

MERYC-ENGLAND

England & Wales · Charity number 1169504

Details

Other names MERYC-UK

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2016-10-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address CREC St. Thomas Childrens Centre
Bell Barn Road
Birmingham
B15 2AF

Phone 0121 4640020

Email chair@meryc.co.uk

Website www.meryc.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF MERYC ENGLAND ARE TO ADVANCE THE MUSICAL EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 5 YEARS IN ENGLAND BY:I. PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, THEORY AND PRACTICE BY ORGANISING AND FUNDING MEETINGS FOR THAT PURPOSE; II. SUPPORTING RESEARCH INITIATIVES THAT SERVE TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSICAL EXPERIENCES;III. ENCOURAGING EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE, CRITICAL REFLECTION AND THE ADOPTION OF PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE;IV. REVIEWING POLICES THAT AFFECT EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSICAL EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATION;V. PROMOTING EARLY CHILDHOOD MUSIC EDUCATION (ECME) IN NATIONAL, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS;VI. CONNECTING WITH ORGANISATIONS AND SCHEMES WHOSE AIMS AND ACTIVITIES CONCORD WITH MERYC PRINCIPLES.

Activities: MERYC-ENGLAND aims to raise standards of practice in early childhood music education. The charity works towards its aims by fostering collaboration between researchers and practitioners in conferences and high quality professional programmes. We support research which will raise standards of practice. We speak up on behalf of the sector in national fora and respond to national policy.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-01	£2,460	£3,539	-	-
2024-01-01	£1,148	£1,254	-	-
2023-01-01	£1,150	£771	-	-
2022-01-01	£3,652	£1,935	-	-
2021-01-01	£412	£786	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Julia Partington	Chair	2022-09-20
Barbara Cavanagh		2019-07-19
Carol Ann Bowden		2024-06-01
Danielle Shyan Ballantine-Drake		2024-06-01
Dr Ryan David Humphrey		2024-06-01
Margareta Burrell		2018-01-01
PROFESSOR CHRISTINE PASCAL OBE		2016-09-30
Stephen Grocott		2019-07-09
Vanessa Frances Rose Stansall		2024-10-25

MERYC-ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1169504

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period: From 2nd Jan 2024 – To 1st Jan 2025

Charity name: MERYC-England

Charity registration number: 1169504

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objectives of the charity are to advance the musical education of all children in England aged 0 – 5 years.
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	<p>The three key areas of activity focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding in person and online conferences and seminars 2. Support for training in early childhood music education (ECME) 3. Representation and communication <p>Activities 2024-25</p> <p>1. Conferences and seminars:</p> <p>The organisation has organised and hosted one online early childhood music education research and practice seminar in this reporting period. The seminar was led by a researcher in the field, Ms. Rebecca Shrewsbury and the theme of this seminar was 'Children's Home Musical Experiences'. The event was attended by approximately 15 ticket holders. The online nature of these events ensures that we have practitioners and researchers attending from across England, the UK and occasionally from Europe/other international locations. This ensures the ongoing broad reach and impact of the charity and its work, as does the availability of the presentation slides via our website for those wishing to learn more on this topic after the seminar date.</p> <p>On November 9th, 2024, the charity hosted a one day, in person conference in collaboration with Music and The School of Arts and Cultures at Newcastle University. The conference title was 'Early Childhood Music in the 21st Century: Exploring Possibilities in a Changing World'. A call for papers in early 2024 resulted in a high volume of abstracts and proposals and as a result, the conference programme was vibrant and varied with presentations given by leading academics in</p>

the field, poster presentations given by practitioners and postgraduate researchers in the field and practical workshops on pedagogy.

The conference was attended by 42 delegates from across the UK, plus 8 trustees and 3 free places were offered to undergraduate and postgraduate music students from Newcastle University to ensure the charity's support of the next generation of early childhood music researchers and practitioners. The charity gave 6 grants of £200 through an online application process to support the travel and accommodation costs of delegates who would not otherwise have been able to attend the event. This was to ensure inclusive access and also to ensure that those who may have to travel long distances to the northeast of England would not be excluded by cost. It is important to the charity trustees that our in-person activity take place in various locations around England and not solely in London/the south of England to ensure maximum participation.

Trustees agreed to maintain reasonably affordable ticket costs for the seminar and conference to participants, so as to be affordable for early years music education practitioners and researchers, in line with the overall aims and purpose of the charity. As such, and also due to the current higher price of food in terms of catering at the conference, we did not make any profit on the conference event, but this has not impacted our financial reserves and we were still in a position to offer the attendance grants.

The conference was felt by all to have been highly successful in meeting the aim of the charity to support both existing/ongoing and emerging research and practice in the field and delegate feedback was wholly positive.

2. Training

As reported in last year's summary of activity, 2024-25 is the seventh year of operation for the Certificate in Music Education, a flexible, part-time, distance-learning qualification in early childhood music. This is a recognised National Qualification which was initiated by MERYC England in partnership with the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) in 2017. The CME trains practitioners in the ECME field to level 4 standard. It was initially set up to fulfil two objects, namely:

-attempting to increase the quantity and quality of research that will inform early childhood musical experience by supporting research initiatives of all

kinds.

- attempting to raise the quality of practice in early childhood music by encouraging evidence-based practice, critical reflection and the adoption of principles of social justice.

The day to day running of the certificate course runs independently of MERYC England, through the Centre for Research in Early Childhood being accountable to Trinity College, London. The course is co-directed by Jane Parker, a former honorary MERYC England Trustee and current MERYC England Trustee Margareta Burrell works on this course as a mentor to students, thus retaining and continuing the strong links between this initiative and MERYC England.

3. Representation and communication

All MERYC England trustees are affiliated within a range of music education organisations or work as advisors to such organisations as Music Mark, Music Education Council, International Society of Music Education, Youth Music, Sound Sense and have been responsible for research papers, presentations and books and publications on music learning. The CIO itself has a corporate membership of the Music Education Council (MEC). Three current Board of Trustees members are full time academics working in Higher Education teaching and research in institutions based Manchester (University of Manchester), Birmingham (CREC/Birmingham City University), and Newcastle (Newcastle University).

Trustee Dr Jessica Pitt stood down from her role within the charity in November 2025 after more than a decade of association with the charity. We thank Jessica wholeheartedly for her contribution and we maintain links with her and with the Royal College of Music where she works part time through the London Arts and Humanities Partnership Doctoral student that she co-supervises with Dr Julia Partington, MERYC England Chair of Trustees whose research focuses on early childhood music education and the legacy of the work of MERYC England.

In the year 2024-25, we have further developed the MERYC England website, in line with our communications strategy, with the aim of making our objects aims and activities clearer and more accessible. In addition, this sets out our links with other organisations and achievements of practitioners and researchers as presented at local, national, and European contexts. The new trustees recruited in 23-24 have brought with them experience of using social media to promote the charity's activities and aims and we have

		<p>increased our following on platforms such as Instagram and Facebook as a result.</p> <p>PhD student: As noted above, Ms. Maria Sanchez continues her LAHP funded Doctoral study on cultural citizenship towards cultural engagement with the support of MERYC England. This project continues to be supervised by charity trustee and lecturer Dr Jessica Pitt at the Royal College of Music (RCM) along with Dr Mary Stakelum (RCM) and Dr Julia Partington (Newcastle University Senior Lecturer in Music and MERYC England Chair) has taken on the role of co-supervisor on behalf of MERYC England. As previously reported, this research study is proving to be instrumental in supporting a range of administrative tasks in relation to our charity activities, including compiling research blogs, and researching links between theory and practice as catalogued in the archival evidence from the last 20 years of both MERYC England's and EuNet MERYC's activities. This research is being fed into trustees' objectives for the next year and Ms Sanchez presented her ongoing work in a poster presentation at the 2024 conference to trustees and delegates.</p> <p>This doctoral study aims to strengthen MERYC England's position and increase understanding of its contribution to the field of early childhood music in England. Furthermore, the establishment of a collaboration with Royal College of Music is proving to be mutually beneficial for both organisations. As reported previously, it was envisaged that the collaboration demonstrates the ways that the contemporary conservatoire reaches beyond its traditional audience to be relevant to wider society. For MERYC England this partnership offers the organisation a platform for developing connections into the music and music education sectors which will raise the profile of early childhood as an important developmental stage deserving of quality musical experiences.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All trustees have familiarised themselves with the 'Essential Trustee' national guidance, have reviewed the constitution of the CIO and regularly explore in our meetings the applicability of principles related to good governance, as defined in the CGC.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
	Para 1.38	One of our key objects is ' <i>promoting the integration of research, theory and practice by organising and funding meetings for that</i>

Policy on grant making		<p><i>purpose</i>'. This year, as with the past two years, we have continued to prioritise holding online seminars and planning the conference at a modest fee for participants, rather than issue multiple grants for practitioners.</p> <p>Nevertheless, we offered six bursaries of £200 in 2024 to ECME researchers and practitioners who wished to attend the MERYC England conference in Newcastle to support costs associated with attending and received a number of applications, which were reviewed and appraised by trustees. The successful applicants created a blog post for our website about the conference experience for the benefit of those who were unable to attend.</p>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	<p>The charity aims to hold a music education conference biennially, in alternate years to MERYC EuNet. This regular conference acts both as a means to maintain professional connectedness and as a way of building revenue for the charity. We plan to host an in-person conference in Reading in November 2026.</p> <p>The ongoing seminar series continues into 2025-26, along with in person meet ups to support professional networking in the field in both the south, midlands and north of England to maximise the charity's reach to practitioners and researchers wishing to participate.</p>
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>All MERYC England Trustees volunteer their time and energies. Any expenses planned for activities, such as compiling material for the website or organising and attending conferences, are agreed in advance and set to be in proportion to the task. Financial management is under regular review at each Board meeting. Trustees may co-opt participants to share the load as agreed in advance by the Board.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to	Para 1.20	<p>The key achievements this year have been:</p> <p>Conferencing/seminars The 2024 conference was well attended by a range of high profile academics in the field, along with early career researchers, students and practitioners in the field from across the UK.</p> <p>The seminar series aims to support freelance music</p>

<p>the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>		<p>practitioners and researchers in the field bringing them together through regular events where both groups are free to contribute and share their work, their ideas and experiences. This approach has resulted in an established network of regular attendees from across England and further afield, engaging with the work of the charity and with each other as a network of professional from across England. This continues to be a particular strength of this online meeting approach combined with in person conferences and informal meet ups.</p> <p>Online seminars and the conference were once again facilitated by the charity trustees who gave their time and expertise to host each one, to organise the discussions and ensure an inclusive environment. To this end the Board set up ground rules for online activities to safeguard participants and facilitators.</p> <p>Training Although not directly responsible for the Certificate course, Trustees remain supportive and as an advisory body should it be needed. The involvement of a charity trustee, Margareta Burrell as a course mentor enables regular reporting to trustees on the progress and development of the course at board meetings.</p> <p>Representation and communication Individual trustees continued to represent the charity through different platforms this year, particularly through Music Education Council (MEC), Sound Sense, plus Music HE.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>In 2021 we set our objective to become more accessible to a wider audience and this work has continued to be a large part of our work in 2024-25. Continuing to develop our website and social media presence and following as tools to promote the work of the organisation, and to provide useful links to those working in the ECME sector involved collaborative planning and ongoing work to keep the content up to date and engaging for users, while also promoting the events, grants, and resources we have to offer.</p>
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>Our fundraising objectives continued to be deliberately modest in 2024-25, as we prioritised pricing our seminar programme and conference at competitive prices in the understanding that many similar organisations were offering courses in the sector free of charge, or at a very low cost.</p> <p>The numbers of participants in these activities and who attended multiple sessions in the period under review gives the charity confidence that the public service we are providing has been welcomed within the sector.</p>
<p>Investment performance against objectives</p>		<p>N/A</p>

Other		
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of this period the Charity's bank account with the Co-operative Bank showed a balance of £6,235.45
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy to hold a reserve is under continuous review by the Board of Trustees We keep this reserve to indicate prudent financial management against risk of activities failing to meet costs, and to ensure there is a balance in the account, when applying for grants.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
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	N/A

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 principal source of revenue is from CPD seminar fees and biannual conference delegate fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks are the capacity of individual trustees to continue the activities that generate funds. All are totally committed to the purposes and aims and the objectives. All are volunteers.
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 representative of a range of practice and from different regions in England. A balance is maintained between researchers and practitioners, to ensure the charity's objectives are met, according to the constitution document.

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	All trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Constitution, with the Charity Commission guidelines for good governance and with the principles of the CGC. Principles are reviewed regularly in the light of current projects and activities. All trustees have been DBS checked. MERYC England adheres to the policies held by CREC in safeguarding and in equality, diversity and inclusion. In the year 2021-22 we established agreed guidelines for online video conferencing and initiated a privacy statement.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	There are currently nine MERYC England trustees following the stepping down of Dr Jessica Pitt. All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity, with expenses agreed in advance where applicable, e.g. for specific tasks relating to conference and seminar administration and facilitation. They regularly represent MERYC England on a range of bodies, e.g. Youth Music, Music Mark and Music Education Council. The current Board of Trustees are located and work across various regions of England, north to south, in recognition that in previous years, the location of most trustees was within the south of England, thus potentially limiting the reach and location of activities regionally for the charity.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Our website and social media accounts connect with regional and local music education networks across England and also with European and the international music education network, International Society of Music Education.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	MERYC-England
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1169504
Charity's principal address	Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) St Thomas Children's Centre, Bell Barn Road, Attwood Green, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2AF Telephone: +44(0)121 464 0020

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	Dr Julia Partington	Chair		
2	Dr Ryan Humphrey	Trustee		
3	Margareta Burrell	Trustee		
4	Prof Chris Pascal	Trustee Representing Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC)		
5	Barbara Cavanagh,	Treasurer		
6	Stephen Grocott	Trustee		
7	Vanessa Stansall	Trustee		
8	Danielle Ballantine-Drake	Trustee		
9	Carol Bowden	Trustee		

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

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

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

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets	
	N/A

held in this capacity	
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

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		B.Cavanagh
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Full name(s)	Dr Julia Partington	Barbara Cavanagh
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees, MERYC England	Trustee and treasurer, MERYC England
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Date	28/10/25
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR JAN 24 - DEC 24

Opening Balance: £7,314.25

Income
Jan-24
Eventbrite
Ticket sales

SUBTOTAL

Net Income: £175.55

Closing Balance: £7,489.80

Income
Feb - April 24

SUBTOTAL

Net Income: -£99.02

Closing Balance: £7,390.78

Income
Jun-24

SUBTOTAL

Net Income: £220.54

Closing Balance £7,611.32

Income
July-Aug 24

SUBTOTAL

Net Income: -£465.08

Closing Balance £7,146.24

Income
Aug-Dec24

SUBTOTAL

Net Income: -£910.79

Closing Balance £6,235.45

Other expenditure to come - Zoom A/c Approx £129.90 (taxes to be
To be agreed at Board meeting 23.4.24 Wix hosting Approx £194
BC to be reimbursed DONE

Seminar Summary

Jan-24	Children's outdoor musical play
Feb-24	How to write an abstract
Jun-24	Home musical impact on education

Conference summary

Expenditure

Jan-24

Ticket refund

£163.55

£24.00

£187.55

SUBTOTAL

Expenditure

March-April 2

Domain name

Email

£0

£0

SUBTOTAL

Expenditure

Jun-24

Seminar fees direct

£48

Eventbrite

£172.54

£220.54

Expenditure

July-Aug 24

Wix A/c

Zoom A/c

Rebecca Shre

£0.00

Expenditure

Aug-Dec24

Bursaries:

Ellen Warburt

Conference sales

Eventbrite

£2,052.01

Kate Maines-I
Rachel Pollari
Janey Maxwe
Fiona Murray
Yuki Nishioka

postage S Gr
Keynote Spee
Conference C

£2,052.01

oe added)

Apr-24 (every year)
June 24 (every 3 years)

Other expenditure to come

21 tickets sold
15 tickets
22 tickets sold

£187.55
FREE
£220.54

42 tickets sold

£2,261.58 (gross)
£2,052.01 (net)

£12

£12

to be agreed at board meeting 23.4.24 **DONE**

4

e

£32.40 (every 3 years)

£66.62 (every year)

£99.02 (Barbara C to be reimbursed)

(paid in Augu

£0

£0

£259.20

£155.88

awsbury fee £50.00

£465.08

ton

£200

st)

MERYC-ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1169504

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period: From 2nd Jan 2023 – To 1st Jan 2024

Charity name: MERYC-England

Charity registration number: 1169504

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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	<p>The three key areas of activity focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding in person and online conferences and seminars 2. Support for training in early childhood music education (ECME) 3. Representation and communication <p>Activities 2023-24</p> <p>1. Conferences and seminars: The organisation has organised and hosted three online seminars this year that focussed on research and practice in early childhood music education. This year's theme was 'Overcoming Challenges: Finding Solutions', fulfilling the object of promoting the importance to young lives and families of research informed practice and research founded on quality music making with young children.</p> <p>The online nature of these events ensures that we have practitioners and researchers attending from across England, the UK and occasionally from Europe/other international locations. This ensures the ongoing broad reach and impact of the charity and its work.</p> <p>The year's seminars were led by researchers in the field and explored the role of the visiting musician in early childhood settings, young children's musical play in the outdoors and a posthuman perspective on early childhood music education, 'From Mushrooms to Musical Play' led by Trustee, Dr Jessica Pitt.</p> <p>These events were well attended and although as in the previous year, trustees agreed to maintain the costs to participants of our activities at a</p>

modest level so as to be affordable for early years music education practitioners, these events did generate a small amount of income for the charity that will enable us to continue to offer grants etc to individuals and projects in the field.

In response to feedback on in person events hosted by the charity in 2022, trustees have been working over the past year to plan a one day in person conference in collaboration with the International Centre for Music Studies at Newcastle University. The conference title is 'Early Childhood Music in the 21st Century: Exploring Possibilities in a Changing World. This will take place in November 2024. A call for papers resulted in a high volume of abstracts and proposals and as a result, the conference programme is vibrant and varied. We expect to welcome around 50-60 delegates to participate in varied presentations on academic research in the field, practical music making workshops and poster discussions of research and practice in early childhood music education. Speakers range from highly regarded and well-known academic figures with the ECME field to early career researchers, reflecting the aim of the charity to support both existing/ongoing and emerging research and practice.

As in previous years, the design and delivery of opportunities for ECME practitioners and researchers to engage in person are intended both to further the charities objectives while also encouraging participation in the additional ongoing online activity offered by the charity.

2. Training

2023-24 is the sixth year of operation for the Certificate in Music Education, a flexible, part-time, distance-learning qualification in early childhood music. This is a recognised National Qualification which was initiated by MERYC England in partnership with the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) in 2017. The CME trains practitioners in the ECME field to level 4 standard. It was initially set up to fulfil two objects, namely:

-attempting to increase the quantity and quality of research that will inform early childhood musical experience by supporting research initiatives of all kinds.

- attempting to raise the quality of practice in early childhood music by encouraging evidence-based practice, critical reflection and the adoption of principles of social justice.

The day to day running of the certificate course runs independently of MERYC England, through the Centre for Research in Early Childhood being accountable to Trinity College, London. The course is co-directed by Jane Parker, a former honorary MERYC England Trustee and current MERYC England Trustee Margareta Burrell works on this course as a mentor to students, thus retaining the strong links between this initiative and MERYC England.

3. Representation and communication

In late 2023 the charity put out an advert via our website and social media channels to recruit new Trustees. It was agreed at 2023 Board meetings that the addition of four new Trustees would be ideal in order to ensure the following:

- An adequate number of trustees to carry out the work of the charity, including but not limited to, conference and seminar planning, social media content and communications, assisting with the website and general administration of the charity.
- To ensure that the Board membership reflects a broader representation of English regions. The new trustees are based in both southern and northern England which provides a better balance with a view to planning in person events that are not limited to the south or midlands as has been typical in past years.
- Adequate numbers of Trustees to reflect a diverse mix of practice, research and those who have a great deal of longer-term experience in the field along with those in an earlier stage of their ECME career in research/practice.

Through a rigorous application and interview process overseen by the long-standing Board and current Chair, four new trustees were appointed on a six-month trial basis from January (officially all accepting their positions in June 24. Their involvement from Jan 24 onwards will be reported on in full in the next reporting period).

All MERYC England trustees are affiliated within a range of music education organisations or work as advisors to such organisations as Music HE, Youth Music, Sound Sense and have been responsible for research papers, presentations and books and publications on music learning. The CIO itself has a corporate membership of the Music Education Council (MEC). Four current Board members are full time academics working in Higher Education teaching and research in

institutions based in London (RCM), Manchester (University of Manchester), Birmingham (CREC/Birmingham City University, and Newcastle University.

Honorary Trustee Jane Parker stood down from her role within the charity in Autumn 2023 due to a heavy workload of other commitments. We thank Jane for her contribution and we maintain links with her and with the CME course that she leads through current Trustee and CME mentor, Margareta Burrell.

In the year 2023-24, we have further developed the MERYC England website, in line with our communications strategy, with the aim of making our objects aims and activities clearer and more accessible. In addition, this sets out our links with other organisations and achievements of practitioners and researchers as presented at local, national, and European contexts. All Trustees have been shown how to amend and add website content, meaning we have a greater variety of information available to users which is refreshed frequently.

All seminars and training or discussion opportunities are promoted through Facebook, and X as well as the website and CREC and word of mouth. Work in the 24-25 period will include developing a presence on Instagram for the charity led by new trustees.

PhD student:

Maria Sanchez continues her LAHP funded Doctoral study on cultural citizenship towards cultural engagement with the support of MERYC England. This project continues to be supervised by charity trustee and lecturer Dr Jessica Pitt at the Royal College of Music (RCM) along with Dr Mary Stakelum (RCM). Ex-MERYC England Chair, Dr Alison Street stood down as co-supervisor this year and DR Julia Partington (Newcastle University Senior Lecturer in Music and MERYC England Chair) has taken on the role on behalf of MERYC England. As previously reported, this research study is proving to be instrumental in supporting a range of administrative tasks in relation to our charity activities, including compiling research blogs, and researching links between theory and practice as catalogued in the archival evidence from the last 20 years of both MERYC England's and EuNet MERYC's activities. This research will feed into trustees' objectives for the next two years and the student will present her work so far at the 2024 conference to both trustees and delegates.

This doctoral study aims to strengthen MERYC England's position and increase understanding of

		its contribution to the field of early childhood music in England. Furthermore, the establishment of a collaboration with Royal College of Music is proving to be mutually beneficial for both organisations. As reported previously, it was envisaged that the collaboration demonstrates the ways that the contemporary conservatoire reaches beyond its traditional audience to be relevant to wider society. For MERYC England this partnership offers the organisation a platform for developing connections into the music and music education sectors which will raise the profile of early childhood as an important developmental stage deserving of quality musical experiences.
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You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<p>One of our key objects is '<i>promoting the integration of research, theory and practice by organising and funding meetings for that purpose</i>'. This year, as with the past two years, we have continued to prioritise holding online seminars and planning the conference at a modest fee for participants, rather than issue multiple grants for practitioners.</p> <p>Nevertheless, we offered three bursaries of £350 in 2023 to ECME researchers and practitioners who wished to attend the MERYC EuNet conference in Barcelona in July 2023 and received a number of applications, which were reviewed and appraised by trustees. Two applications were selected but due to unforeseen personal extenuating circumstances, only one of the successful applicants received the money and attended the conference, while the other returned their funding to the charity. The successful applicant who was able to attend the conference created a blog post for our website about her conference experience for the benefit of those who were unable to attend and this can be located here: https://www.merycengland.co.uk/files/ugd/213ace_bbb52c802acc4c0cad60370e25c8f864.pdf</p>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The charity aims to hold a music education conference biennially, in alternate years to MERYC EuNet. This regular conference acts both as a means to maintain professional connectedness and as a way of building revenue for the charity. As noted above, we plan to host an in-person conference in Newcastle in November 2024.

		The ongoing seminar series continues into 2024-25 with the overall theme to be decided following the November 24 conference.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All MERYC England Trustees volunteer their time and energies. Any expenses planned for activities, such as compiling material for the website or organising and attending conferences, are agreed in advance and set to be in proportion to the task. Financial management is under regular review at each Board meeting. Trustees may co-opt participants to share the load as agreed in advance by the Board.
Other		

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 key achievements this year have been:</p> <p>Conferencing/seminars The 2023 'Overcoming Challenges' seminar series attracted music and early childhood practitioners and researchers who were keen both to share their ideas and practice and to ask and explore questions relevant to the ECME context as a collective community.</p> <p>The seminar series aims to support freelance music practitioners and researchers in the field bringing them together through regular events where both groups are free to contribute and share their work, their ideas and experiences. Another year of this approach has shown an emerging network of regular attendees from across England and further afield, engaging with the work of the charity and with each other as a network of professional from across England. This continues to be a particular strength of this online meeting approach.</p> <p>Online seminars were once again facilitated by the charity trustees who gave their time and expertise to host each one, to organise the discussions and ensure an inclusive environment. To this end the Board set up ground rules for online activities to safeguard participants and facilitators.</p> <p>Training Although not directly responsible for the Certificate course, Trustees remain supportive and as an advisory body should it be needed. The involvement of a charity trustee, Margareta Burrell as a course mentor enables regular reporting to</p>

		<p>trustees on the progress and development of the course at board meetings.</p> <p>Representation and communication Individual trustees continued to represent the charity through different platforms this year, particularly through Music Education Council (MEC), Sound Sense, plus Music HE.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	In 2021 we set our objective to become more accessible to a wider audience and this work has continued to be a large part of our work in 2023-24. Continuing to develop our website as a tool to promote the work of the organisation, and to provide useful links to those working in the ECME sector involved collaborative planning and ongoing work to keep the content up to date and engaging for users, while also promoting the events, grants, and resources we have to offer.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>Our fundraising objectives continued to be deliberately modest in 2023-24, as we prioritised pricing our seminar programme at competitive prices in the understanding that many similar organisations were offering courses in the sector free of charge, or at a very low cost.</p> <p>Our priority was to continue to provide an attractive relevant and affordable forum for practitioners and researchers to develop their practice, research and professional networks. Nevertheless, we succeeded in more than covering costs and raised a total of £612.88 through seminars. This has enabled us to maintain reasonable reserves while also offering grants as outlined above.</p> <p>The numbers of participants in these activities and who attended multiple sessions in the period under review gives the charity confidence that the public service we are providing has been welcomed within the sector.</p>
Investment performance against objectives		N/A
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of this period the Charity's bank account with the Co-operative Bank showed a balance of £7314.25
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy to hold a reserve is under continuous review by the Board of Trustees We keep this reserve to indicate prudent financial management against risk of activities failing to meet costs, and to ensure there is a balance in the account, when applying for grants.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
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	N/A

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 principal source of revenue is from CPD seminar fees and biannual conference delegate fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks are the capacity of individual trustees to continue the activities that generate funds. All are totally committed to the purposes and aims and the objectives. All are volunteers.
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 representative of a range of practice and from different regions in England. A balance is maintained between researchers and practitioners, to ensure the charity's objectives are met, according to the constitution document.
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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	All trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Constitution, with the Charity Commission guidelines for good governance and with the principles of the CGC. Principles are reviewed regularly in the light of current projects and activities. All trustees have been DBS checked. MERYC England adheres to the policies held by CREC in safeguarding and in equality, diversity and inclusion. In the year 2021-22 we established agreed guidelines for online video conferencing and initiated a privacy statement.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	There are currently ten MERYC England trustees following the stepping down of Jane Parker and the recruitment of four new trustees in late 2023 as outlined above. All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity, with expenses agreed in advance where applicable, eg for specific tasks relating to conference and seminar administration and facilitation. They regularly represent MERYC England on a range of bodies, e.g. Youth Music, Music Mark and Music Education Council.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Our website and social media accounts connect with regional and local music education networks across England and also with European and the international music education network, ISME.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	MERYC-England
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1169504
Charity's principal address	Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) St Thomas Children's Centre, Bell Barn Road, Attwood Green, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2AF Telephone: +44(0)121 464 0020

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	Dr Julia Partington	Chair	Began as Trustee in June 2022, took over as Chair, September 2022 - present	
2	Dr Ryan Humphrey	Trustee		
3	Margareta Burrell	Trustee		
4	Prof Chris Pascal	Trustee Representing Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC)		
5	Dr Jessica Pitt	Trustee		
6	Barbara Cavanagh,	Treasurer		
7	Stephen Grocott	Trustee		
8	Vanessa Stansall	Trustee		
9	Danielle Ballantine-Drake	Trustee		
10	Carol Bowden	Trustee		
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
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

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		B.Cavanagh
Full name(s)	Dr Julia Partington	Barbara Cavanagh
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees, MERYC England	Trustee and treasurer, MERYC England
Date	25/10/24	

MERYC-ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1169504

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period: From 2nd Jan 2022 – To 1st Jan 2023

Charity name: MERYC-England

Charity registration number: 1169504

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objectives of the charity are to advance the musical education of all children in England aged 0 – 5 years.
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	<p>The three key areas of activity focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Holding conferences and seminars2. Support for training in early childhood music education (ECME)3. Representation and communication <p>Activities 2022-23</p> <p>1. Conferences and seminars:</p> <p>The organisation has continued to provide online seminars this year that focus on research and practice in early childhood music education. We recognised that hosting these events online, an approach originally adopted out of necessity due to the COVID 19 pandemic, enables early childhood music educators and researchers to attend these events, regardless of geographical location. As a result, the charity has been able to ensure wider access to seminar events for public benefit for which our constitution was set up.</p> <p>The year's activities continued the theme of 'Hear & Be Heard'. This theme was selected by trustees in recognition that the longer-term impact of the COVID 19 pandemic, along with the emerging cost of living crisis, have impacted those working in early childhood music education. Challenges noted through anecdotal evidence provided by those working in the sector include lost income, needing to rebuild projects/participant groups post-pandemic, promoting and sustaining practice and research-based activity in the face of growing financial challenges for families, early education settings and funding bodies. Trustees are cognizant of the need for support and ongoing professional education for the workforce which is primarily freelance and therefore at a</p>

disadvantage in the current financial landscape.

As in the previous year, trustees agreed to maintain the costs of our activities at a modest level both to assess the need we had perceived anecdotally and to be affordable for music education practitioners.

Online seminars on the selected theme followed on from the November 2021 online 'Hear and Be Heard' conference and sought to offer participants opportunities to access presentations and discussions relating to common concerns and challenges in the Early Childhood Music Education (ECME) field, while also celebrating successes and exploring solutions. Between January 2022 and January 2023, we ran two online seminars as follows:

March 2022: 'Building Communities of Practice Post Pandemic'.

June 2022: 'Sing Our Stories: Personalised Song writing with Children & Families'.

A free, in-person, one day meet up event was held in July 2022 at the Royal College of Music. This was hosted by trustees, was well attended and feedback from participants was wholly positive. Participants reported that the opportunity to reconnect in person to reflect upon and to share practice and research were highly appreciated and valued. Opportunities to engage in person are designed both to further the charities objectives while also encouraging participation in the online activity offered by the charity.

As a direct result of the 2021 conference, the keynote speaker at that event, esteemed music therapy academic and practitioner Leslie Bunt collaborated with trustee Margareta Burrell to provide a longer-term course of mentoring/coaching sessions for those ECME practitioners/researchers who wished to develop specific aspects of their practice within a supportive framework.

2. Training

2022-23 is the fifth year of operation for the Certificate in Music Education, which was initiated by MERYC England in partnership with the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) in 2017. This trains practitioners to level 4. It was set up to fulfil two objects as set out in the charity's 5 year strategic development plan 2017-22, namely:

-attempting to increase the quantity and quality of

research that will inform early childhood musical experience by supporting research initiatives of all kinds;

- attempting to raise the quality of practice in early childhood music by encouraging evidence-based practice, critical reflection and the adoption of principles of social justice;

The day to day running of the certificate course runs independently of MERYC England, being accountable to Trinity College, London. The Course Director is Jane Parker who works with Youth Music funded project, Take Art till Nov 2024, SoundWaves Network SW. She maintains the link with MERYC England through the role of honorary trustee.

Dr Jessica Pitt and Dr Julia Partington, both trustees of MERYC England acted as academic supervisors of students on the Music pathway of the MA in Early Childhood Education during the reporting period, thus maintaining this partnership and promoting the values and mission of the charity at this academic level.

3. Representation and communication

All MERYC England trustees are affiliated within a range of music education organisations or work as advisors to such organisations as Youth Music and Music Mark and have been responsible for research papers, presentations and books and publications on music learning. The CIO itself has a corporate membership of the Music Education Council (MEC).

In the year 2022-23, we have continued to develop the MERYC England website, in line with our communications strategy, with the aim of making our objects aims and activities clearer and more accessible. In addition, this sets out our links with other organisations and achievements of practitioners and researchers as presented at local, national, and European contexts.

All seminars and training or discussion opportunities are promoted through Facebook and Twitter as well as the website and CREC and word of mouth.

PhD student:

Trustee and lecturer Dr Jessica Pitt at the Royal College of Music (RCM) led on the proposal for a collaborative fully funded doctoral award from the London Arts and Humanities Partnership, LAHP. This was successful and in March 2022 the student, Maria Sanchez was appointed. The recipient has been supported in this year by MERYC England trustees, Ex-Chair, Dr Alison Street acts as supervisor on behalf of MERYC

England, academic supervision provided by Dr Jessica Pitt and DR Mary Stakelum from RCM. This research study is proving to be instrumental in supporting a range of administrative tasks in relation to our activities, including compiling research blogs, and researching links between theory and practice as catalogued in the archival evidence from the last 20 years of both MERYC England's and EuNet MERYC's activities. This research will feed into trustees' objectives for the next three years and the student will present the ongoing work to the trustees at regular intervals from spring 2023.

This doctoral study aims to strengthen MERYC England's position and increase understanding of its contribution to the field of early childhood music in England. Furthermore, the establishment of a collaboration with Royal College of Music will be mutually beneficial for both organisations. As reported last year, it was envisaged that for RCM the collaboration demonstrates the ways that the contemporary conservatoire reaches beyond its traditional audience seeking to be relevant to wider society and for MERYC England it offers the organisation a platform for developing connections into the music and music education sectors which will raise the profile of early childhood as an important life stage deserving of quality musical experiences. Initial reflections on this collaborative work indicate that these intended outcomes are already being successfully realised.

Trustee links

Dr Julia Partington: In September 2022, Julia took over from Dr Alison Street as Chair of Trustees for MERYC England. Prior to this, Julia had contributed to the planning of the MERYC England 2021 conference. Julia holds the role of Lecturer in Music Education at Newcastle University and her role here, along with her location as an ECME practitioner and researcher in the North East of England broadens the geographical representation of the Board of Trustees. Julia leads a number of undergraduate and postgraduate modules/student research projects that relate to ECME, music education and community music. She is also on the committee of Music HE a UK wide membership organisation that promotes and supports the study of music in higher education (including conservatoires). Through this connection, Julia is able to advocate for the importance of ECME research in Higher Education.

Dr Jessica Pitt:

Jessica sits on the advisory board for [Talent25](#) raising the profile of MERYC England's activity to social science researchers.

		She is a commissioner for the early childhood music education committee of ISME (International Society of Music Education) and is a trustee of the UK Community Music charity, Sound Sense. She leads a number of modules at RCM for both undergraduate and postgraduate students and is deputy chair of the RCM's Research Ethics Committee.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All trustees familiarise themselves with the 'Essential Trustee' national guidance, have reviewed the constitution of the CIO and regularly explore in our meetings the applicability of principles related to good governance, as defined in the CGC.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	One of our key objects is ' <i>promoting the integration of research, theory and practice by organising and funding meetings for that purpose</i> '. This year, as last, we have continued to focus on holding online seminars at a modest fee rather than issue grants for practitioners to research or meet in person. This was in response to the uncertain landscape relating to in person events and travel following the pandemic related lockdowns of coincided with the intermittent lockdown periods during the pandemic. Our grant awarding policy will be reviewed in the 2023 financial reporting period.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	<p>The charity aims to hold a music education conference biennially, in alternate years to EuNet MERYC (next conference, Barcelona July 2023). This regular conferencing acts both as a means to maintain professional connectedness and as a way of building revenue for the charity. We plan to host an in-person conference in England, in the autumn of 2024.</p> <p>The ongoing seminar series continues into 2023 with a theme of 'Overcoming Challenges: Finding Solutions', fulfilling the object of promoting the importance to young lives and families of research informed practice and research founded on quality music making with young children.</p> <p>.</p>
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All MERYC England Trustees volunteer their time and energies. Any expenses planned for activities, such as compiling material for the website or organising conferences, are agreed in advance and set to be in proportion to the task. Financial management is under regular review at each Board meeting. Trustees may co-opt participants to share the load as agreed in advance by the Board.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The key achievements this year have been:</p> <p>Conferencing/seminars The 2021 'Hear and be heard' seminar and conference series attracted music and early childhood practitioners who were keen both to share their practice and to ask questions related to materials, approaches, ways of conceptualising music and creativity, so as better to serve families in their communities. As outlined above, we continued this work during 2022. The Research into practice seminars have continued to be coordinated by Dr Jessica Pitt with masters students at CREC to help them facilitate presentations relating to their MA research findings.</p> <p>The seminar series aimed to reach out to and to support freelance music practitioners post pandemic during which many have felt uncertain about their professional and financial future. It has brought music practitioners and researchers together and became regular events where both groups felt they belonged and contributed. The emerging network of regular attendees from across England is a particular strength of this online meeting approach.</p> <p>The charity trustees consider the online seminars a particular success again this year. They were facilitated by trustees who gave their time and expertise to host each one, to organise the discussions and ensure an inclusive environment. To this end the Board set up ground rules for online activities to safeguard participants and facilitators.</p> <p>Also of note was the success of the mentoring course in terms of participants engaging with a longer term (6 weeks) programme of activity. Additionally, the one day in person meet up held at RCM was a success in the view of both trustees and participants. We hope to be able to offer more of these in a variety of regions/locations in future to maximise participation throughout England.</p> <p>Training Although not directly responsible for the Certificate course, Trustees remain supportive and as an advisory body should it be needed. The new director Jane Parker reports regularly to trustees on the progress and development of the course.</p> <p>Representation and communication Individual trustees continued to represent the charity through different platforms this year, particularly through Music Mark and Music Education Council (MEC) plus Music HE.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	In 2021 we set our objective to become more accessible to a wider audience and this work has continued into 2022 and will be a large part of our work in 2023. Continuing to develop our website as a tool to promote the work of the organisation, and to provide useful links to those working in the ECME sector involved collaborative planning and ongoing work to keep the content up to date and engaging for users, while also promoting the events, grants, and resources we have to offer.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>Our fundraising objectives continued to be deliberately modest in 2022, as we prioritised pricing our seminar programme at competitive prices in the understanding that many similar organisations were offering courses in the sector free of charge, or at a very low cost.</p> <p>Our priority was to continue to provide an attractive relevant and affordable forum for practitioners and researchers to develop their practice, research and professional networks. Nevertheless, we succeeded in more than covering costs and raised a total of £1150 through seminars and the online mentoring course.</p> <p>The numbers of participants in these activities and who attended multiple sessions in the period under review gives the charity confidence that the public service we are providing has been welcomed within the sector and the focus of our efforts and activities is relevant to a workforce hungry for connection and professional development as we navigate the landscape in our sector post-pandemic.</p>
Investment performance against objectives		N/A
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of this period the Charity's bank account with the Co-operative Bank showed a balance of £7422.53
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy to hold a reserve is under continuous review by the Board of Trustees We keep this reserve to indicate prudent financial management against risk of activities failing to meet costs, and to ensure there is a balance in the account, when applying for grants.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in	Para 1.24	N/A

deficit		
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

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 principal source of revenue is from CPD seminar fees and biannual conference delegate fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks are the capacity of individual trustees to continue the activities that generate funds. All are totally committed to the purposes and aims and the objectives. All are volunteers.
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 representative of a range of practice and from different regions in England. A balance is maintained between researchers and practitioners, to ensure the charity's objectives are met, according to the constitution document.

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	All trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Constitution, with the Charity Commission guidelines for good governance and with the principles of the CGC. Principles are reviewed regularly in the light of current projects and activities. All trustees have been DBS checked.
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		MERYC England adheres to the policies held by CREC in safeguarding and in equality, diversity and inclusion. In the year 2021-22 we established agreed guidelines for online video conferencing and initiated a privacy statement.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	There are seven MERYC trustees, one being an honorary position as director of the Certificate course (see above), who is herself Soundwaves Network Project Leader active in Take Art, a regional network in SW England. All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity, with expenses agreed in advance where applicable, eg for specific tasks relating to conference and seminar administration and facilitation. They regularly represent MERYC on a range of bodies, e.g. Youth Music, Music Mark and Music Education Council.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Our website and social media accounts connect with regional and local music education networks across England and also with European and the international music education network, ISME.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	MERYC-England
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1169504
Charity's principal address	Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) St Thomas Children's Centre, Bell Barn Road, Attwood Green, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2AF Telephone: +44(0)121 464 0020

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	Dr Julia Partington	Chair	Began as Trustee in June 2022, took over as Chair, September 2022 - present	
2	Jane Parker	Honorary Trustee Director CME:EC SoundWaves NetworkSW		
3	Margareta Burrell	Trustee		

4	Prof Chris Pascal	Representing Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC)		
5	Dr Jessica Pitt	Trustee		
6	Barbara Cavanagh,	Treasurer		
7	Stephen Grocott	Trustee		
8	Dr Alison Street	Chair	Retired and stood down September, 2022	
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
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
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Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		B.Cavanagh
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Full name(s)	Dr Julia Partington	Barbara Cavanagh
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees, MERYC England	Trustee and treasurer, MERYC England
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Date 18/10/23

MERYC-ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1169504

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 2nd Jan 2021
1st Jan 2022

Period start date To
Period end date

Charity name: MERYC-England

Charity registration number: 1169504

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objectives of the charity are to advance the musical education of all children in England aged 0 – 5 years.
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	<p>The three key areas of activity focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding conferences and seminars 2. Support for training in early childhood music education (ECME) 3. Representation and communication <p>Activities 2021-22</p> <p>1. Conferences and seminars:</p> <p>The ongoing effect of COVID 19 pandemic has caused the organisation to adapt to online activities in order to maintain those functions for public benefit for which our constitution was set up.</p> <p>The year's activities were centered around the over all heading 'Hear and be heard'. This became the focus for all on line activities, as trustees and colleagues across the field of ECME grew increasingly aware of the need for support and ongoing professional education for the workforce which is primarily freelance and therefore at a disadvantage through lost income and work during the pandemic. It had also been decided by trustees to maintain the costs of our activities at a modest level both in order to assess the need we had perceived anecdotally and to be affordable for music education practitioners.</p> <p>The one-day conference on 21 November attracted 42 participants from across the</p>

country. It also acted as a showcase for practice in the Newcastle area, particularly with disadvantaged families, and as an opportunity to focus on musicianship, song writing, and particularly on the links with music therapy discipline through the keynote presentation by Prof Leslie Bunt. The second keynote highlighted the opportunity and need for practitioner research as a meaningful pursuit for music educators, promoted by CREC professor Dr Chris Pascal.

In anticipation of the Hear and be heard November conference MERYC England built up an audience for on line seminars during 2021 under the same heading. We ran four on line seminars as follows:

Jan 21: Research into practice 1: all about parents

March 21: Research into practice 2: Musical play matters

June 21: How does research meet practice in Early childhood music?

Oct 21: Loud and Clear: Family music making: social pedagogy in action (focusing on the north east).

2. Training

2021-22 is the fourth year of operation for the Certificate in Music Education, which was initiated by MERYC in partnership with CREC in 2017. This trains practitioners to level 4. It was set up to fulfil two objects as set out in the charity's 5 year strategic development plan 2017-22, namely:

-attempting to increase the quantity and quality of research that will inform early childhood musical experience by supporting research initiatives of all kinds;

- attempting to raise the quality of practice in early childhood music by encouraging evidence-based practice, critical reflection and the adoption of principles of social justice;

The day to day running of the certificate course runs independently of MERYC, being accountable to Trinity College, London. The Course Director Zoe Greenhalgh resigned this year, being succeeded by one of her

deputies, Jane Parker who works with Youth Music funded project, Take Art till Nov 2024, SoundWaves Network SW. She maintains the link with the organisation through the role of honorary trustee. Meanwhile Zoe Greenhalgh resigned her role as honorary trustee.

Dr Jessica Pitt oversees the MA in Early Childhood Music under the auspices of CREC, thus maintaining this partnership and promoting the values and mission of the charity at this academic level.

All courses at both levels have continued to run virtually because of the COVID pandemic since March 2020.

3. Representation and communication

All MERYC trustees are affiliated within a range of music education organisations or work as advisors to such organisations as Youth Music and Music Mark and have been responsible for research papers, presentations and books and publications on music learning. The CIO itself has a corporate membership of the Music Education Council (MEC).

In Spring 2021 we overhauled the MERYC England website, in line with our communications strategy, with the aim of making our objects aims and activities clearer and more accessible. In addition this sets out our links with other organisations and achievements of practitioners and researchers as presented at local, national and European contexts. Trustees Barbara Cavanagh and Stephen Grocott were instrumental in liaising with the website designer on the new content and appeal. All seminars and training or discussion opportunities are promoted through Facebook and Twitter as well as the website and CREC and word of mouth.

In line with our key aim; to foster collaboration between music educators and researchers, and in order to strengthen this foundational link, in 2021 Dr Jessica Pitt and Dr Alison Street submitted a bid for funding a PhD student under the London Arts and Humanities Partnership. This was successful, securing funding from Autumn 2022 for partnership work between MERYC England and the Royal College of Music.

		<p>This collaborative Doctoral award will focus on diversity in music making in early childhood, exploring inclusive research and practice.</p> <p>It is envisaged that this doctoral study will strengthen MERYC England's position and increase understanding of its contribution to the field of early childhood music in England. Establishing a collaboration with Royal College of Music will be mutually beneficial for both organisations. For RCM it demonstrates the ways that the contemporary conservatoire reaches beyond its traditional audience seeking to be relevant to wider society and for MERYC England it offers the organisation a platform for developing connections into the music and music education sectors which will raise the profile of early childhood as an important life stage deserving of quality musical experiences. In her role as Co-Director of the early years arts organisation Magic Acorns she promotes the work of MERYC England to emerging early childhood artists and early childhood educators. A recent Magic Acorns project in collaboration with Anglia Ruskin University and the College of West Anglia provided an opportunity to promote MERYC England's activity to BA early childhood studies students. Jessica sits on the advisory board for Talent25 raising the profile of MERYC England's activity to social science researchers.</p> <p>Jessica has spoken at:</p> <p>Incorporated Society of Musicians' (ISM) Annual Conference</p> <p>ISM Teachmeet session for Early Years</p> <p>Royal Northern College of Music - doctoral student seminar and Research Forum</p> <p>She leads a number of modules at RCM for both undergraduate and postgraduate students, also giving guest lectures about early childhood music for modules on instrumental vocal teaching; composition; and creative workshop practice.</p> <p>Steve Grocott has delivered workshops for Early Education, Wandle Teaching School Alliance</p> <p>International School of Toulouse</p> <p>F.E.M.D.L. Colegio Ntra. sra. del Pilar, Madrid</p> <p>London Borough of Brent</p> <p>National Education Union.</p> <p>This offers opportunities to highlight the work of MERYC and direct practitioners and advisors to the conference and relevant seminars.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All trustees familiarise themselves with the 'Essential Trustee' national guidance, have reviewed the constitution of the CIO and regularly explore in our meetings the applicability of principles related to good governance, as defined in the CGC.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	One of our key objects is ' <i>promoting the integration of research, theory and practice by organising and funding meetings for that purpose</i> '. This year we have therefore focused on holding on line seminars at a modest fee rather than issue grants for practitioners to research or meet. This coincided with the intermittent lockdown periods during the pandemic which prevented the encouragement of in person gatherings. Our grant awarding policy is due for review in 2022.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The charity aims to hold a music education conference biennially, in alternate years to EuNet MERYC. This regular conferencing acts both as a means to maintain professional connectedness and as a way of building revenue for the charity. The ongoing seminar series continues into 2022, fulfilling the object of promoting the importance to young lives and families of research informed practice and research founded on quality music making with young children.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All MERYC Trustees volunteer their time and energies. Any expenses planned for activities, such as compiling material for the website or organising conferences, are agreed in advance and set to be in proportion to the task. Financial management is under regular review at each Board meeting. Trustees may co-opt participants to share the load as agreed in advance by the Board.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The key achievements this year have been:</p> <p>Conferencing/seminars</p> <p>'Hear and be heard' seminar and conference series attracted music and early childhood practitioners who were keen both to share their practice and to ask questions related to materials, approaches, ways of conceptualising music and creativity, so as better to serve families in their communities. The Research into practice seminars were coordinated by Dr Jessica Pitt who worked with masters students at CREC to help them facilitate presentations on the vital role parents can play and in the way practitioners work in partnership with families.</p> <p>Comments in the feedback from participants to the question 'What does 'research ' mean to you? In the June seminar included the following:</p> <p>'Learning from others'</p> <p>'challenging assumptions'</p> <p>'looking, listening, learning, thinking, reflecting'</p> <p>And to the question 'What WILL you do? I will...</p> <p>'unpack the barriers I put on myself'</p> <p>'Think of ways to creatively disseminate my research on children's musical play in the outdoors'</p> <p>'Think differently about what research is'</p> <p>These perceptive comments clearly indicate the benefits felt by participants in reflecting on their perceptions of the dynamic links between music research and practice, and the mutual balance in each.</p> <p>In March 21 the seminar on why musical play matters in early childhood was presented by Sophie Fox from Magic Acorns, Kate Comberti and Alison Harmer. This focused on wordless musicking, on how musical play values the sensori-motor perceptions in children, explored aesthetics and affect while making articulate the significance of non verbal expressiveness and communication with others. Where young children's early creative communication is valued through interactions, this forms a stronger foundation for more sophisticated communication skills; a point relevant to practitioners supporting families as they emerge from isolation through lock down.</p> <p>The presentation was made accessible to a wider audience through the MERYC England website at https://www.merycengland.co.uk.</p> <p>The seminar series aimed to reach out to freelance music practitioners during the pandemic during which many have felt isolated and undervalued. It brought music practitioners and researchers together and became regular events where both groups felt they belonged and contributed.</p>
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		<p>The charity trustees consider the seminar series a particular success this year. It was run by trustees who gave their time and expertise to facilitate each one, to organise the discussions and ensure an inclusive environment. To this end the Board set up ground rules for on line activities in order to safeguard participants and facilitators.</p> <p>The November conference ‘Hear and be heard’ held on line made such an impact particularly through the presentation and emerging discussion with Prof Leslie Bunt, that he has been invited to run, with trustee Margareta Burrell, a series of four evening seminars focused on supportively mentoring others, entitled ‘Listen and connect’ in May/June 22. This course has already filled, suggesting there is a need for ways to support fellow professionals as face to face contact becomes more normal in a post pandemic world.</p> <p>Training Although not directly responsible for the Certificate course, Trustees remain supportive and as an advisory body should it be needed. By October 2021 28 students had submitted their portfolios and passed (an increase of 14 from last year). In terms of assessment, the following feedback on how students were mentored indicates a high quality of care: From the internal quality assurer;</p> <p><i>The portfolios provide strong evidence of detailed and constructive feedback which affirms student skills and achievements but also provides critical suggestions for further development. The positive relationship developed between mentors and students is clearly evident and I am sure contributes to the achievements of the students and the high levels of successful course completion.</i></p> <p>The new director Jane Parker reports regularly to trustees on the progress and development of the course.</p> <p>Representation and communication Individual trustees continued to represent the charity through different platforms this year, particularly through Music Mark and Music Education Council (MEC).</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.4.1	2021 was the year we set our objective to become more accessible to a wider audience. Our new look website involved collaborative planning, reflecting and reviewing our aims, objectives and priorities, collecting previous and recent feedback and evidence from conferences and grant holders, practitioners and researchers over the last 20 years, and considering our key messages to communicate the
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		charity's objects as clearly as possible. Trustee and lecturer Dr Jessica Pitt at the Royal College of Music (RCM) led on the proposal for a collaborative fully funded doctoral award from LAHP. This was successful. In March 2022 the student was appointed. The recipient will be supported by MERYC trustees and will be instrumental in supporting a range of administrative tasks in relation to our activities, including compiling research blogs, and researching links between theory and practice as catalogued in the evidence from the last 20 years of MERYC activities. This research will feed into trustees' objectives for the next three years.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para a 1.4 1	Our fundraising objectives were modest in 2021, as we prioritised pricing our seminar and conference programme at competitive prices in the understanding that many similar organisations were having to be agile on line and could offer courses free of charge. Our priority was to provide an attractive relevant and affordable forum for practitioners and researchers. Nevertheless, we succeeded in more than covering costs and raised a total of £2652 This represents an increase over last year of over 600%. The charity has grown increasingly confident that the public service we are providing has been welcomed and the focus of our efforts and activities is relevant to a workforce hungry for connection and professional development as we have emerged from lockdown in the pandemic.
Investment performance against objectives	Para a 1.4 1	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of this period the Charity's bank account with the Co-operative Bank shows a balance of £7,041
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy to hold a reserve is currently due for review (2022). We keep this reserve to indicate prudent financial management against risk of activities failing to meet costs, and to ensure there is a balance in the account, when applying for grants.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	
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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 principal source of revenue is from delegate conference and CPD seminar fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks are the capacity of individual trustees to continue the activities that generate funds. All are totally committed to the purposes and aims and the objectives. All are volunteers.
Other		

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 representative of a range of practice and from different regions in England. A balance is maintained between researchers and practitioners, to ensure the charity's objectives are met, according to the constitution document.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

		All trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the
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Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Constitution, with the Charity Commission guidelines for good governance and with the principles of the CGC. Principles are reviewed regularly in the light of current projects and activities. All trustees have been DBS checked. MERYC England adheres to the policies held by CREC in safeguarding and in equality, diversity and inclusion. In the year 2021-22 we established agreed guidelines for online video conferencing and initiated a privacy statement.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	There are seven MERYC trustees, one being an honorary position as director of the Certificate course (see above), who is herself Soundwaves Network Project Leader active in Take Art, a regional network in SW England. All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity, with expenses agreed in advance where applicable, eg for specific tasks relating to conference and seminar administration and facilitation. They regularly represent MERYC on a range of bodies, eg Youth Music, Music Mark and Music Education Council.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Our website and social media accounts connect with regional and local music education networks across England and also with European and the international music education network, ISME.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	MERYC-England
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1169504
Charity's principal address	Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) St Thomas Children's Centre, Bell Barn Road, Attwood Green, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2AF Telephone: +44(0)121 464 0020

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	Dr Alison Street	Chair		
2	Jane Parker	Honorary Trustee Director CME:EC SoundWaves NetworkSW	From October 2021	
3	Margareta Burrell			
4	Prof Chris Pascal	Representing Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC		
5	Dr Jessica Pitt			
6	Barbara Cavanagh,	Treasurer		
7	Stephen Grocott			
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Corporate trustees - names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Finance	Sean Delaney	CREC (as above)

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information



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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Dr Alison M Street	Barbara Cavanagh
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Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair MERYC England	Trustee and treasurer MERYC England
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Date

06 June 2022



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 1-Jan-21	To	Period end date 1-Jan-22
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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 £
A1 Receipts				
Seminar Series	1,578	-	-	1,578
Conference	1,074	-	-	1,074
Donation	1,000	-	-	1,000
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,652	-	-	3,652
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,652	-	-	3,652
A3 Payments				
Seminar Series	654	-	-	654
Conference	200	-	-	200
Website	931	-	-	931
Corporate membership MEC	150	-	-	150
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,935	-	-	1,935
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	1,935	-	-	1,935
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,717	-	-	1,717
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,324	-	-	5,324
Cash funds this year end	7,041	-	-	7,041

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	7,041	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

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

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	Print Name <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> Alison Street </div>
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CC16a



Last year

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Endowment funds to nearest £

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Endowment funds to nearest £

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Current value (optional)

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Current value (optional)

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When due (optional)

Date of approval

14-Jun-22

MERYC-ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1169504

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **1st Jan 2020**
1st Jan 2021

Period start date To
Period end date

Charity name: MERYC-England

Charity registration number: 1169504

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objectives of the charity are to advance the musical education of all children in England aged 0 – 5 years.
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	<p>The three key areas of activity focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holding conferences and seminars 2. Training in early childhood music education (ECME) 3. Representation and communication through consultation on current policy on early years music education and music in early childhood from birth. <p>Activities 2020-21</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conferences: This year's conference due to take place in Nov 2020 was postponed to Nov 2021 because of COVID19. In order to ensure ongoing interest and support of ECME practitioners throughout the year, and to keep people feeling connected during the pandemic, in July 2020 the Board approved setting up a series of eight one-day seminars in anticipation of the postponed one-day conference to be held in Newcastle University, entitled 'Hear and be heard'. The conference committee has arranged and publicised the series and it is being run virtually. The seminar programme acts as a valuable platform for students and those new to research to present their projects and work in music with young children and families. 2. Training 2020-21 is the third year of operation for the Certificate in Music Education, which was initiated by MERYC in partnership with CREC in 2017. This trains practitioners to

		<p>level 4. It was set up to fulfil two objects as set out in the charity's 5 year strategic development plan 2017-22, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -<i>attempting to increase the quantity and quality of research that will inform early childhood musical experience by supporting research initiatives of all kinds;</i> - <i>attempting to raise the quality of practice in early childhood music by encouraging evidence-based practice, critical reflection and the adoption of principles of social justice;</i> <p>The CME:EC is now running successfully and independently, being accountable to Trinity College, London. Susan Young resigned from the MERYC Board in March 2020, but continues as mentor and as EQA for the programme, employed by Trinity College. . In July a formal MOU was drawn up to define the relationship between MERYC-England and CREC. This formalises and strengthens the relationship between CREC and MERYC-England and makes clear the responsibilities of each partner in ensuring the impactful delivery of the L4 CME:EC course. Whilst it is CREC that is the validated body and the body to whom the students apply and are enrolled, via the MoU, MERYC-England is responsible for liaising and collaborating with CREC in selecting the Course Director who in turn oversees the course delivery and support team and has full responsibility for course content and standards in line with the Trinity College London regulations and guidance. MERYC-England can bestow the role of honorary trustee on the position of course director for the duration of their contract, in order to maintain close affiliation with the CME:EC course. Dr Jessica Pitt oversees the MA in Early Childhood Music under the auspices of CREC, thus maintaining this partnership and promoting the values and mission of the charity at this academic level. All courses at both levels have continued to run virtually because of the COVID pandemic since March 2020.</p> <p>3. Representation and communication This has been carried out through the efforts of individual trustees this year. Because of COVID national bodies and gatherings have been moved on line.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the	Para 1.18	All trustees familiarise themselves with the 'Essential Trustee' national guidance, have reviewed the constitution of the CIO and regularly explore and discuss the

Charity Commission on public benefit		applicability of principles related to good governance, as defined in the CGC.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	A key objective of MERYC is providing support and advice to other organisations and schemes whose aims and activities are concordant with the aims and principles of MERYC-England. This year, despite a drop in revenue the trustees continued their grant giving (a total of up to £600) to support small scale projects by Early Years music practitioners in offering CPD related to early years music education and music with families with under-fives. This is in line with MERYC-England's ongoing commitment to encouraging the link between research and practice. Applicants are informed of the opportunity through the Early Years Facebook page and other social media and encouraged to apply by showing how their project for the grant relates to the principles of MERYC-England, as shown on the MERYC website. Applications were reviewed by a panel of trustees and are accountable by a report before the end of the current financial year (31 Dec 2020).
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	The charity aims to hold a music education conference biennially, in alternate years to EuNet MERYC. This regular conferencing acts both as a means to maintain professional connectedness and as a way of building revenue for the charity.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All MERYC Trustees are volunteers. There are three committees; conferencing, training and representation. These may co-opt new members and volunteers to fulfil the aims of the charity, eg calling on students or parents to help with a music education conference.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The key achievements this year have been:</p> <p>Consolidation: Using the time during the pandemic to consolidate aspects of governance in the charity, particularly in its relationship to the Certificate Course. Zoe Greenhalgh the director of the course is also an honorary trustee of the charity. In line with our charitable objects, trustees have continued to promote the CME EC course. Since Jan 2017 (validation), 14 students have passed, 35 are currently studying and 4 have withdrawn. There have been no failed submissions. Recruitment has benefitted from places funded by Youth Music programmes. The External quality Assurer's (EQA) report emphasises the strong mentors, exemplary leadership and adaptability to the recent limits imposed by the pandemic. A full report is available on the CREC website.</p> <p>Succession: While the Board regrets the resignation of its foundational trustee, Susan Young, this has also been an opportunity to formalise the relationship with CREC through the MOU and to consider succession of the MERYC Trustees membership. This is an ongoing process, involving risk assessment and forward planning.</p> <p>Conferencing/seminars The seminar series which aims to keep music practitioners, artists and researchers in touch in lieu of the one-day postponed conference, has started successfully in September with the first seminar focused on Deep Listening. Hosted remotely by trustees Stephen Grocott and Linda Bance, this attracted 35 delegates and raised revenue net £381.00. Tickets prices were deliberately set at £12.00 with non waged at £5.00. We aimed to be sensitive to participants whose work has been seriously affected by cancellations due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Representation Individual trustees have represented the charity through different platforms this year. Jessica Pitt gave an interview for Early Years TV, with Kathy Brodie, as part of a Speech and Language Summit, July 2020. This provided the opportunity to talk about MERYC-England's aims and purposes; highlighting the CME:EC and our conferences. This was viewed by over 33,000 people from 111 countries. Speaking engagements present the chance for promoting the aims of MERYC-England. There have been a number of workshops and presentations this year for a range of organisations: Sound Connections -Tri-borough Music Hub (London Early Years Music Network); Midlands Arts Centre; Festival Bridge; Anglia Ruskin University. Through Jessica Pitt's teaching at CREC, she recommends MERYC-England's seminar days and</p>
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		<p>conferences as an ideal platform for masters students to present their research in early childhood music education.</p> <p>Margareta Burrell has promoted MERYC activities through her ongoing MA studies, with colleagues in the Dalcroze society and through her training and workshops. Steve Grocott and Barbara Cavanagh hosted discussions with a range of music practitioners on issues and approaches arising through the Early Years Music Facebook page, on which they regularly post.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.4.1	<p>Although the pandemic curtailed active music making and meeting in person in education contexts, we continued to advance our objectives through social media; Facebook and Twitter.</p> <p>On a more longterm basis, we continue to consolidate relationships through collaborative research and practice. Through Jessica Pitt's role as Lecturer in Music Education at The Royal College of Music MERYC-England and RCM have collaborated through an EY arts scoping project culminated in a successful dissemination event at RCM in July 2019, bringing together professionals from museums, arts organisations, musicians, and educators. We hope the collaboration between RCM and MERYC-England can continue through future research planned for next year: 2021.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.4.1	<p>Fund raising activities in the form of conferences were postponed to 2021.</p> <p>The first (pilot) seminar in our Hear and Be Heard series raised £381.00. We aim to increase revenue through the seminar series in 2021, and are on course to do this, with 50 attendees booked on the second seminar in January.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.4.1	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of this period the Charity's bank account with the Co-operative Bank shows a balance of £5,324
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The policy to hold a reserve of £2,500 was reviewed in October 2020. It was decided to reduce reserves to £2000. This is regarded as an indication of prudent financial management against risk of activities failing to meet costs, and to ensure there is a balance in the account, when applying for grants.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

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 principal source of revenue is from delegate conference and seminar fees.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks are the capacity of individual trustees to continue the activities that generate funds. All are totally committed to the purposes and aims and the objectives. All are volunteers.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution

(trust deed, royal charter)		
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 representative of a range of practice and from different regions in England. A balance is maintained between researchers and practitioners, to ensure the charity's objectives are met, according to the constitution document.

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	All trustees are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the Constitution, with the Charity Commission guidelines for good governance and with the principles of the CGC. Principles are reviewed regularly in the light of current projects and activities.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	All Trustees act in a voluntary capacity, with expenses agreed in advance where applicable, eg for specific tasks relating to conference administration, representing MERYC on a range of bodies, eg Music Mark and Music Education Council. The Charity works in close partnership with the Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC), Birmingham. MERYC-England abides by and adheres to the same policies and procedures as CREC. All trustees have been DBS checked.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	MERYC-England relates regularly with the European MERYC network (Eunet-MERYC) to share, to learn from, and promote practice and research in early childhood music, through joint conferences and ongoing dialogue.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	MERYC-England
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1169504

Charity's principal address	Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC) St Thomas Children's Centre, Bell Barn Road, Attwood Green, Birmingham, West Midlands, B15 2AF Telephone: +44(0)121 464 0020

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	Dr Alison Street	Chair		
2	Linda Bance			
3	Margareta Burrell			
4	Prof Chris Pascall	Representing Centre for Research in Early Childhood (CREC)		
5	Dr Jessica Pitt			
6	Barbara Cavanagh,	Treasurer		
7	Stephen Grocott			
8	Zoe Greenhalgh	Honorary Trustee Director CME:EC	From March 2020	
9				
10				
11				
12				
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16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Director name		
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Finance	Sean Delaney	CREC (as above)

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Dr Alison M Street	
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**Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Chair MERYC-England	
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Date

26 Jan 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name MERYC-England	No (if any) 1169504
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01-Jan-20	To	Period end date 01-Jan-21
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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 £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Seminar programme Eventbrite	382		-	382	-
Donation	30	-	-	30	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	412	-	-	412	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	412	-	-	412	-
A3 Payments					
Seminar expenses	280	-	-	-	-
Awards for teachmeet	450	-	-	-	-
Trustee travel & subsistence	56	-	-	-	-
Sub total	786	-	-	786	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	786	-	-	786	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 374	-	-	- 374	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,698	-	-	5,698	
Cash funds this year end	5,324	-	-	5,324	

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	5,324	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

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

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Alison M Street	05-Oct-21