

Trustees' Annual Report for the year

Period start date

Period end date

From

1

September 2019 To 31

August 2020

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Bristol Schools Connection

Other names charity is known by

BSC

Registered charity number (if any)

1162067

Charity's principal address

45 Yanley Lane

Long Ashton

Bristol

BS41 9LR

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 | Anthony Miles | Chair | | |
| 2 | Wendy Massey | | | |
| 3 | Emelye Chanot | | | |
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Consultant Development Workers

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Jane Gillis | |
| Liz Ogborne | |

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Foundation

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

New trustees are identified and invited to be trustees by the existing trustees

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Section C Objectives and activities

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

To advance and to develop an understanding of the Christian faith for the public benefit in particular, but not exclusively, by encouraging and enabling churches within the City of Bristol to connect with their local school communities in ways which are positive and supportive, particularly those in less resourced areas.

The Charity will further this purpose through

- Action research, based in one locality, and by providing an exemplar of outstanding practice for others to learn from and adapt to their individual context. These connections will:
 - provide support in the area of spiritual development and pastoral care to students, school staff and families with the aim that this will impact positively upon the wellbeing of the school community to the benefit of the students, staff and families;
 - enable and create safe and imaginative spiritual development and learning opportunities for all ages within both a school context, and an accessible, informal church context;
 - work with churches and schools to connect the life of the two communities to the mutual benefit of both; particularly being mindful of how churches can positively serve communities where the majority of population are of another faith or of no particular faith.
- Providing support for spiritual development and pastoral care to students, school staff and families thus impacting positively upon the school community
- Enabling safe and imaginative spiritual development and learning opportunities for all ages within school and informal church contexts

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission. BSC's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects "TO ADVANCE AND TO DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH". The Trustees ensure this purpose is carried out for the public benefit by making its support available to schools and churches within Bristol and particularly to those in less resourced areas.

The principal activities during the year were as follows

External

- Consultancy/advising/training/encouraging/coaching churches and church members who are connecting with their local schools in the Bristol area. This included face to face meetings, zoom meetings, telephone calls, emails, signposting, social media, and training sessions. Our primary focus of helping less resourced churches/areas continues.
- Running training sessions (in person or online) – either general schools work training sessions, or specific training sessions e.g. how to run a prayer space in school or how to run Easter Space.
- Developing new innovative resources which enable churches to connect with their local schools. This included responding and morphing to the emerging national/local/global situation (including Covid-19).
- Networking and partnering with key people and organisations in the Bristol area and nationally who have similar and/or complimentary objectives.
- Helping local churches to work together to support their local school(s).

Internal

- Receiving training ourselves to keep up to date and further hone our skills.
- Keeping up to date with developments in school/community work across the country, so that we can learn from and implement best practice in the Bristol area.
- Involvement in action research projects to ensure that BSC consultants continue to learn and develop with regards to engaging with spiritual development in a school and its wider community context.
- organisations/opportunities/resources to enable an increase in good Christian engagement/support with schools. This has included the facilitating churches offering Faraday institute workshops to their local schools for January 2020.
- Ensuring that we have good working relationships/work in partnership with other organisations in the City and beyond with similar aims and objectives.
- Producing 'how to' guides for various ways that churches might connect with the local schools: e.g. Secondary RE; outdoor reflective spaces.
- Working with churches and schools to connect the life of the two communities to their mutual benefit

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)

Section D

Achievements and performance in the year

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the year BSC has

- Offered and delivered successful Consultancy, Coaching, and Training to churches and church members who are connecting with their local schools (and their associated wider communities) and heading up different school/community projects. These included Christmas and Easter workshops; prayer/reflective spaces (both indoors and outdoors); social action projects; supporting RE and collective worship provision. We have connected with people and churches all over the Bristol area, often with one off consultancy advice. We have also worked for longer periods of time with churches in Easton, Avonmouth, Bedminster, Stockwood, Shirehampton, Cromhall, Wick, Lockleaze, and Clifton.
- We have run various City-wide training events for churches to better enable them to connect with their local schools, and also smaller bespoke training sessions e.g. for a particular church/group of churches. This included an event in September 2019 which was well attended – we focused on people sharing their stories of how they have been connecting with their local schools, and we invited representatives from other organisations to present as well. We also ran some 'Prayers Spaces in School' training sessions – both in person and online (all were well attended).
- We have continued to facilitate a project called Children Just Like Me which links schools from very different areas to each other and helps to develop relations between the children so that a meaningful dialogue can happen. The project involves writing letters, hosting trips to each other's schools/local community/places of worship. We have started to work with Bridges for communities charity on this project, with the aim of them taking ownership of this project and developing it further.
- BSC has continued to support the team delivering The Space – which is a permanent reflective space in a Secondary school in Shirehampton.
- We supported St. Francis church, Bedminster as they hosted their second Christmas workshop, and as they prepared to deliver Easter Space.
- We have continued to have a regular online presence on Facebook and have started a Youtube channel.
- During lockdown – all of our support went online. We continued to encourage and support churches to connect with their local schools during lock down. This included emails/zoom meetings/zoom training sessions/Facebook posts/Youtube story videos and training videos, and Assembly video examples.
- During lockdown we worked in partnership with 'Prayer Spaces in School' to produce a resource called 'Transition space' for year 6 leavers. We encouraged churches to offer this resource to their local schools. This was used across Bristol and beyond.
- Networking, connecting and signposting, and promoting other organisations/opportunities/resources to enable an increase in good Christian engagement/support with schools.
- We facilitated churches offering Faraday institute workshops to their local schools for January 2020.

Section D

Achievements and performance in the year

- We have continued to deepen our strategic connections with various organisations/networks including: Bristol Diocese; Muller Foundation; Together4Bristol; Christ Church Clifton; Alma Church; B&A church; TLG/Make Lunch; Prayer Spaces in Schools; Youth Workers Forum, God and the big bang, and the Faraday Institute. We have been able to work in partnership with these organisations/networks when appropriate and helpful. We have also made good connections with Trinity college and Bristol Baptist college and we had training sessions booked in the diary for summer 2020. These were unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19.
- We had several meetings with key people in the City about how to get churches in the Bristol area to connect more with Secondary schools. We have been involved with forming a joint initiative with the Bristol Youth Workers Forum.
- We have continued to take an active part in the Diocese mentoring/coaching scheme – for churches who want to receive coaching about how to connect with their local school – Liz and Jane are named coaches for churches in 2 deaneries in Bristol.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

BSC was fortunate to receive initial seed funding from a number of trusts and individuals when it was formed in 2015.

However, BSC remains reliant each year on financial gifts from individuals, trusts and churches within Bristol which can be one-off, ongoing or for a limited period of time. Given this dependency, the trustees believe it appropriate to target reserves at approximately six months of ongoing expenditure plus the budgeted deficit for the next year before new fundraising.

The reserves at 31st August 2020 were £23,900 The projected expenditure and deficit for 2020/21 before new fundraising were £29,000 and £11,000 respectively giving a reserves target of £25,500. Reserves therefore represented 94% of target.

The trustees consider this level of reserves reasonable but are actively seeking new sources of income in order to reduce the 2020/21 budgeted deficit.

Financial performance

BSC started the year with projected expenditure exceeding pledged income by £9,300. We are very grateful to God for the £7,300 of additional gifts received from individuals following the appeal in autumn 2019 and for the ongoing support from supporters and the PCC of Christ Church Clifton. Total cash receipts were up 25% on 2018/19. We did not receive any trust grants.

Together with a small reduction in budgeted activity during the COVID crisis, we were able to break even in the year on a management accounts accruals basis. The attached accounts, prepared on a cash basis, show a deficit of £2,900 as last year there were accruals of £3,300 which have not repeated this year.

BSC has been able to engage Jane Gillis and Liz Ogborne, our development workers, on an 'as needed' basis as they continue the work of BSC. Total expenditure, on an accruals basis, was up 10% compared with 2018/19.

In the next year BSC plans to

- Continue to support churches and groups of Christians in less resourced areas in the City of Bristol who seek support (coaching/mentoring/training) as they make meaningful connections with their local schools and wider community.
- Continue to research innovative ways to create intentional spaces for spiritual dialogue within schools and their wider communities across our City. This will include adapting to ever changing Covid-19 requirements.
- Develop Prayer Spaces in a box, and Christmas in a box – new resources for churches to offer to schools in terms 1 and 2 – both compliant with ever changing Covid-19 requirements.
- Run an online gathering / training event in Autumn 2020 for churches in the Bristol area, sharing stories of ways that churches have connected with their local school(s) in the last year, and looking strategically at ways to connect in this academic year. Work in partnership with other networks/charities/organisations to put on this event.
- Run some other online training / in person training sessions e.g. Christmas/Easter/Prayer Spaces.
- Continue to take an active part in the Diocese of Bristol mentoring/coaching scheme, including connecting with Deanery Synods.
- Easter Space/Easter workshops – encourage/train/support churches to offer RE support about the Christian festival of Easter.
- Website and social media – add more stories to the BSC website and continue to regularly post on Facebook/YouTube/Instagram (start and Instagram account).
- Children Just like Me Project – facilitate Bridges for communities (a Bristol based charity) taking ownership of this project and developing it further.
- Produce more videos to show how different churches in the City have connected with their local school(s) and wider community. These videos can then be used to inspire and train others.
- Offer support to Trinity and Bristol Baptist theological colleges as they seek to train students and Ordinands in making positive connections with schools and providing creative spiritual development opportunities.
- Continue to work on our funding strategy to secure new and ongoing sources of funding.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Signature(s) | | |
| Full name(s) | ANTHONY CROFTON MILES | WENDY MASSEY |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | CHAIRMAN | TRUSTEE |
| Date | 1 st October 2020 | |

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Bristol Schools Connection

On accounts for the
year ended

31st August 2020

Charity no 1162067

Set out on pages

1 and 2

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 1st October 2020

Name:

PATRICK F O'CONOR BSc FCA

Relevant professional
qualification:

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

51 Downs Park West

Bristol, BS6 7QL

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

NONE

Receipts and payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts

| For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date | For the period from | Period start date | To | Period end date |
|---------------------|-------------------|----|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----|------------------|
| | 1st Sept 2019 | | 31st August 2020 | | 1st Sept 2018 | | 31st August 2019 |

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | | | | |
| Donations from Individuals | 16,925 | - | - | 16,925 | 11,702 | - | - | 11,702 |
| Donations from churches and other charities | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | - | 5,000 |
| Fees | 684 | - | - | 684 | 630 | - | - | 630 |
| Gift Aid recoverable | 2,504 | - | - | 2,504 | 2,607 | - | - | 2,607 |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 25,113 | - | - | 25,113 | 19,939 | - | - | 19,939 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total receipts | 25,113 | - | - | 25,113 | 19,939 | - | - | 19,939 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | | | | |
| Development workers | 23,873 | - | - | 23,873 | 20,333 | - | - | 20,333 |
| Insurance | 1,807 | - | - | 1,807 | 1,787 | - | - | 1,787 |
| Website and other | 2,283 | - | - | 2,283 | 944 | - | - | 944 |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 27,963 | - | - | 27,963 | 23,064 | - | - | 23,064 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 27,963 | - | - | 27,963 | 23,064 | - | - | 23,064 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | - 2,850 | - | - | - 2,850 | - 3,126 | - | - | - 3,126 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 26,757 | - | - | 26,757 | 29,882 | - | - | 29,882 |
| Cash funds this year end | 23,907 | - | - | 23,907 | 26,757 | - | - | 26,757 |

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

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ |
|--|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Bank account | 23,907 | - | Bank account | 26,757 | - |
| | | - | - | | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 23,907 | - | Total cash funds | 26,757 | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ |
| | Gift Aid recoverable | 150 | - | Gift Aid recoverable | 37 | - |
| | | - | - | | - | - |
| | | - | - | | - | - |
| | | - | - | | - | - |
| | | - | - | | - | - |
| | | - | - | | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) |
| | | | - | | | - |
| | | | - | | | - |
| | | | - | | | - |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) |
| | | | - | | | - |
| | | | - | | | - |
| | | | - | | | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) |
| | | | - | Outstanding Development worker expenses | 1280 | - |
| | | | - | | | - |
| | | | - | Donation received in advance | 2000 | - |

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Date

1st October 2020

Signature

Print Name

Anthony Miles, Chair