

Sevington Victorian School
Trustees' Annual Report
for the period 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025

Charity Name: Sevington Victorian School

Charity Registration Number: 1178337

Objectives and Activities

The purposes of the Charity are twofold: to provide an authentic experience of Victorian school life for children and adults and to conserve the heritage of the Sevington School buildings and gardens for present and future generations to experience and enjoy.

The first of these aims is delivered through a programme of visits for primary school and adult groups, as well as open events for the general public. The second is managed by the Trustees who plan and supervise a programme of repair and maintenance.

Visits, both by children and adults, are conducted on a non-profit-making basis and the Trustees understand and have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

School Bookings

This was another positive year for school bookings, particularly in these difficult financial times for schools. We were concerned about the possible impact of raising our daily booking charge from September 2024 in order to cover our own overheads, but we were pleased to see that there were more bookings this year than in the previous year.

In the Autumn Term 2024, 41 days were booked by 26 schools. In the Spring Term 2025, 30 days were booked by 22 schools, and in the Summer Term 23 days were booked by 16 schools. This total of 94 days booked by 64 schools shows a slight increase on the bookings for 2023-2024 (89 days and 61 schools). A significant number of schools (23) booked two, three or, in one case, four days in order to bring different classes or year groups to the School.

Of the 94 days booked, 64 were for Key Stage 2 classes, 28 were for Key Stage 1 classes and 2 were for mixed Key Stage groups. The ratio of Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 1 classes shows a small increase on last year's figures. 55 of the visiting schools were state schools and 9 were independent schools.

This year we welcomed schools from all over Wiltshire as well as from Bristol, Bath, Somerset and Gloucestershire. We were particularly pleased to host a group of children from a specialist school for the deaf in Berkshire. Sadly, a small number of schools had to cancel a planned visit as they were unable to cover the increased coach costs, and this is undoubtedly still an issue.

Sue Dann, our Bookings Secretary for many years, retired from the role at the end of the Spring Term and we would like to record our appreciation for the systems she put in place, her efficiency and the many hours she put in to ensure things ran so smoothly. We are pleased to welcome Anita Morrin, who took on the role of Bookings Secretary at the beginning of the Summer Term. She has quickly established good relationships with teachers and schools and is adept at managing the sometimes complex requirements of the booking process.

The Teaching Team and School Visits: Report by the Teaching Team Leader

We have had a successful year. Our Teaching Team of Julia Stacey, Nikki Wright, Sylvia Townsend, Alison Parker, Jenny Jones, Tes Leatherhead and myself has shown great commitment and enabled the school visits to run smoothly. We have catered for a variety of abilities, including those with severe needs, ensuring that all pupils felt comfortable and welcomed.

Many schools came for return visits or had been recommended to come by other schools. We have had a few new schools visiting for the first time after researching on the internet. During the year we have supported Sunday Open Days and a Farm Visit, when groups of parents, carers and excited young people arrived on tractors ready for a 'Sevington Experience'.

One Saturday when the school 'Privy' was being repaired, a group of three elderly cyclists stopped at the school to ask if it was open. I explained that it was closed but after showing them inside they were entranced and made a £30 cash donation to the school.

We acknowledged VJ day, when we had a school visiting, with a short march using our beautiful Union Jack flag.

Following her retirement from this role, I would like formally to acknowledge the valuable work Sue Dann has done during her time as Bookings Secretary. Anita Morrin has generously agreed to be our new Bookings Secretary and is already coping with schools' requests to visit Sevington.

The Trustees have been instrumental in purchasing two wonderful new garden benches, greatly improved taps for the toilet washing area and more effective Schoolroom heaters. We are grateful for Tim Cradock's support when day-to-day emergency repairs were needed with

plumbing and other minor issues - and particularly for supervising the purchase and installation of the new heaters.

Lastly, I would like to add my thanks to our Teaching Team for their flexibility and professionalism. This summer two new people have expressed an interest in joining our Teaching Team.

Jennifer Adams, Teaching Team Leader

The Trustees would like to thank Jennifer Adams for her work as Teaching Team Leader and for the above report. We also thank all members of the teaching team for their continued dedicated and inspiring work.

Adult visits

Dinah Starkey, our Adult Group Coordinator, retired from the role in February 2025. For many years Dinah has both organised and delivered very successful visits for groups from organisations such as the U3A, Rotary Club, WI and care homes, allowing access to the School for many who might not otherwise have been able to come. We are indebted to Dinah and her helpers for the time and hard work they put into these visits.

Going forward, we are keen to continue this programme of adult visits. Two Trustees will take care of each visit and requests for specific dates will be met wherever possible. Visits are always tailored to the requirements of each group. This year we have had only three general enquiries about visits and one visit from six adults and four children in May which was very successful.

Open Days

Our Summer Sunday openings to the public took place this year in May, June and September. The weather was not always kind to us, as the June opening fell on an unusually hot day and the September opening, as part of Heritage Open Days, suffered from unremitting rain and high winds. Nevertheless, more than 200 visitors in total came to enjoy the buildings, the history of the School, the Schoolroom lessons, the afternoon teas and the additional attractions of a penny farthing bicycle and Victorian lace making.

In addition, in August the School hosted around 70 visitors as part of a charitable event organised by a local farmer to give foster families and carers a fun day in the countryside. This event has taken place over many years and is a link with the local community which we value highly.

The Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers who helped at our openings this year and made them such informative and enjoyable events.

Promotion of the School

One of our objectives this year was to increase promotion of the School. As well as using our website and Facebook page, we were fortunate to be invited to take advantage of the services of GivingPrint, the charitable arm of the Wiltshire Print Group in Melksham, which offers free printing of promotional materials to charities. In January they printed 1,000 flyers and 50 posters for us, allowing us to promote events and the School in general much more widely over the next few years.

Sue McDine who, together with her husband Roy, made a photographic record of our 175-year anniversary celebration at the School, included the photos as part of a display of her work at Trowbridge Museum. The Museum offered us the opportunity to promote the school as part of the exhibition, which we did with a rolling Powerpoint and a display cabinet with a collection of artefacts from the School. The exhibition ran from the beginning of February to the end of April and visitor numbers were good throughout. When it finished, Sue kindly presented the photos to the School so that they can be used in future displays.

Our Summer Sunday openings were well publicised via visiting schools, local magazines, information offices, local websites and WhatsApp groups. In addition, our Heritage Open Day was mentioned in the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald and Trustees took part in three radio interviews about our work and openings, two on Radio Wiltshire and one on Radio Bristol.

We are always keen to forge links with the local community and were pleased to donate a raffle prize of Victorian toys and other items to the Yatton Keynell Pre School as part of their fundraising drive. In return, they promoted our school on their Facebook page.

Maintenance of buildings and garden

Thankfully, only running repairs to the buildings have been necessary this year.

In the summer we noticed that the wooden support for our outside Privy had rotted and collapsed. This is a great attraction for visitors, and we were grateful for the skilled repair carried out on a voluntary basis by Charles Adams.

Our gardens continue to look attractive at all times of the year, and the end of summer showed that we were expecting a huge crop of fruit this year from our apple and quince trees. We have continued to make a feature of the garden for open events and information about the different Victorian plants always attracts a lot of interest. This year we purchased two Ascot teak 3-seater garden benches to allow more outside seating, and they have already been very well used.

The Trustees would like to thank our gardener, Liz Taylor, for her hard work and her dedication to maintaining our garden as it would have been in Victorian times.

Heating project

In August we completed the first phase of our project to improve the cost-effectiveness and appearance of the School's heating. After much research, the outdated radiant heaters in the Schoolroom were replaced with four infrared radiant heaters. These heaters are both less obtrusive than the old ones and more efficient, being fitted with electronic timers.

We plan to complete the second phase of our heating project during the school year 2025-26 by replacing the storage heaters in the parlour and kitchen. We will be looking to apply for funding for this phase.

Solar Farm at Leigh Delamere

During this school year we had expected to be dealing with the construction of the Solar Farm at Leigh Delamere, which will inevitably cause some disruption to the School. In preparation, Trustees and teachers from the School held a meeting in October with Eden Renewables, attended by their PR and Community Engagement representative, their Planning Manager and a representative from Earth Energy Education. The meeting was positive, and Eden Renewables committed to close communications with the School during the construction period.

Eden Renewables is planning to establish a community benefit fund for the lifetime of the Solar Farm and once the Solar Farm is up and running, Sevington School would be eligible to apply for money from this fund for any project delivering social and environmental benefit to the community. The education arm of Eden Renewables would also be keen to work with the School in the future on any project which might be of benefit to visiting groups.

The construction of the Leigh Delamere Solar Farm has since been delayed once again and is now scheduled for late 2026.

The School has also been contacted by Island Green Power in connection with the proposed Lime Down Solar Park about the possibility of laying underground cables on land in Sevington to which the School has right of access. Island Green Power is currently awaiting approval of their application for the Solar Park from the Planning Inspectorate.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Sevington Victorian School Charity is an Association Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). During 2024-25 it had a membership of 44 Friends who support the Charity and have voting rights. The Charity has a constitution as its governing document.

The Charity was managed in 2024-25 by six Trustees. The Trustees operate as a close-knit group, with individual Trustees having different areas of responsibility. A Treasurer and a Secretary have been appointed from among the Trustees.

Trustee meetings are held bi-monthly or more often if required. The meetings are also attended by the Teaching Team Leader and minutes are circulated to all members of the

Teaching Team and to the Bookings Secretary. The Trustees appreciated the contribution made this year by John Surowiec, attending meetings where relevant in an advisory capacity.

The Trustees welcome approaches from parties interested in joining the group. New Trustees are generally selected by personal recommendation and are often people who already have some association with the Charity; their appointment is approved by the members.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: Sevington Victorian School

Registered charity number: 1178337

Charity's address:

Sevington Victorian School

Sevington

Chippenham

Wiltshire

SN14 7LD

Names of the Charity's trustees:

Tim Cradock

Jenny Jones

Karen McCormack (Treasurer)

Isobel Moore (Secretary)

Lesley Palmer

Sylvia Townsend

Declaration:

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signature: *J. Moore*

Full name: Isobel Moore

Position: Secretary

Date: 7.10.2025

Sevington Victorian School

Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year 2024/2025

Income and Expenditure Statement

We invested in a new accounting on line package last year, Xero. We are able to now compare 23/24 to 24/25 with more accuracy.

I continue to have regular meetings with the accountants to ensure we are maximising use of the system. This is at no cost to Sevington.

Income

In the school year 23/24 we hosted 89 school days, in the school year 24/25 we hosted 94 school days.

We have also received several donations which include Park Farm, and we have enjoyed some successful open days which have brought in further funds thanks to the Trustees and volunteers.

Expenditure

Increase in expenditure includes building maintenance work which has been carried out. We have made improvements in the heating, and we have carried out repair work in the toilets.

The cost of garden and lawn maintenance and cleaning continue to be a sizeable proportion of our expenditure, as well as the cost of energy. We have also replaced the landline with a more cost-effective mobile.

Balance sheet

At the end of the financial year the charity had a cash balance of £34,508.35 which includes a ring-fenced amount of £10,000 for Building Repair and Maintenance.

We have agreed to increase our cost per school day wef 1 January 2026 to £325 to help fill the shortfall between income and expenditure.

Karen McCormack

Treasurer

Sept 2025

Report to the members of:

Sevington Victorian School

On accounts for the year ended:

31 August 2025

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Treasurer as appointed by Sevington Victorian School is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity consider that full in depth audit is not required for this year and that a thorough independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts.
- confirm that the figures present a true and fair view of the position.
- 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 Sevington Victorian School and Accountancy bodies. 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 Treasurer 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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with regular Accounting procedures.
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the necessary accounting requirements of the Sevington Victorian School.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.
3. which would give rise to any concern in relation the full disclosure of all financial matters in relation to the Sevington Victorian School.

Signed:

K Gooding

Date:

09/10/2025

Name:

Katy Gooding

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body:

ICAEW

Address:

Gooding Accounts Ltd

Holloway House, Epsom Square, Trowbridge

Wiltshire BA14 0XG

Cash Summary

Sevington Victorian School For the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025	2024	VARIANCE
Income			
Charity Donations	350	2,500	-86% ↓
Donations	270	511	-47% ↓
Other Revenue	753	286	164% ↑
Shop	-	773	-100% ↓
Sub's Cash Deposit	-	170	-100% ↓
Subs direct payment	555	275	102% ↑
Victorian School Day	27,900	20,110	39% ↑
Total Income	29,828	24,625	21%
Less Expenses			
Audit & Accountancy fees	240	-	- —
Booking Sec Services	1,500	1,400	7% ↑
Gardener Services	1,171	1,577	-26% ↓
Housekeeping	951	1,235	-23% ↓
Insurance	5,612	3,377	66% ↑
IT Software and Consumables	371	374	-1% ↓
Light, Power, Heating	1,791	783	129% ↑
Office Equipment Expenses	-	174	-100% ↓
Other Expenses	184	160	15% ↑
Postage, Freight & Courier	19	-	- —
Publication	-	264	-100% ↓
Rates	300	262	14% ↑
Repairs & Maintenance	1,419	718	98% ↑
Staff Training	-	240	-100% ↓
Teaching Resources	553	1,218	-55% ↓
Teaching Team	16,490	15,400	7% ↑
Telephone & Internet	812	573	42% ↑
Website Design & Maintenance services	315	280	13% ↑
Total Expenses	31,729	28,036	13%

	2025	2024	VARIANCE
Surplus (Deficit)	(1,901)	(3,411)	44%
Net Cash Movement	(1,901)	(3,411)	44%
Summary			
Opening Balance	36,409	39,820	-9%
Plus Net Cash Movement	(1,901)	(3,411)	44% 
Cash Balance	34,508	36,409	-5%

Profit and Loss

Sevington Victorian School For the year ended 31 August 2025 Cash Basis

	2025	2024
Trading Income		
Other Revenue	753.25	285.70
Shop	-	772.90
Sub's Cash Deposit	-	170.00
Subs direct payment	555.00	275.00
Victorian School Day	27,900.00	20,110.00
Total Trading Income	29,208.25	21,613.60
Gross Profit	29,208.25	21,613.60
Other Income		
Charity Donations	350.00	2,500.00
Donations	270.00	511.00
Total Other Income	620.00	3,011.00
Operating Expenses		
Audit & Accountancy fees	240.00	-
Booking Sec Services	1,500.00	1,400.00
Gardener Services	1,171.24	1,577.49
Housekeeping	950.71	1,234.92
Insurance	5,611.72	3,376.95
IT Software and Consumables	371.40	374.00
Light, Power, Heating	1,791.26	782.97
Office Equipment Expenses	-	174.00
Other Expenses	184.10	160.00
Postage, Freight & Courier	18.95	-
Publication	-	264.00
Rates	300.17	262.17
Repairs & Maintenance	1,419.31	717.59
Staff Training	-	240.00
Teaching Resources	552.88	1,218.47
Teaching Team	16,490.00	15,400.00
Telephone & Internet	812.39	573.13
Website Design & Maintenance services	315.00	280.00
Total Operating Expenses	31,729.13	28,035.69
Net Profit	(1,900.88)	(3,411.09)

Balance Sheet

Sevington Victorian School

As at 31 August 2025

Cash Basis

	31 AUG 2025	31 AUG 2024
Assets		
Bank		
SEVINGTON VICTORIAN SCHOOL	34,508.35	36,409.23
Total Bank	34,508.35	36,409.23
Total Assets	34,508.35	36,409.23
Net Assets		
	34,508.35	36,409.23
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(1,900.88)	(3,411.09)
Retained Earnings	36,409.23	39,820.32
Total Equity	34,508.35	36,409.23

Sevington Victorian School

Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year 2024/2025

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trustees and examiner**

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Date:

09/10/2025

Name:

Katy Gooding

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Balance Sheet

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