts provision. Over the summer period, outreach sessions were delivered in partnership with Chol Theatre across multiple Kirklees locations, targeting areas of high deprivation.

Additional outreach activity was delivered for Kirklees Council's Yorkshire Day celebrations and at Beaumont Park Playday and Strawberry Fields School. These sessions supported public benefit by providing free, open-access creative activities in outdoor and community settings, encouraging participation from families who may not otherwise engage with arts organisations.

Activity Summary

Across the 2024–25 financial year, The Children's Art School delivered the following activity:

- 6 commissions
- 97 commissioned workshops
- 195 workshops at Holmfirth Tech
- 104 sessions at MakerWorld Huddersfield
- 55 sessions at MakerWorld Dewsbury
- 8 MakerSkate sessions

With 9,170 visits from children and young people and 1,500+ hours of direct contact time.

Activity was delivered by 16 professional artists, supported by young helpers, performers and specialist skate coaches. The charity also contributed to skills development for young people and educators through training and supported participation opportunities.

The Childrens Art School

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance (continued)

Summary

The 2024–25 year represented a period of consolidation and strategic growth for The Children's Art School. The charity expanded its physical footprint, diversified its programme offer, and strengthened pathways towards long-term sustainability while continuing to prioritise free and inclusive access to creative opportunities

Financial review

The net payments for the year were £8993, including net payments of £24334 on unrestricted funds and net receipts of £15,341 on restricted funds after transfers.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £36,415.

The policy allocates money from unrestricted fund balances, which are not invested in fixed assets, for potential situations such as

1. Continuity

to be used to bridge any possible delays in receiving promised grants or managing payment in arrears contracts. This has been defined as a minimum of a three months budgeted trading activity.

2. Restructuring

to cover essential trading/activities whilst sourcing income to a maximum of 3 months budgeted trading activity.

3. Dissolution

provides for the costs of dissolution should the company be unable to continue. It is only to be used in the event of the Trustees' deciding the company should cease to exist. It will be used to pay notice periods, redundancies and the expenses of running (The Children's Art School) until closure of the organisation.

Fund Balance

- 3 months minimal running costs £2000

- 3 months residual salaries (1 staff) - £10,000

Minimum Required £10,000

Maximum: £25,000

The free reserves are currently above this limit but will be used for organisational development and to further the aims of the charity.

Approved by the board of trustees on 29/1/2026

Maire Tracey (Trustee)

The Childrens Art School

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Childrens Art School

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the CIO 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 CIO's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act;
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those 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.

Alan Dodd FCCA

30/1/2026

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

The Childrens Art School
Receipts and payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants and donations	(2)	-	125,511	125,511	130,955
Sales and fees		57,055	2,100	59,155	67,223
Total receipts		<u>57,055</u>	<u>127,611</u>	<u>184,666</u>	<u>198,178</u>
Payments					
Salaries and NIC		20,989	55,100	76,089	45,017
Freelance teachers and artistes		28,229	10,565	38,794	61,296
Rent, rates, service charges and utilities		25,385	11,603	36,988	8,724
Materials and resources		2,329	3,327	5,656	13,838
Equipment		46	2,771	2,817	3,503
Marketing		1,177	13,091	14,268	6,131
Travel expenses		133	267	400	220
Training		-	2,790	2,790	-
Bookkeeping		-	1,526	1,526	750
Subscriptions		-	278	278	340
Insurance		1,536	1,913	3,449	1,215
Miscellaneous		159	1,014	1,173	1,433
Volunteer expenses		-	289	289	-
Accountancy and Independent examination		990	-	990	792
Organisational development		28	150	178	1,528
Consultancy and professional		9	3,970	3,979	-
Phone and internet		152	542	694	444
Printing		227	3,074	3,301	-
Total payments		<u>81,389</u>	<u>112,270</u>	<u>193,659</u>	<u>145,231</u>
Net receipts / (payments)		<u>(24,334)</u>	<u>15,341</u>	<u>(8,993)</u>	<u>52,947</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>60,749</u>	<u>31,987</u>	<u>92,736</u>	<u>39,789</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	<u>36,415</u>	<u>47,328</u>	<u>83,743</u>	<u>92,736</u>

The Childrens Art School
Statement of assets and liabilities
as at 31 March 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	36,415	47,328	83,743	92,736
Total cash funds	<u>36,415</u>	<u>47,328</u>	<u>83,743</u>	<u>92,736</u>

Debtors and prepayments	2025
	£
Prepayments	1,843
	<u>1,843</u>

Liabilities	2025
	£
Accruals	1,494
Taxation and social security	665
	<u>2,159</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 29/1/2026

Maire Tracey (Trustee)

The Childrens Art School

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Childrens Art School

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Grants and donations	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council England	-	2,959	2,959	27,100
Kirklees Council	-	9,000	9,000	3,500
National Lottery Community Fund	-	112,496	112,496	47,593
One Community	-	-	-	1,000
Local Giving	-	-	-	500
Other donations	-	1,056	1,056	51,262
	<u>-</u>	<u>125,511</u>	<u>125,511</u>	<u>130,955</u>

3 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Little Makers Dewsbury	2,141	11,959	14,100	-	-
Maker World	29,846	95,752	98,170	-	27,428
Nat. Lottery Community Fund	-	19,900	-	-	19,900
	<u>31,987</u>	<u>127,611</u>	<u>112,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,328</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
Little Makers Dewsbury	To deliver a Maker World offer in Dewsbury.
Maker World	To fund a Maker World offer for children and families.
Nat. Lottery Community Fund	To develop a children's art gallery offer.

4 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.