

**CHESTER SCHOOLS  
CHRISTIAN WORK CIO**

**Registered Charity No. 1177175**

**Annual Report  
&  
Financial Statements  
For the year ended  
31st August 2025**

**CHESTER SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORK CIO**  
Registered Charity No. 1177175

**Contents of Annual Report & Financial Statements**  
**For the period ended 31st August 2025**

---

<b><u>CONTENTS</u></b>	<b>Page</b>
Charity information	2
Trustees annual report	3
Receipts and payments account	9
Independent Examiners Report	12

## **CHESTER SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORK CIO**

### **Charity information**

**For the year ended 31st August 2025**

---

<b>Charity Number</b>	<b>1177175</b>
<b>Working Names</b>	<b>Chester Schools Christian Work CSCW</b>
<b>Governing instrument:</b>	<b>Constitution registered by the Charity Commission 5th February 2018</b>
<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Su Chester Philip Goss Lucy Metcalfe Simon Kaye</b>
<b>Principal Address</b>	<b>Vicars Cross United Reformed Church Oldfield Drive Vicars Cross Chester CH3 5LL</b>
<b>Bankers</b>	<b>Bank of Scotland 33 Old Broad Street London Branch, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB</b>  <b>Kingdom Bank Media House Padge Road Beeston NOTTINGHAM NG9 2RS</b>
<b>Independent Examiners</b>	<b>G. Mattocks FCA, 18 Mulberry Avenue, Turnstone Business Park, WIDNES, WA8 0WN</b>

**CHESTER SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN WORK CIO**  
**Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st August 2025**

The Trustees submit their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31st August 2025.

**General information**

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation, governed by a constitution registered by the Charity Commission on 5th February 2018.

The first trustees were appointed by the constitution. Subsequent appointments are made by the trustees. They serve for an indefinite period.

By an order of the Charity Commission dated 27th June 2018 the Chester Schools Christian Work Trust Charity Registration number 1041454 was authorised to transfer its assets to the CIO. On 1st September 2018 all the assets of the Chester Schools Christian Work Trust were vested in this charity. The charity is carrying on the work formerly done by the trust from 1st September 2018.

**Objects of the charity as laid down by the Constitution**

To advance the Christian religion in accordance with the Statement of Beliefs appearing in the Schedule to the constitution and in particular in the city of Chester and the surrounding area and primarily amongst children and young people in the schools and other educational establishments in the said area.

This has been achieved by raising money to support Christian workers to go into schools.

**Team Leader & High Schools Work Update**

Another fantastic academic year which saw us mark 30 years of success as an organisation in serving children and young people in local school communities. A great evening of celebration marking a significant milestone.

We have benefited massively from the new team members embedding and flourishing into their roles and throughout the year we have delivered many ongoing projects as well as reestablishing and developing new projects in other schools. We have continued to facilitate young people to develop resilience, being encouraged to thrive and achieving incredible success in many areas. Over the year we have continued to support schools as an Independent Listener/mentor, been a resource and lead for Christian Unions and helped run Prayer and Reflection Spaces. We continue to deliver engaging and appropriate healthy relationship and sex education through the RSE curriculum, delivered engaging and age appropriate assemblies, facilitated several rounds of the Kintsugi Hope Mental Wellbeing Group and been a key lead in city-wide youth events. We have also delivered mentoring to individuals or small groups. The partnership with the local Children, Young People and Families Alliance continues to develop and we have been able to contribute to a key part of local research into potential changes to local youth SEND service delivery. The Kintsugi Hope groups have continued throughout the year to over 350 students across 2 high schools and we continued to seek to deliver this much needed support in the most impactful way. We are delighted to see the work continue to develop close links with school pastoral support and act as a signpost to other school support and further mental health support.

The development and support of Christian Unions and lunchtime safe spaces continues to be an important need with a weekly space offering a safe space to discuss and explore faith as well as find support for day to day life. Our aim continues to be to respond to the needs of young people and offer these spaces throughout Chester schools.

Prayer and Reflection spaces were delivered to 200 pupils across 8 sessions, utilising our new Silent Disco equipment for an immersive Reflection activity. The overall feedback from all Reflection spaces is extremely positive including those from the Christian faith, other faiths and no faith.

We delivered RSE lessons to support the PSHE curriculum to over 1000 students from Year 7 – Year 11. The feedback from students and staff is extremely positive with monitoring showing a high increase in learners understanding core objectives of the lesson.

Delivery of assemblies at Christmas were well received by staff and pupils alike with a view to deliver more throughout the year.

The city-wide youth events continue to bring young people from different schools and congregations together to equip and encourage young people in their faith. Darren continues to partner with Chester youthworkers to lead the monthly network meeting and the monthly youth event, “YthX”, as well as contributing to city-wide, mission-focused events and a joint youth weekend away. City-wide youth events are planned for the coming year (including a youth weekend away in October) and we are continuing to explore after school drop-in cafes with church partners. We have also seen an increase in volunteers from partner churches with a need to provide sufficient training. As such, we have delivered the Youthscape Essential training and will repeat that training with a new cohort this coming academic year.

We are seeking to continue to support those most in need through partnership with schools and doing all we can to Inspire HOPE and Unlock POTENTIAL in the lives of our amazing young people in Chester.

There is a continued need to focus on developing, training and equipping new volunteers as the demands continue to grow so are excited about the Youthscape Essentials youthwork training. We are looking forward to continuing to serve and support pupils, staff and whole school communities, through promoting the personal and spiritual wellbeing of children and young people in Chester in a variety of ways.

---

#### **Schools Worker - Annual Update:**

This year has been such a joy and a real encouragement across all areas of our work. From creative projects and mentoring to ethos groups, prayer spaces, and lunch clubs, it has been amazing to see young people engaging so openly with faith, questions, and community. Each opportunity has reminded us of the privilege it is to walk alongside schools and pupils in these ways. It is only possible because of the team we have, the openness of schools, amazing volunteers and supporters and the Grace of God.

#### **Create:**

Create is our faith through theatre group, meeting weekly at Bishop’s High School. It has been such a joy to see this group meet and grow throughout the year, becoming a safe and welcoming space where young people can chat openly, ask questions, and explore faith together.

This year we have spent time thinking about topics such as Joy and How to Be Inspired, with plenty of laughter and great conversations along the way. We’re now busy working on our latest project, The Great Christmas Adventure, which will help bring the Christmas story to life for our local primary schools.

What makes Create so great is the young people themselves. Their ideas, questions, and creativity continue to lead the way, and it has been a real privilege to journey alongside them this year.

Throughout this year our numbers have fluctuated between 5-9 young people attending.

#### **Ethos Groups:**

Our Ethos Groups have continued to thrive this year, meeting regularly in both Eccleston and Dodleston Schools, with twelve children taking part in each group. It has been such a joy to spend time with these pupils as they explore what faith looks like in their school communities. Over the past year, we've looked closely at each school's vision, created prayer spaces, prepared collective worships, and even helped to write a brand-new school prayer at Dodleston. These sessions have provided a wonderful opportunity for open and thoughtful faith conversations, where children aren't afraid to wrestle with big questions or challenge ideas as they discover what they believe together.

It's also been a great way to build relationships with the staff in both schools, offering encouragement and support as we look for small but meaningful ways to bring faith into every classroom.

One highlight from this year has been seeing the CreateKids group working with the Dodleston Ethos group to help plan and prepare a collective worship on fruits of the spirit.

Another highlight was working with Andy and Darren to bring Experience Easter to Dodleston Primary. We also piloted a very successful Christmas Journey event and will look to multiply this out to additional schools next academic year.

#### **Mentoring:**

This year began with mentoring just two girls, but we are planning to increase that in the autumn term to include mentoring of eight Year 11 pupils at Bishop's High. It has been a real joy to be invited to walk alongside these young people during such an important and often pressured stage of their lives.

Every other week we meet for half an hour — often over a hot chocolate — to talk about life, stress, anxiety, exams, and the future. Sometimes it's about managing busy minds, and other times it's simply about creating space to pause and breathe. These sessions have become a safe place for honesty and encouragement, where the focus is always on helping each pupil find perspective and confidence in who they are.

The feedback from school has already been really positive, and it's been encouraging to see how valuable this time is for the students as they continue to grow.

#### **Prayer Spaces:**

This year's Prayer Spaces for Year 7 have been such a special part of our time in schools. These days have offered pupils an opportunity to step away from busy school life and to pause, reflect, and take a breath. It's been wonderful to see how quickly they settle into the calm of the space and how open they are to engaging with the different activities.

One of the real highlights has been getting the chance to chat with the students as they explore their thoughts and questions about faith, life, and the world around them. At the end of each day, we've gathered up their prayer requests and taken time to pray through them together — something that always feels both humbling and hopeful.

Perhaps most encouraging of all has been seeing just how many of the pupils choose to engage in prayer for themselves, in a way that works for them. It is also always a joy to work alongside the youth workers who give of their time to come and support these days.

#### **Lunch Clubs:**

Our lunch clubs 'Pulse' at Bishops High School have continued to be a safe and fun space for young people to gather, chat, and unwind in the middle of a busy school day. Each week we have a "big question," which often leads to thoughtful, funny, and sometimes deeply honest conversations about life and faith. It has also been a space where we can gently signpost pupils who might need a little extra support or someone to talk to.

One of the real encouragements this year has been a group of Year 10 pupils who, after ageing out of the original lunch clubs, were keen for us to set up a new Year 10+ group. Their enthusiasm for it to continue was great to see and we enjoy meeting with them each week.

#### **Other school opportunities:**

We are so looking forward to hosting The Great Christmas Adventure this December, an immersive school's event that will help bring the Christmas story to life through creativity and storytelling. Preparations are well underway, and it has been a real joy to see everything coming together.

This year, we are delighted to be working with a wide range of schools, including some new ones who are joining us for the first time. Building these new connections and strengthening existing partnerships is such a valuable part of what we do, and it's been encouraging to see so much enthusiasm and support from schools.

We are also incredibly grateful for our fantastic team of volunteers who are giving their time and energy to help make this event possible. Their creativity, commitment, and willingness to serve are what bring events like this to life. Our partnership with Wesley Methodist Church has also been a real blessing – their generosity in opening up their space and supporting the project so wholeheartedly has made all the difference.

The Primary Schools work continues to thrive at CSCW. We are now leading Collective Worship in 12 schools either weekly or monthly including two new ones we started during the last academic year and are now fully established in them. We see approximately 1000 pupils on a weekly basis and a similar amount on a monthly basis. We visit a range of schools from C of E schools, Local Authority Schools, 2 Free Schools and 1 Independent School. Andy also continues to support other teams from churches around the city who do similar work. It's been encouraging to have 2 new volunteers help us during the academic year as they are keen to support the work we do as they really see the value in it.

We've run more Prayer Spaces in the last year than we have ever done, both Prayer Space Days in school, and also resourcing a permanent Space in one of the schools that we change each half term to reflect the school's theme for Worship that half term. We also got to lead a Prayer Space like session as part of a school's Awe and Wonder week where we visited each class in turn. We have many sessions booked in for the coming year including one in a school we haven't led one in before. As with previous years, the feedback from both staff and pupils is very positive and encouraging.

The Moving On project (a transition lesson for Year 6s to support the move to High School) ran in 23 schools with just under 1000 books given out. Feedback from the year 6s showed that over 90% felt more confident about the move to High School after the lesson. As with the previous year, we supported two local High Schools with their Year 7 Summer School, both leading sessions, or providing extra manpower to support what the school were doing. Staff and pupils were very positive about our input with a significant number of pupils saying how relaxed they felt when they knew Andy or someone else from CSCW was going to be there. A few parents Andy knew also said how pleased they were to hear that CSCW worked in the High School as they knew there would be a face their Year 7 could trust at the new school.

**Investment Policy**

The charity's policy is to deposit surplus funds with the Kingdom Bank to seek a reasonable interest rate.

**Fund raising**

The charity relies on donations from individuals, church organisations and other charitable trusts.

**Restricted Funds**

Funds were held by the charity for eight restricted purposes:- Primary work, purchase of "Its Your Move" booklets, prayer spaces, CU Bibles, essential equipment, projects and Kintsugi and Summer Schools. These are accounted for through the relevant Restricted Funds.

**Reserves**

During the year the unrestricted 'General Fund' reserves of the charity decreased from £36,038 to £26,518.

The Trustees acknowledge that the charity has experienced financial difficulties during the year, resulting in uncertainty regarding its position as an ongoing concern. In response, the Trustees have conducted a vigorous review of the charity's financial performance over the reporting year, as well as reviewing cash flow forecasts for the upcoming financial year.

Based on this evaluation, the Trustees remain satisfied that the charity retains its viability to continue operating. Since the year end, the Trustees have implemented measures to improve the charity's financial position, including monthly financial reviews, strengthened financial oversight, active fundraising efforts, and the developments of additional income streams. The charity's financial performance over the seven months to date has shown stable results, and the Trustees remain committed to monitoring cash flow and taking all necessary actions to secure the charity's long-term sustainability. Since the new financial year, the charity has seen an increase in regular giving plus a one off gift of £11,160.22.

**Redundancy**

In order to give some indication of the Trust's liability for statutory redundancy if it ever became necessary we calculated that if every member of staff who continued employment after 31st August 2024 had been made redundant by the Trust on 31st August 2024 the charity's liability for statutory redundancy would have been - £11,107.

**Governance and internal control**

Responsibility for day to day running lies with the Team Leader who works within budget constraints set by the Trustees to meet the policy objectives agreed at the Trustees' meetings, and who is accountable to the Trustees. The Team Leader and his team are the major generators of future vision and direction, with the Trustees ensuring that the Trust's activities are both in agreement with its objectives and are achievable.

Trustees are selected by the other members of the Trustee board. The Trustees will meet periodically in the year to review strategy, performance, operating plans, budgets and ministry matters.

**Safeguarding**

The charity has a safeguarding policy which is reviewed annually.



**Volunteers**

The charity is hoping both for the continuing commitment of its individual volunteers, and also that local churches will continue to allow their Youth/Children's workers to be involved in the delivery of CSCW activities free of charge. Without them our activities would be much reduced.

**Public benefit**

The trustees have acted according to, and in line with, the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit (including the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion) in planning the future activities of the charity.

**Serious incidents**

There were no serious incidents relating to the charity during the previous year that the Trustees neglected to inform the Charity Commission.


This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on ..... 11/6/2026 .....

Signed ..... (trustee)

Printed name ..... PHILIP GOSI .....

Signed ..... (trustee)

Printed name ..... SUZANNE CHESTER .....

	Chester Schools Christian Work CIO		1177175		CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	1st September	To	31st August	
		2024		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					
Gifts and donations from Churches	15,422	2,545	-	17,967	17,358
Gifts and donations from individuals	15,302	1,170	-	16,472	18,678
Other grants and legacies	15,700	14,985	-	30,685	19,250
Tax repayments	1,942	98	-	2,040	4,672
Fundraising events	1,644	-	-	1,644	2,813
Other events	1,284	-	-	1,284	513
Moving on donations	-	1,387	-	1,387	719
Sundry income	72	-	-	72	50
Bank interest	820	-	-	820	795
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	52,184	20,185	-	72,369	64,848
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	52,184	20,185	-	72,369	64,848
A3 Payments					
Salaries and pension	54,140	12,707	-	66,847	58,907
Other staff expenses and costs	1,454	-	-	1,454	827
Office costs	3,239	-	-	3,239	3,008
Project expenses	-	925	-	925	697
Moving on	-	1,385	-	1,385	89
Project expenses RSE	-	52	-	52	143
Events	1,494	-	-	1,494	270
Training	346	-	-	346	380
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	10
Other - equipment	-	3,000	-	3,000	-
School pastors	-	-	-	-	820
Insurance	516	-	-	516	-
Safeguarding	71	-	-	71	25
Refreshments dinners and hospitality	9	-	-	9	-
Accounts examination	330	-	-	330	300
Miscellaneous	106	-	-	106	130
Sub total	61,704	18,069	-	79,773	65,606
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	61,704	18,069	-	79,773	65,606
Net of receipts/(payments)	(9,521)	2,116	0	(7,404)	(758)
A5 Transfers between funds				-	
A6 Cash funds last year end	36,038	748	0	36,786	37,544
Cash funds this year end	26,518	2,864	-	29,382	36,786
		9			

## 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 £	
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank of Scotland No1 Current a/c	584	-	-	
	Bank of Scotland No2 Current a/c	630	-	-	
	Business Bank Instant	8,424	2,864	-	
	Kingdom Bank	Church and Charity Reserve	16,731	-	-
	Cash and cheques		149	-	-
		<b>26,518</b>	<b>2,864</b>	<b>-</b>	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £	
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-	
		-	-	-	
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
			-	-	
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)	
			-	-	
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	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		
	<i>Lucy Metcalfe</i>	LUCY METCALFE	23/03/2026		
	<i>Suzanne Chester</i>	SUZANNE CHESTER	23/03/2026		

[illegible]





## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of The Chester Schools Christian Work CIO

On accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025 Charity no 1177175

Set out on pages 9 - 11

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true

and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement** In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below \*)~~

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: 

Date: 4/6/26.

Name: GILES MATTHEWS.

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body : FCA .  
(CAEW)

Address: 18 Mulberry Avenue,  
Turnstone Business Park  
WIDNES, WA8 0WN

## Section B

## Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.