

Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	1	August	2022		31	July

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Gambia School Support		
Other names charity is known by	GSS		
Registered charity number (if any)	1176136		
Charity's principal address	Goulds House		
	Greatham		
	Hampshire		
	Postcode	GU33 6HA	

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	Jonathan Roderick Dale-Harris	Chairman		
2	Edward Peter Dale-Harris			
3	Robert Whitcombe	Treasurer		
4	Nicolas Stevenson	Secretary		
5	Timothy Lodge			
6	Nicola Kelly		3 Oct 2024	Apt by vote at AGM
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				

Names of trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

	Dates acted if not for whole year

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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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 27 November 2017
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by the members. They will retire at the next AGM but shall be eligible for re-election.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Gambia School Support (GSS) was registered by the UK Charity Commission on the 6 December 2017.

The money raised by GSS is paid into its Charities Aid Foundation Bank account in the UK and is transferred to the 'Gambia Schools Project' bank account held with the Trust Bank of The Gambia.

GSS's implementing partner in The Gambia is an organisation known as the 'Gambia Schools Project Charity' an organisation registered under the Companies Act 2013 – registration number 2024/C23843.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The relief of poverty, the preservation of health and advancement of education in The Gambia, West Africa, in particular but not exclusively by helping with nursery school provision by working with nursery schools, the local community, local government bodies and other charities to provide good education, sporting facilities, healthcare and nutritional supplements for the children.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

GSS's purpose is to make a substantial contribution to UN SDG 4.2 'that all children have access to quality early childhood education and care by 2030' and we measure the quality of the education provided through adopting the UN SDG 4.2.1 indicator, a method of assessing pre-primary age children.

GSS assists, not operates, community owned pre-primary schools. Today, we are supporting 13 schools with 1,837 pupils (age 2-7) and 71 teachers.

The schools, to receive GSS support, must adhere to best practices - 35 to a class, qualified teachers, proper safeguarding, attend our training programs, work with our coach/inspectors and demonstrate good accounting/administration/governance. They must charge fees, though 20% of places have to be free to pupils from hardship backgrounds or are disabled.

In return GSS maintains and supplies the schools, contributes c. 70% of salaries and provides food at 7 schools.

Over time, our intervention is designed to transform them into independent centres of excellence.

GSS works through a trusted implementing partner, the 'Good Schools Project Charity' (GSP). The GSP evolved from the original organisation we set up in 2019 and is now registered under the Gambian Companies Act (Aug 24). The GSP team is led by one of the foremost educators at ECD level (Early Child Development) in The Gambia.

Finally, as required by Section 17(5) of the Charities Act and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the Charity Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Detailed information can be found on the GSS website: gambiaschoolsupport.org

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

GSS's impact has grown rapidly, increasing the schools we assist from 2 to 13 since 2021. Twelve were at risk of failing and the other GSS founded in June 2021 with the Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education (MoBSE). Two schools have been added to our 'network' during this year.

To date, GSS has spent £130k on improving school infrastructure - £23k on the new school, £80k restoring 6 dilapidated schools and £27k improving 6 other schools. Now they all have good safe learning environments including bespoke Level 1 (age 3-4) classrooms – these are larger, tiled floors and mats etc.

A main area of focus is on improving the teaching. We support a bespoke 'Teacher & Training Development Program', recognised as being one of the best of its kind in the country. The program comprises an intensive course of workshops which all the teachers attend plus specialist workshops for the Head Teachers and Year 1 teachers. We back these up with a team of 3 coach/inspectors who visit each school monthly to provide 'on the job' coaching in the classroom. Progress has been measured since March 2023 with every teacher being appraised at the end of each term. The results have continued to be good this year contributing to the transformation in the capabilities of the teachers.

In the last year GSS has introduced a program of assessing the pupils through the adoption of the UN ECDI2030 tool. It is early days though soon we will be measuring the impact our intervention is making through comparing pupil attainment with the UNICEF 'norm'.

The key to a project of this nature is finding good people and we have been working with an exceptionally capable 'implementing partner' organisation. In the past year this has been formalised through the setting up of a Gambian registered charity 'Good Schools Project Charity' (GSP). Its executive comprises a team of tried and tested locals. Its General Secretary is one of the most experienced and well-respected Early Child Development (ECD) educators in The Gambia, exemplified by the fact that MoBSE brings him in to help draft the new ECD curriculum and that he is invited regularly by Gambia College as a guest speaker to lecture on ECD best practice. He has Masters Degrees in Education and Public Administration and worked for MoBSE for 18 years (8 as Head Master).

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

GSS reserves policy is reviewed by its trustees every 12 months. After scrutinising its detailed income and expenditure forecast in Oct 2024, the trustees decided to hold a reserve of £100,000.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Fundraising activities

GSS's income is well diversified with support from a range of organisations including Charitable Trust, Corporate Benevolent Funds, Foundations both UK and overseas, City of London Livery companies and Church benevolent funds.

About 15% of its income from monthly donations and 10% from one-off donations from private individuals.

Several of GSS's supporters have made multi-year awards giving us a predictable cash flow with which to plan the development of the HSS project.

Section F**Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Jonathan Roderick Dale-Harris	

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	
Date		

Gambia School Support

1176136

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/08/2024

To

Period end date
31/07/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	143,109	-	-	143,109	92,367
Gift aid	9,568	-	-	9,568	7,631
Interest	4,321	-	-	4,321	1,326
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	156,998	-	-	156,998	101,324
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	156,998	-	-	156,998	101,324
A3 Payments					
Good Schools Project Charity	125,500	-	-	125,500	90,000
Bank charges	66	-	-	66	66
Travel expenses - Trustees	5,277	-	-	5,277	3,683
Other	694	-	-	694	967
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	131,537	-	-	131,537	94,716
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	131,537	-	-	131,537	94,716
Net of receipts/(payments)	25,461	-	-	25,461	6,608
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	121,085	-	-	121,085	117,814
Cash funds this year end	146,546	-	-	146,546	121,085

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	Bank account	146,546	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	146,546	-	-
	(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	



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Gambia School Support

On accounts for the year
ended

31 July 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1176136

Set out on pages

1 to 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/07/2025**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

27/10/25

Name:

James Robbins

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACCA

Address:

The Old Post Office, High Street, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire RG27 8NZ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).