

# Trustees' Annual Report for the year

Period start date

Period end date

From

1

September 2023 To 31

August

2024

## 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			
5				
6				
7				
8				

### Consultant Development Workers

Jane Gillis	
Liz Ogborne (until 31 <sup>st</sup> 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

Trustee selection methods

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

## 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

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 fourth year of use 'Christmas in a Box' was hosted by 20 churches in 32 local schools in the Bristol area. 'Easter in a Box – The Movie' was hosted by 20 churches in 29 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.
- Developing resources to enable churches to effectively support their local schools with the provision of spiritual development opportunities.

### 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)

New resources produced this year have included: Jesus Out of the Box; and indoor and outdoor prayer activities.

- Supporting churches who provided other Christmas/Easter resources and sessions for schools – including trails and reflective spaces.
- 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. We have also provided follow up support for churches and individuals.
- Hosting and co-hosting (with other organisations) 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 piloting our new resource Jesus Out of the Box, and several new prayer space activities.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance in the year

During the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, 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/informal expressions of church. 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, Claverham/Cleeve, Wick, Pucklechurch, 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 Easter in a Box and an increase in the number of schools taking part in both Christmas and Easter in a Box. 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 have supplied our Christmas and Easter Trail resources to a few churches, and have plans to make these more readily available on our website download page.
- We are excited to have completed the development of our new resource Jesus Out of the Box. We believe that this resource has huge potential to enable churches to provide effective and fun spaces for spiritual dialogue about Jesus in their local school(s). This resource has so far been successfully piloted with a year 6 class and also on a Christian Youth Camp. Numerous changes have been made to the resource, based on the feedback from young people and adults who have been part of the pilots. We made a promo video and developed a webpage for Jesus Out of the Box. The resource was officially launched in the summer. We ran an inperson training session in July for churches across Bristol. We also secured funding to produce a second set of resource boxes which can be loaned out to churches.
- We ran 4 Prayer Spaces in Schools training sessions: one of these involved partnering with Bristol Diocese; one involved partnering with Clifton Catholic Diocese; and the other two were 'come and see' learning opportunities, where people could see a prayer space in action at a school. Our training focusses equally on indoor and outdoor prayer spaces. We have tried and tested some new Outdoor Prayer Space activities and we now have about 35 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 have journeyed with several people in this process of running their first prayer space in a school. One of these was in a Secondary School.
- We partnered with Kids Matter to co-host our third 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 partner with Encounter Christianity to ensure that there is 'joined up thinking and strategy' with regards to Christian Schools work in the Bristol area. We have had regular contact with the lead workers, and have connected them with churches/people who could work with them in local contexts.
- 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; Faraday Institute, and Prayer Spaces in Schools.
- We hosted a supporter and friends of Bristol Schools Connection gathering at the end of April, which was well attended. It was a chance to celebrate stories together, thank people for their involvement, encourage/envision and pray. We launched our new resource Jesus Out of the Box at the event too. 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.
- 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 made some updates to our website and made a new webpage for Jesus Out of the Box.

- We have continued to have a dialogue with our contact in Birmingham who was hoping to replicate the model of Bristol Schools Connection. Birmingham Schools Connection (BRUMSC) has now launched as a charity in its own right.
- 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 and its wider 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 been able (with others e.g. Bristol Chaplaincy and Bristol Diocese) 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.
- Prayer – We hosted a couple of online gatherings to pray for the work of BSC and our network of people across the Bristol area. We also organized some prayer gatherings in partnership with Together4Bristol to pray for those in the Education Sphere.
- We have worked in partnership with a range of denominations – including C of E, Baptist, Free Evangelical, Methodist, and Catholic, the Müllers Network of Churches. We have also been involved in the early stages of developing a new course designed to equip vicars which will be hosted by Trinity Theological Course – focusing on how churches prioritise engaging children, young people and families in their communities. We plan to support the first pilot course which will run from Nov 2024-June 2025.
- We have continued to work on our funding strategy and to secure new and ongoing sources of funding. We are very thankful for the financial 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, St Nicholas with St. Leonard Educational Charity, and approximately 20 individual supporters.
- Liz Ogborne finished her work as a consultant with BSC at the end of December 2023. Jane Gillis has been the principal consultant since January 2024. Liz and Jane worked closely with the trustees, to ensure that this has been a smooth and successful transition. The trustees have increased their 'hands on' work involvement in the work of BSC in order to support Jane more.



## 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 2024 were £19,000 The projected expenditure and deficit for 2024/25 before new fundraising were £34,200 and £4,100 respectively giving a reserves target of £21,200. Reserves therefore represented 90% (2023 97%) of target.

The trustees consider this level of reserves reasonable but continue to seek new sources of income in order to reduce the 2024/25 deficit.

### Financial performance

BSC started the year with projected expenditure exceeding pledged income by £7,000. We are very grateful to God for the new individual donors and churches who have supported BSC in 2023/24 with additional income of £3,600 over our initial projection. This was partly offset by additional expenditure of £800 resulting in a deficit of £4,300 (2022/23 deficit - £500).

Total expenditure increased 12% to £34,400 principally due to the expenses of Jesus Out of the Box.

We start the new financial year with a projected shortfall of £4,100.

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 2024/25. We remain aware of the many constraints on family budgets at this time.

## Section F

## Plans and objectives for 2024/25

By 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025, BSC plans to

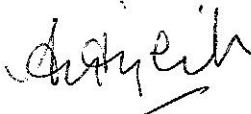


- Support – we will continue to support churches in less resourced areas in the City of Bristol who seek support (coaching/mentoring/training) as they make meaningful connections with their local schools and wider community. This will involve continuing to journey with churches that we have worked with for a while as well as making new connections with churches who we have not worked with before.
- Connections with Secondary Schools – we will have an intentional focus on helping to support a few churches develop connections with secondary schools.
- Research – continue to research innovative ways to create intentional spaces for spiritual dialogue within schools and their wider communities across our city. Jane is planning to attend a 'Space Maker' training day in October.
- 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 in their local schools. Run several online training sessions and bespoke training sessions for church teams.
- Jesus Out of the Box – Promote, encourage and train churches in the Bristol area (and beyond) to deliver this resource. See this resource become a well known, tried and tested, effective and loved resource by all who use it. We will develop a second set of boxes for churches across Bristol to loan and use in their own contexts.
- 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.

- 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 other denominations/organisations 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.
- Celebrate, thank and envision - We will organise a gathering for our main network of people and our supporters to celebrate 10 years of BSC and all that has been achieved through the network of Bristol churches.
- 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. This will involve working closely with Bristol based charities - Encounter Christianity and Müllers, and also nationwide charities.
- BRUMSC – we will journey with BRUMSC as they embark on their first year as a charity. We will offer support and encouragement, and discern how we can partner together.
- Envisioning churches across Bristol – speaking at various conferences and gatherings (including various denominational 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 a part of a new training programme for vicars hosted by Trinity Theological College. We will continue to have an active presence at Bristol Diocese Education gatherings – both in person and online. We also hope to be able to run training sessions at other denomination gatherings.
- Chaplaincy in Schools – we will continue 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. Encourage more churches to contribute to BSC's ministry financially.
- Resourcing – As previously noted, Jane Gillis is now our principal consultant. Jane will work closely with the trustees, with more hands on support from the trustees when needed.

## 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	SALLY MARTIN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIRMAN	TRUSTEE
Date	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	

Receipts and payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	1st Sept 2023		31st August 2024
	1st Sept 2022	To	31st August 2023

Section A Receipts and payments									
	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds		Endowment funds		Total funds		Total funds
	to the nearest £		to the nearest £		to the nearest £		to the nearest £		
<b>A1 Receipts</b>									
Donations from Individuals	11,732		-		-		11,732	12,737	12,737
Donations from churches and other charities	14,760		-		-		14,760	14,400	14,400
Fees	1,493		-		-		1,493	700	700
Gift Aid recoverable	2,143		-		-		2,143	2,249	2,249
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>30,128</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>30,128</b>	<b>30,086</b>	<b>30,086</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>Total receipts</b>	<b>30,128</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>30,128</b>	<b>30,086</b>	<b>30,086</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>									
Development workers	28,559		-		-		28,559	26,424	26,424
School 'Box' Resources	3,026		-		-		3,026	262	262
Insurance	1,679		-		-		1,679	1,560	1,560
Website and other	1,129		-		-		1,129	2,876	2,876
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>34,393</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>34,393</b>	<b>30,598</b>	<b>30,598</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>Total payments</b>	<b>34,393</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>34,393</b>	<b>30,598</b>	<b>30,598</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>									
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>4,265</b>		-		-		<b>4,265</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>512</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>23,285</b>		-		-		<b>23,285</b>	<b>23,797</b>	<b>23,797</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>19,020</b>		-		-		<b>19,020</b>	<b>23,285</b>	<b>23,285</b>



# 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	19,020	-	Bank account	23,285	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>19,020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>23,285</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

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
Gift Aid recoverable	180	-	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

7th November 2024

Signature

Print Name

*S. J. Martin*

Sally Martin, Trustee



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

**Bristol Schools Connection**

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

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

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:

21 SEP 2024

Name:

PATRICK F O'CONOR BSc FCA

Relevant professional  
qualification:

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

51 Downs Park West

Bristol, BS6 7QL

**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.