



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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 referenc e	
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. 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> <p><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></p> <p><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> <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	
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10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
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

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01-Jan-20

To

Period end date
01-Jan-21

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
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Alison M Street	Alison M Street	05-Oct-21