

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year

Period start date

Period end date

From

1

September 2020 To 31

August 2021

## 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			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

### Consultant Development Workers

Jane Gillis	
Liz Ogborne	

## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

Foundation

How the charity is constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods

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

## 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 (ie piloting new resources/activities), 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

## 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)

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.

We maintained most of our principal activities, albeit that many of these were undertaken in different ways due to the pandemic.

### External

- We continued our consultancy work of advising/training/encouraging/coaching churches, church members and church organisations who are connecting with their local schools in the Bristol area. Due to the pandemic this was mainly restricted to zoom, telephone calls, emails, signposting, social media, and online training sessions. We have had some face to face meetings when restrictions have allowed. Our primary focus of helping less resourced churches/areas continues.
- Developing new innovative resources which enable churches to connect with their local schools – Christmas in a Box and Easter in a Box – the Movie. The development of these two resources have been designed so that they are flexible to work in a pandemic. The rollout of these two new resources largely replaced the assistance we

have provided to churches running Christmas and Easter trails.

- Christmas in a Box' was presented on a 'pilot basis' in at least 17 schools - 14 of which were in the Bristol region - in total reaching over 1,000 children. 'Easter in a Box – The Movie' was presented in at least 22 schools, 11 of which are in the Bristol area. It was trialled as far away as Northumberland and Guernsey! We received some great feedback
- Running training sessions (all online due to the pandemic) – this year we have focused on running training sessions for two new resources – Christmas and Easter in a Box. Over 200 people from all over the UK attended these sessions.
- 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 piloting new projects ('action research') 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 – this year the main action research projects were Christmas in a Box, Easter in a Box, outdoor prayer spaces.
- 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. Running an Outdoor prayer space
- Working with churches and schools to connect the life of both communities to their mutual benefit

During the year BSC has successfully achieved the majority of the plans and objectives outlined on last year's annual report. We have:

- 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.  
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 and Lawrence Weston, Lockleaze, Clifton, Glenfrome, Wick, Shirehampton, Stockwood.
- We developed and piloted two new resources – Christmas in a Box and Easter in Box – the Movie. Following the pilot rollouts of the new resources, we undertook a review so that we could gather feedback and tweak the resources for relaunches in 2021/22. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive and we are now in the process of updating the resource for relaunch.
- We developed some new outdoor prayer space activities and produced a How To guide about how to run an outdoor prayer space. We were also involved with leading some training on this with Prayer Spaces in Schools.
- We successfully handed over the project – Children Just Like Me to Bridges for Communities. It has been a joy to support them at the start of this venture and to see them developing the project further. It is now called Bristol School Linking project.
- We have continued to have a regular online presence on Facebook and our YouTube channel – posting videos, encouragements, ideas, stories – to inspire people/churches to connect with their local school – especially through the Pandemic. As noted above, there is still work to do enhancing our website.
- We ran a training afternoon with Trinity Theological college – training students and ordinands about why and how to make positive connections with their local schools and providing spiritual development opportunities in school communities.
- We ran several online supporter gatherings to share the vision, encourage, share positive stories and pray.
- We have continued to network with other organisations that have a similar heart and vision e.g. Bristol Diocese, Together4Bristol, Transforming Lives for Good, Bridges for Communities, Müllers, PAIS movement, Prayer Spaces in Schools. Where appropriate we have signposted to these organisations and promote their work/resources.
- We have continued to work on our funding strategy and to secure new and ongoing sources of funding. We have been very encouraged by the financial support received for the first time from The Burden Trust, Temple Ecclesiastical Charity, St Stephens Soundwell Bristol, Hope Community Church Bristol and Christ Church Barnet. We continue to give thanks for the ongoing generous funding received from Christ Church Clifton, the Fairfield Trust and approximately 20 individual supporters.
- We had hoped to enhance our website with all our resources being available from it as well as a general update on the BSC story. Unfortunately time did not permit us to do this and this project will roll forward into 2021/22.

## 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 and beyond 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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 were £27,900. The projected expenditure and deficit for 2021/22 before new fundraising were £36,000 and £9,000 respectively giving a reserves target of £27,000. Reserves therefore represented 103% of target.

The trustees consider this level of reserves reasonable but continue to seek new sources of income in order to reduce the 2021/22 deficit.

### Financial performance

BSC started the year with projected expenditure exceeding pledged income by £11,000. We are very grateful to God for existing donors who have continued to support BSC and for the £18,500 of additional gifts received from trusts (£12,500), churches (£4,500) and individuals (£1,500) - leading to an overall increase in income of over 30% to £35,500 and a surplus of £4,000.

Total expenditure increased to £31,500. As explained above, most of BSC's new activities during the year related to the development and rollout of Christmas in a Box and Easter in a Box - together they accounted for approximately half of total expenditure in the year. These 'new costs' were offset by a reduction in the consultants' other activities due to the pandemic such that the 'net cost' was principally the £5,400 cost of the materials themselves.

Time did not permit the planned further development of BSC's website with planned expenditure of £3,000 rolling forward into next year.

We start 2021/22 with a projected shortfall of £9,000 including these website costs. We hope to reduce this deficit by increasing the number of churches which support financially the ongoing Christmas and Easter in a Box projects.

## Section F

## Plans and objectives for 2021/22

In the next year BSC plans to

- Continue to support churches 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.
- Relaunch Christmas in a Box and Easter in a Box (the resources we developed and piloted last academic year) – including updating the resources based on the feedback from last year's pilot; developing new dedicated webpages on our website; running online training sessions; advertising the resources via social media and other networks; and lastly providing a set of resources for a few less resourced churches to use with their local schools.
- Provide support to any churches operating Christmas/Easter trails. Inevitably their ability to do this may well be restricted due to the pandemic.
- Continue to promote the work of Transforming Lives for Good across Bristol, with continued



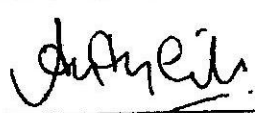
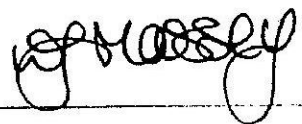
involvement with a city-wide dialogue about the involvement of churches to provide TLG to the schools that need it most (as highlighted by Bristol City Council).

- Prayer Space development - run some Prayer Spaces in Schools training sessions – including how to run outdoor prayer spaces. Continue to encourage and support churches who run prayer spaces.
- Run a Bristol Schools Connection Supporter/friends of gathering at the end of September – to envision people about churches connecting with schools and to give thanks for the last academic year.
- Prayer gatherings - host several online prayer gatherings for supporters/friends – focusing on the vision of Bristol Schools Connection. Also host a couple of prayer gatherings with Together4Bristol for people involved in education in our city.
- Reconnect in person with volunteers in churches we have worked with in the past (after meeting online during the pandemic) – continue to see how we can support them as they connect with their local schools.
- Develop and implement a concise social media plan for the year – what is our message? A few key messages that we focus on throughout the year.
- Envisioning churches to reimagine church (connecting with schools and wider community – church doesn't have to be Sunday-centric) – where and when can we do this? Looking for opportunities/forums to envision.
- Update our website to ensure our resources are readily available and to incorporate new stories etc.
- Develop our YouTube channel – add some more videos/stories
- Trinity and Bristol Baptist Theological college – offer to be involved with training students with regards to connecting with schools and their wider communities.
- Funding strategy – continue to work on our funding strategy with new and ongoing sources of funding. In particular, we hope to widen the base of churches supporting us financially.
- Continue to network with organisations locally and nationally who share a similar heart/vision.
- Connecting more with some of the church networks that we are less well connected with in the City e.g. Methodists, Baptists, and the Black-led churches.
- Think through how Bristol Schools Connection could be replicated in another city.

## 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 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	

# 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

31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

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:

*Patrick F O'Connor BSc FCA*

Date: 14 November 2021

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.



Receipts and payments accounts		Receipts and payments accounts		
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	1st Sept 2020		31st August 2021	
	1st Sept 2019	To	31st August 2020	

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 £	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>								
Donations from Individuals	13,714	-	-	13,714	16,925	-	-	16,925
Donations from churches and other charities	19,500	-	-	19,500	5,000	-	-	5,000
Fees		-	-	-	684	-	-	684
Gift Aid recoverable	2,280	-	-	2,280	2,504	-	-	2,504
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>35,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,494</b>	<b>25,113</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,113</b>
<b>A2 Asset and Investment sales, (see table).</b>								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>35,494</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,494</b>	<b>25,113</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,113</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>								
Development workers	23,761	-	-	23,761	23,873	-	-	23,873
Christmas and Easter in a Box expenses	5,404	-	-	5,404	-	-	-	-
Insurance	1,505	-	-	1,505	1,807	-	-	1,807
Website and other	894	-	-	894	2,283	-	-	2,283
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>31,554</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,554</b>	<b>27,963</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,963</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>31,554</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,554</b>	<b>27,963</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,963</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,850</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>23,907</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,907</b>	<b>26,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,757</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>27,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,847</b>	<b>23,907</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,907</b>

## 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 accounts	27,847	-	Bank account	23,907	-
		-	-		-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>27,847</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>23,907</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK

B2 Other monetary assets	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	
	OK	OK	OK	OK
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	Details	Details	Details	Details
	Gift Aid recoverable	Gift Aid recoverable	Gift Aid recoverable	Gift Aid recoverable
	150	150	150	150
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

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		Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (optional)	
Details		Details		Cost (optional)	
				-	-
				-	-
				-	-

B5 Liabilities					
Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
		-			-
		-			-

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Print Name

1st October 2021

July 21

Anthony Miles, Chair