

Trustees' Annual Report for the year

Period start date
From 1 September 2024 To 31 August 2025
Period end date

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	Jonathan Hogg		Appointed 24 March 2025	
6				
7				
8				

Consultant Development Workers

Jane Gillis	
Simon Collins (from June 2025)	

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.

External 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 fifth year of use 'Christmas in a Box' was hosted by 21 churches in 34 local schools in the Bristol area. 'Easter in a Box – The Movie' was hosted by 15 churches in 20 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 excellent feedback.
- Working with churches to develop bespoke one off resources which effectively support their local schools with the provision of spiritual development opportunities e.g. resources for involvement in a school

multi-faith day, and prayer space activities focussed on the values of a particular school or a school celebration.

- Supporting churches who provided other Christmas/Easter resources and sessions for schools – including trails and reflective spaces.
- Championing Prayer Spaces in Schools in the Bristol area. This has included running Prayer Spaces in School Training sessions: one in person training session focusing on children's spirituality, indoor and outdoor prayer spaces; and one 'come and see session' where people could come and see a prayer space in action. We have also provided bespoke support for churches, schools and individuals. Lastly we have run training sessions for Bristol Baptist College and Trinity Theological College.
- 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 denominational gatherings, 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 have included: supporting churches running Jesus Out of the Box for the first time; working with Trinity Theological College to enable incumbents to creatively put children and young people at the heart of their ministry – connecting with schools and forming accessible and innovative forms of church.
- Working with Birmingham Schools Connection in their first year as a charity has also been a form of action research as we work together to discern the direction of flow for both charities. We have also worked closely with Müllers on a pilot Illuminate Schools Tour in an advisory and connecting role.

During the year to 31st August 2025, 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, Hotwells and Harbourside, Fishponds, Bedminster, Lockleaze, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston, Soundwell, Totterdown, Bishopston, Clifton, Stapleton and Frenchay, Claverham/Cleeve, Wick, Pucklechurch, Shirehampton, Backwell, Winterbourne, Bishopsworth, Longwell Green, Downend, Southville, 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. In the Bristol area we saw a slight decrease in the number of churches delivering Easter in a Box – The Movie, due to churches choosing to vary what they were offering to schools this year – e.g. themed trails/special services. Across the country we saw an increase in the number of churches and schools taking part in both Christmas and Easter in a Box. We supported numerous churches who connected with 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 made these resources more readily available on our website download page.
- We have ran a couple of online training sessions on how to host a Jesus Out of the Box session in your local school. We have supported a few churches running Jesus Out of the Box for the first time in the Bristol area and from across the country. We have resourced two sets of boxes which can be loaned out to churches. The uptake for this resource has been slower than we had hoped, but the feedback from those who have run sessions has been wonderful.
- We ran a Prayer Spaces in Schools training session and also hosted 'come and see' learning session - where people could see a prayer space in action at a school. Our training focusses equally on indoor and outdoor prayer spaces. We have 35 tried and tested Outdoor Prayer Space activities, which we freely give to others – these are also on the Prayer Spaces in Schools website. Several people have been inspired by the training session and consequently have run their own prayer spaces since the training. We have journeyed with a couple of people in the process of running their first prayer space in a school. As part of a Diocesan Staff Training Day we ran an Outdoor Prayer Space which enabled the staff to experience first hand the benefits of an outdoor prayer space. We also ran a prayer spaces in schools training sessions at Trinity College, Bristol Baptist College and for a whole staff team (twilight inset) at a Primary School in South Bristol.
- 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 also worked closely with Müllers and some of their network churches on a pilot Bristol Illuminate Schools Tour - in an advisory and connecting role. The Bristol Illuminate Tour is due to take place in October 2025.
- 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. Kids Matter; Care for the Family; Transforming lives for good; Messy Church and forms of Outdoor

church; Bubble Church; Open The Book; Faraday Institute, and Prayer Spaces in Schools; Walk Through the Bible.

- We hosted a wonderful Celebration and Prayer Gathering to celebrate Bristol Schools Connection's 10th Birthday! Supporters and friends of BSC gathered to celebrate all that has happened with BSC in the last 10 years and through the network of churches across Bristol. We listened to inspiring stories, prayed together, thought more about the theology behind the work (thanks to our special guest Howard Worsley) and ate puddings!
- We have also helped to host a couple of city wide prayer gatherings with other organisations in Bristol - praying for youth, children and schools (including pupils and school staff and those working in Education). We also met online in early December to pray for those churches connecting in various ways with their local schools/school community in the run up to Christmas. This also happened in the run up to Easter.
- Over the Summer months we had a few one-to-one meetings reviewing the work they have been involved in as local church with their local school(s). 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 including a resources page for trails.
- We have supported Birmingham Schools Connection in their first year as a charity. We attended and spoke at their launch party in December 2024 and have met up regularly as consultants online and in person. The ongoing dialogue has provided mutual support, encouragement, sharing of ideas/resources – we have all benefitted hugely on this learning journey together. We have also been able to run online training sessions together for Easter in a Box – The Movie. We have more joint online training sessions planned for the year ahead 2025/6.
- Jane Gillis has 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 it's 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. We have been able to support newly employed chaplains in the work that they are doing in schools and their community.
- We have worked in partnership with a range of denominations – including C of E, Baptist, Free Evangelical, Methodist, Catholic, and the Müllers Network of Churches. We are frequently encouraging churches to work together in a local area to support their local schools.
- We have also been involved in the development of a new programme designed to equip incumbents to prioritise engaging with children, young people and families in their communities. The course is run and our contribution is funded by Trinity Theological College and other partner organisations. We supported the first pilot course which ran from January 2025 to June 2025 – it was incredibly successful. We have continued to be involved in the core team organizing the next programme which is running from November 2025 to July 2026.
- We are very grateful to the funding from trusts, churches and approximately 20 individual supporters. We continue to seek to expand the base of our financial support
- Jane Gillis has been the principal consultant for Bristol Schools Connection this year. The trustees have continued their 'hands on' involvement in order to support Jane's work. In June 2025, Simon

Collins has also been appointed as a freelance consultant for BSC. We have also appointed a new trustee in the spring of 2025 – Jon Hogg. We are thrilled to have both Simon and Jon on board which will enable to expand our activities in the coming year.

Section E Financial review

Financial performance

Following a deficit last year, BSC started 2024/25 with projected expenditure exceeding pledged income by £5,000. We are very grateful to the new individual donors and churches who, along with ongoing donors, have provided £4,000 of income over our initial projection. This income was boosted by the receipt of a second £4,000 annual grant from Christ Church Clifton. In addition, BSC received £3,600 to reimburse the cost of work undertaken at Trinity Theological College.

Total expenditure was reduced by 6% to £32,200 without the development expenses on Jesus Out of the Box arising from its launch last year. Overall there was a surplus of £8,200 (2023/24 deficit - £4,300).

We have already received a grant of £10,000 from the Burden Trust which means the trustees anticipate being able to break even in 2025/26 prior to any new areas of expenditure.

In order to fund further expansion in BSC's activities, we hope to continue to increase the number of churches which support BSC financially and that individual supporters will increase their giving in line with inflation. We remain aware of the many constraints on family budgets at this time.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

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. Given this dependency, the trustees believe it appropriate to target reserves at approximately six months of annual expenditure plus any budgeted deficit for the next year.

The reserves at 31st August 2025 were £27,000 (2024 £19,000). The projected expenditure for 2025/26 is £36,000 giving a reserves target of £18,000 given the break even budget (2024 target £21,000). Reserves therefore represented 150% (2024 90%) of target.

The trustees consider this level of reserves reasonable.

Section F Plans and objectives for 2025/26

By 31st August 2026, 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 continue to have an intentional focus on helping to support a few churches develop connections with secondary schools. We will follow up with churches who are linking with their secondary schools through the 2025 Illuminate Tour. We will offer support in an advisory and connecting capacity for the Illuminate Tour 2026.
- 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 in their local schools. Run several online training sessions and bespoke training sessions for church teams. Work in partnership with



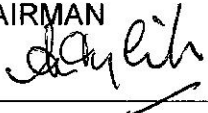

Birmingham Schools Connection to run joint Bristol/Birmingham training sessions so that these resources become known and trusted in the Birmingham area.

- Run a couple of new online training sessions with Birmingham Schools Connection. One focusing on 'Praying for your school' and another one focusing on 'Connecting with your local school.'
- Jesus Out of the Box – Promote, encourage and train churches in the Bristol area (and beyond) to expand the delivery of this resource. See this resource become a well used, tried and tested, effective and loved resource.
- Connecting and Networking – we will continue to encourage churches from different denominations in a local area to work together. We will play a role in connecting people from different churches and offering coaching/consultancy as they journey together to support their local schools. This will include encouraging local Christian parents / carers to get involved with this work.
- 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. Advertise 'Christmas Through the Keyhole' and 'Easter Explored' trail resources which are available for free on our website.
- Prayer Spaces in Schools – We are going to work in partnership with the National Prayer Spaces in Schools Team to host a regional gathering at the end of February 2026 in Bristol. This event will inspire, resource and encourage those people who have been running prayer spaces for years and those who are just starting out on the journey. We will also host a couple of 'come and see' events for people to come and see a prayer space in action at a school.
- 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 partner with Together4Bristol, Müllers, Encounter Christianity and others to run 3 prayer gatherings together – to pray for youth, children and schools (including those working in education) across the Bristol region.
- We will partner with Together4Bristol and others to facilitate a gathering in June 2026 for Christians working in Education in the Bristol region. This gathering will aim to inspire and encourage, and give opportunities for networking.
- Celebrate, thank, pray, and envision - We will organise an annual gathering for our main network of people and our supporters to share stories/celebrate all that has been achieved through the network of Bristol Churches connecting with their local schools.
- 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.
- Birmingham Schools Connection – we will continue to journey with Birmingham Schools Connection. We will meet regularly to offer mutual support, encouragement, share ideas, pray together, and discern how we can partner together as the academic year progresses. We will run all of our online training sessions in partnership with Birmingham Schools Connection.
- 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 will continue to have an active presence at Bristol Diocese Education gatherings – both in person and online. We also hope to attend other denomination gatherings and be proactive in offering support across denominations. We will continue to be involved in the second year of the programme run by Trinity Theological College, designed to equip incumbents to prioritise engaging with children, young people and families in their communities. The programme runs from November 2025 to July 2026. We will be involved in the residencies and Action Learning Sets.
- Chaplaincy in Schools – we will continue to promote the idea of chaplaincy in school, both formal and informal, paid and voluntary. We will work in partnership with the Diocese of Bristol Education Team and Bristol Chaplaincy to offer support where needed/discerned together.
- Funding strategy – continue to work with new and ongoing sources of funding. Encourage more churches and individual supporters to contribute to BSC's ministry financially.
- Resourcing – the trustees will ensure that our new consultant, Simon, is well supported as he begins to take on more work. Jane and Simon will work closely together and with the trustees, with hands on support from the trustees when needed. Mutual support and encouragement will be offered by journeying with Birmingham Schools Connection.

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  A.C.MILES	TRUSTEE  SALLY MARTIN
Date	16 th October 2025	

Bristol Schools Connection (BSC)

1162067

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 2024		31st August 2025		1st Sept 2023		31st August 2024

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 £
A1 Receipts								
Donations from Individuals	13,818	-	-	13,818	11,732	-	-	11,732
Donations from churches and other charities	20,087	-	-	20,087	14,760	-	-	14,760
Fees	4,009	-	-	4,009	1,493	-	-	1,493
Gift Aid recoverable	2,584	-	-	2,584	2,143	-	-	2,143
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	40,498	-	-	40,498	30,128	-	-	30,128
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40,498	-	-	40,498	30,128	-	-	30,128
A3 Payments								
Development workers	27,694	-	-	27,694	28,559	-	-	28,559
School 'Box' Resources	610	-	-	610	3,026	-	-	3,026
Insurance	1,771	-	-	1,771	1,679	-	-	1,679
Website and other	2,173	-	-	2,173	1,129	-	-	1,129
Sub total	32,248	-	-	32,248	34,393	-	-	34,393
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)								
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	32,248	-	-	32,248	34,393	-	-	34,393
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,250	-	-	8,250	4,265	-	-	4,265
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,020	-	-	19,020	23,285	-	-	23,285
Cash funds this year end	27,270	-	-	27,270	19,020	-	-	19,020

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	27,270	-	Bank account	19,020	-
		-	-		-	-
	Total cash funds	27,270	-	Total cash funds	19,020	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK
	Unrestricted funds to nearest £		Restricted funds to nearest £		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Gift Aid recoverable	350	-	Gift Aid recoverable	180	-
	Fees recoverable	1,817	-		-	-
		-	-		-	-
		-	-		-	-
		-	-		-	-
		-	-		-	-
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

16th October 2025

Signature



Print Name

Anthony Miles, Chair



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Bristol Schools Connection

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2025

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:

14/10/2025

Name:

PATRICK F O'CONOR BSc FCA

Relevant professional
qualification:

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address:

13 Briercliffe Road

Bristol, BS9 2DB

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.