



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01-Jan-2023 (Period start date) To 31-Dec-2023 (Period end date)

Charity name: L'école des Filous

Charity registration number: 1165754

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance education in the French language and culture in such ways as the trustees shall think fit in East Hertfordshire and the surrounding area, in particular by providing tuition to bilingual children attending local schools who have an existing knowledge and understanding of the French language to enable them to practise the French language as an extra-curricular activity in order to extend their written and oral linguistic skills and by providing tuition to promote their understanding of the diverse cultures of the French speaking world.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing language tuitions to bilingual children in East Hertfordshire and surrounding areas every Saturday mornings during term time for 2 hours. The quality of teaching has been valued by our members. Our teachers are all native French speakers and either qualified teachers or experienced and as a result the improvements in the children's language skills have been noticeable. <p>Our aim is to maintain small classes (about 8 children per teacher in each class) in order to maintain the impact of teaching on each pupil. We had 4 classes in 2023 and 1 to 2 teaching assistants moving between classes in order to maintain that close relationship teacher/pupil or teaching assistant/pupil especially when there is a different level of aptitude in French within the same class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering a French literature library with access for our students and their families.

		<p>• Organising social and cultural events open to our students and their families. Through the years, we have arranged events linked to celebrations from all cultures, including French speaking countries.</p> <p>Examples of some of our events are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop + cineclub themed around specific events/celebrations such as Easter, Halloween, Christmas ... • Musical shows in collaboration with another French school in Southgate • Trip to London to see films as part of the South Kensington Kids festival or puppet show organised by 'les parapluies FLAM' • Yearly participation in the Ware Carnival • End of year show followed by a picnic/buffet to celebrate 'Bastille day' • Christmas show • 2 to 3 day summer holiday club in July for our students to enjoy activities taught in French
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	N/A

Other		N/A
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Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>The year 2023 was our eighth year as l'ecole des filous.</p> <p>We have carried on working on improving our communication with our current students and their families but also with new potential students via our Facebook pages and Mailchimp, as well as improving our use of Quickfile, a software to manage our invoices to parents and suppliers. We have also continued using Seesaw to help with better and faster communication with the families and with the pupils around sharing homework and tracking progress.</p> <p>Since we had lots of issues with our website towards the end of 2022, we have reached out to a few web designers and after selecting one we have worked closely to rebuild a brand new website.</p> <p>As in previous years, we have continued to transfer our passion of the French culture and language to our pupils. One of our teachers led several lunch club activities based on 'French' specific themes such as 'La galette des rois' in January, 'Pancake day' in February, 'Easter egg hunt' in April, 'Mother's day' in May or 'Father's day' in June. We took part again in the Carnival in Ware at the beginning of July and also organised our annual 'end of year' show mid July around 'Bastille day'.</p> <p>As previous years, teaching the French language to children can be a challenge due to the different levels of speaking/understanding by the children within the same class due to the small size of the school, but the situation has been well managed again by the whole team of teachers, and all the pupils have shown great progress in their ability to understand, speak and write in French.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	See above for full details
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	N/A
Other		N/A

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Our classes are attended in school premises in Ware, Hertfordshire, that are rented by the charity (cost of renting of £9 per hour per classroom, i.e. £72 for each Saturday sessions).</p> <p>Being now in our eighth year running, we originally decided to keep the tuition fees per term the same, i.e. £140 for one child, £266 for 2 children and £385 for 3 children (maintaining 5% discount for the 2nd sibling and 10% discount for the 3rd sibling) for the first 2 terms of the year 2023. However, we realised we had to increase the tuition fees and therefore decided to slightly increase the fees from September 2023 to £145 for one child and £275 for two children, still maintaining a discount for siblings.</p> <p>The account shows a deficit this year as we had fewer pupils and kept the same number of classes and teachers/class. We also decided to spend some of our reserve towards building a brand new website, which is necessary to attract new families as the number of pupils keeps decreasing.</p> <p>With some of our reserve/income, we are still planning to spend it towards investing in new books for our library, organising some workshops, arranging trips to French speaking shows in or around London in collaboration with other French schools and maybe ultimately arranging an exchange with a French school.</p> <p>It has again been difficult to retain our pupils (This year we have had again less than 30 pupils attending our classes) so we are hoping this number will remain stable at least.</p> <p>In the future, we are still keeping in mind to potentially be able to open one or more classes to British children or adults alongside the bilingual children currently attending l'école des filous.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	N/A
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	None
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Being in our eighth year running, we are still not holding a reserve yet in a separate bank account as we had to spend some of

		the money towards a new website hoping this will help recruiting new families. We are aware that it is recommended, as a good practice, to hold a third of the running costs in a reserve account, and we are still hoping to be looking into this in the near future.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Account – Year end 2022 (January to December)

Expenses		Income	
Teachers fees and management cost	£6,064.00	Tuition fees: School	£10,626.00
School rental costs	£3,015.00		
Other expenses	£2,793.09		
Insurance	£216.06		
FLAM subscription	£101.50		
Total expenses	£12,189.65	Total income	£10,626.00
Deficit	-£1,563.65		
Balance carried forward from 2022	£13,721.93		
Balance at the end of 2023	£12,158.28		

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity principal source of funds is the subscription fees from the families of the children joining in.
Investment policy and objectives including any	Para 1.46	N/A

social investment policy adopted		
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Due to the current increased cost of living, the number of pupils attending the school is potentially going to continue to decrease in the coming years. Also, it is getting harder to find French speaking native teachers since Brexit.
Other		N/A

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of charity trustees.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	As per constitution and including safeguarding training and DBS if deemed required.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Part of 'Parapluie FLAM', French organisation grouping several Saturday morning schools teaching French and providing educational, cultural and administrative support.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	N/A
Other		N/A

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	L'ecole des filous
Other name the charity uses	

Registered charity number	1165754
Charity's principal address	42 Heath drive WARE SG12 0RF

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	Nadege Galle			
2	Celine Pereira		Ended 15-Jul-23	
3	Catherine O'Sullivan			
4	Xavier Mutzig			
5	Emilie VanBaalen			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A	N/A	N/A

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A	N/A	N/A

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
N/A	N/A	N/A
Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		
N/A	N/A	N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

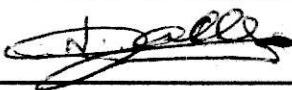
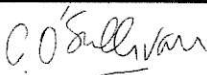
N/A

Other optional information

N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Nadege Galle	Catherine O'Sullivan
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Secretary
Date	25-OCT-2024	25th October 2024