

Trustees' Annual Report for the year						
		Period start date			Period end date	
From	1	September	2022	To	31	August 2023

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	Sally Martin		Appointed 10 October 2022	
5				
6				
7				
8				

Consultant Development Workers

Jane Gillis	
Liz Ogborne (until 31 st December 2023)	

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

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 (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.

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.
- Supporting people in the Bristol area who are running Christmas in a Box and Easter in a Box – The Movie, by running training sessions both online and in person, helping teams, and coaching volunteers. In its third year of use 'Christmas in a Box' was hosted by 21 churches in 29 local schools and one preschool in the Bristol area. 'Easter in a Box – The Movie' was hosted by 16 churches in 19 schools in the Bristol area. Through our online training programme, we were able to support numerous churches across the country who offered these resources to their local schools. Once again, we received some great

feedback.

- Supporting churches who provided other Christmas/Easter resources and sessions for schools.
- Running Prayer Spaces in School Training sessions – 3 in person training sessions focusing on indoor prayer spaces. And 2 'come and see sessions' where people could come and see an indoor and an outdoor prayer space in action.
- Hosting various gatherings / training sessions where we encourage, envision, equip churches to connect with their local schools.
- Networking and partnering with key people and organisations in the Bristol area and nationally who have similar and/or complimentary objectives.
- Encouraging churches to prioritise connecting with their local schools. This has happened through social media, speaking at church gatherings or parachurch gatherings.

Internal

- Our consultants receive training themselves to keep up to date and further hone their 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 involved trialing more of our outdoor prayer space activities. We have also started to think about our action research for a new resource – Jesus out of the Box.

Section D

Achievements and performance in the year

During the year to 31st August 2023, BSC has successfully achieved the majority of the plans and objectives outlined in 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 the following areas: Easton, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston, Soundwell, Totterdown, Clifton, Stapleton and Frenchay, Winford, Wick, Shirehampton, Backwell, Winterbourne, Bishopsworth, Longwell Green, and Southmead.
- We encouraged churches in the Bristol area to use our resources – Christmas in a Box and

Easter in a Box. We ran several training sessions online and in person. We saw an increase in the number of churches delivering this resource and an increase in the number of schools taking part. We also supported numerous churches who supported schools in other ways during the Christmas and Easter period, for example running trails, seasonal themed prayer spaces, one off lessons, assemblies, special services.

- We partnered with Kids Matter to co-host our second taster session about Kids Matter. This was online and well attended. The session successfully enthused those who attended and will hopefully result in more churches running Kids Matter in the future.
- We have continued to signpost and promote other parachurch organisations with a similar heart for churches to connect with and serve their school and / or wider school community e.g. Transforming lives for good; Pray4schools; Messy Church and forms of Outdoor church; Make Lunch; Open The Book; Warm Welcome Spaces; and Prayer Spaces in Schools.
- We ran 5 Prayer Spaces in Schools training sessions: 2 of these involved partnering with Bristol Diocese; 1 involved partnering with Christ Church Downend; and the other two were 'come and see' learning opportunities, where people could see a prayer space in action at a school. We have shifted our training focus to include equal weight to both indoor and outdoor prayer spaces. We have tried and tested our 32 Outdoor Prayer Space activities which we freely give to others. Several people have been inspired by the training sessions and consequently have run their own prayer spaces since the training – which has included several outdoor prayer spaces being run in the Bristol area.
- We hosted a supporter and friends of Bristol Schools Connection gathering in mid-October. This was well attended, and many people felt inspired by what was shared. We have also hosted a couple of prayer gatherings for our supporters, friends and the people we work with across the city – praying for Education in the Bristol area, the schools we work with, and Christmas and Easter connections with school.
- We hosted another connect / thank you event for the people that we have been journeying with from churches across Bristol. This event took place in the Spring. This was very much appreciated by the people that attended – everyone went away feeling valued, appreciated, encouraged and inspired.
- Over the Summer months we had numerous one-to-one meetings with the main people we have been working with in the Bristol area, to review the last academic year and look ahead. These meetings have been helpful and encouraging for these people.
- Our Social media presence has been consistently good this year – we have followed a social media plan for the year, ensuring that clear messages which reinforce our vision, heart and values are communicated, amongst advertising our training events and signposting to other good initiatives for our network of people.
- We have continued to have a dialogue with our contact in another city who is hoping to replicate the model of Bristol Schools Connection. Progress has been slow but steady.
- Our consultants have had numerous opportunities to speak at various events, churches, gatherings and forums about our vision and heart as a charity. These have been online and in person. Our aim is to envision and influence the culture of the church in relation to being and doing church in the context of the school community. We also aim to explore this in our one-to-one conversations throughout the year with church volunteers and leaders that we work with.
- We have started to develop a new resource called 'Jesus out of the Box' which aims to have a similar feel to our other resources (Christmas in a Box and Easter in a Box – The Movie). Jesus out of the Box will explore some of the surprising stories from Jesus' life, in a way which creates a fun, safe, reflective space for spiritual dialogue.
- We have been able (with others e.g. Bristol Chaplaincy) to encourage the concept of school chaplaincy (formal or informal, volunteer or paid) across our network. A couple of the people we

work with have embraced this concept and embodied it more in the life of the school(s) they are working with.

- We have worked in partnership with a range of denominations – including C of E, Baptist, Free Evangelical, Methodist, and Catholic, and also the Mullers Network of Churches.
- We have continued to work on our funding strategy and to secure new and ongoing sources of funding. We are very thankful for the support this year of The Burden Trust, St Stephens Soundwell Bristol, Christ Church Clifton, Backwell Church, Longwell Green Church, Hope Community Church Bristol, Easton Christian Family Centre and approximately 20 individual supporters.
- In recent years we have had two consultants delivering support and resources to BSC. Since Spring 2023, one consultant has been gradually reducing their BSC consultancy hours and the other consultant gradually increasing their hours. From January 2024, we will have one consultant working with us. This has been a smooth and successful transition and we are grateful to our consultants for their commitment, professionalism and creativity which has enabled this and enables BSC to be a blessing to so many.

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 31st August 2023 were £23,300. The projected expenditure and deficit for 2023/24 before new fundraising were £33,600 and £7,000 respectively giving a reserves target of £24,000. Reserves therefore represented 97% of target.

The trustees consider this level of reserves reasonable but continue to seek new sources of income in order to reduce the 2023/24 deficit.

Financial performance

BSC started the year with projected expenditure exceeding pledged income by £9,000. We are very grateful to God for the new individual donors and churches who have supported BSC in 2022/23 with additional income of £4,000. Expenditure savings were also achieved such that the overall deficit was £500 (2021/22 deficit - £4,100).

Total expenditure reduced 14% to £30,600.

We start the new financial year with a projected shortfall of £7,000.

We hope to reduce this deficit by continuing to increase the number of churches which support financially and by asking those who support BSC to increase their giving in 2023/24. We are, however, obviously aware of the many constraints on family budgets at this time.

Section F

Plans and objectives for 2023/24

By 31st August 2024, BSC plans to

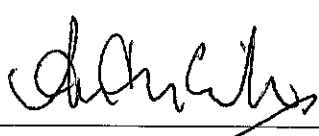
- Support – we will continue to support churches in less resourced areas in the City of Bristol who seek support (coaching/mentoring/training) as they make meaningful connections with their local schools and wider community. This will involve continuing to journey with churches that we have worked with for a while as well as making new connections with churches who we have not worked with before.
- Research – continue to research innovative ways to create intentional spaces for spiritual dialogue within schools and their wider communities across our city.
- Christmas in a box and Easter in a Box - Encourage and train more churches in the Bristol area to deliver Christmas in a box and Easter in a Box – The Movie to their local schools. Run several online training sessions and bespoke training sessions for church teams.
- Other Seasonal Connections - Provide support for other ways that churches are connecting with schools during the Christmas and Easter period – collective worship, RE lessons, Trails, Themed Prayer Spaces. We aim to make Christmas Through the Keyhole and Easter Explored trail resources available for free via our website.
- Jesus Out of the Box - We will continue to develop our new resource 'Jesus Out of the Box'. We will pilot this resource and then make any necessary changes before launching it at some point in 2024.
- Prayer Spaces in Schools - We will run a couple of training sessions focusing on Prayer Spaces in Schools, looking at how to run indoor and outdoor prayer spaces. We will also work with the Bristol Diocese and the Catholic Diocese to run training sessions for people in their networks.
- Prayer - We will host a couple of online gatherings to pray for the work of BSC and our network of people across the Bristol area. We will also host a prayer gathering for the Education Sphere – focusing on those who work, volunteer and study in our Bristol schools, colleges and other Educational settings. We will partner with Pray For Schools and Together4Bristol.

- Encourage and Thank - We will organise a gathering for our main network of people, to bless, thank and encourage them for all they do in their school communities.
- Partner – we will continue to partner with organisations who have a similar heart and vision to BSC and help to promote/widen their work in the Bristol area.
- Celebrate and Envision - Host a Supporter and Friends of BSC gathering to celebrate, share stories of encouragement, envision, and to pray together.
- Another city – we will continue to dialogue with our contact in another city as they look to replicate something similar to BSC. We will offer support and encouragement.
- Envisioning churches across Bristol – speaking at various conferences and gatherings in the Bristol area and at church services influencing church vision and culture – to see connecting with schools as a priority way of being and doing church. We will also envision through one-to-one conversations with church leaders/volunteers.
- Website/Social Media – tell stories, signpost, resource, encourage/envision via social media (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram) and our website. We will aim to update our website this year with new resources and stories. We also hope to advertise our work via other organisations' social media.
- Training Colleges and Denomination Gatherings – we hope to be able to run training sessions for the Bristol Methodist Circuit, the Catholic Clifton Diocese, Bristol C of E Diocese, and also for Trinity Theological College.
- Chaplaincy in Schools – we plan to promote the idea of chaplaincy in school, both formal and informal, paid and voluntary.
- Funding strategy – continue to work on our funding strategy with new and ongoing sources of funding
- Resourcing – As noted above, one of our consultants will be finishing her work with BSC in December 2023. Jane Gillis is going to be the principal consultant going forward, working with the trustees. We would like to extend heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Liz for all her work and expertise shared.

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	12 TH November 2023	

Bristol Schools Connection (BSC)

1162067

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st Sept 2022		31st August 2023

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st Sept 2021		31st August 2022

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	12,737	-	-	12,737	10,432	-	-	10,432
Donations from churches and other charities	14,400	-	-	14,400	19,299	-	-	19,299
Fees	700	-	-	700	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid recoverable	2,249	-	-	2,249	1,815	-	-	1,815
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	30,086	-	-	30,086	31,546	-	-	31,546
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	30,086	-	-	30,086	31,546	-	-	31,546
A3 Payments								
Development workers	26,424	-	-	26,424	27,383	-	-	27,383
Christmas and Easter in a Box expenses	262	-	-	262	3,281	-	-	3,281
Insurance	1,560	-	-	1,560	1,521	-	-	1,521
Website and other	2,876	-	-	2,876	3,411	-	-	3,411
Sub total	30,598	-	-	30,598	35,596	-	-	35,596
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	30,598	-	-	30,598	35,596	-	-	35,596
Net of receipts/(payments)	512	-	-	512	4,050	-	-	4,050
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	23,797	-	-	23,797	27,847	-	-	27,847
Cash funds this year end	23,285	-	-	23,285	23,797	-	-	23,797

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

Categories

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
Bank accounts	23,285	-	Bank account	23,797	-
Total cash funds	23,285	-	Total cash funds	23,797	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		OK	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		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	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

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)
		-			-
		-			-

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Date

12th November 2023

Signature

Print Name

Anthony Miles, Chair



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Bristol Schools Connection

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1162067

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st August 2023.

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 which 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:

Patrick F O'Connor BSc FCA

Date:

10/10/2023

Name:

PATRICK F O'CONOR BSc FCA

Relevant professional
qualification:

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

51 Downs Park West

Bristol, BS6 7QL

