

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

England & Wales · Charity number 1185409

Details

Other names	BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS CIC
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2019-09-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	37 Southdean Gardens London Southfields London
Phone	07808587606
Email	alison@bookclubsinschools.org
Website	www.bookclubsinschools.org

Activities

Objects: To advance the education of children and young people in the UK for the public benefit, giving priority to those pupils who are affected by social and economic disadvantage, by the encouragement of reading and the promotion of literacy skills through the provision of book clubs and related literacy activities.

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Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£92,601	£86,105	-	-
2024-08-31	£65,650	£60,705	-	-
2023-08-31	£54,890	£58,867	-	-
2022-08-31	£59,218	£51,498	-	-
2021-08-31	£42,389	£36,898	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Beth Ginsburg	Chair	2022-10-04
ALISON JANE LAMBERT		2020-06-24
Richard John Parkin		2020-06-24
Tony Smith		2019-09-12
Victoria Gray		2019-09-12

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1185409

Accounts

Company Number: CE018909

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS
Charity Number 1185409
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Income And Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Income	92,601	65,650
Cost of Sales	(86,105)	(60,705)
Gross Profit	6,496	4,945
Less: Administrative Expenses	(4,662)	(4,841)
Surplus on ordinary activities before interest and other income	1,834	104
Interest Receivable	423	-
Less: Interest Payable	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities before tax	2,257	104
Tax	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after tax	2,257	104

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2025

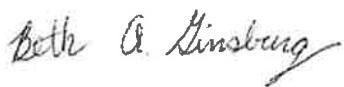
	Notes	£	2025 £	£	2024 £
Current Assets					
Debtors	2	83		4,027	
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>50,040</u>		<u>25,749</u>	
		50,123		29,776	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	3	<u>(45,218)</u>		<u>(27,128)</u>	
Net Current assets			4,905		2,648
Reserves					
Retained Reserves			<u>4,905</u>		<u>2,648</u>
			<u>4,905</u>		<u>2,648</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the financial year ending 31st August 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial period is in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 11/03/2026 and signed on its behalf.



TRUSTEE



TRUSTEE

The notes on page 4 form part of these financial statements.

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Notes To The Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with the applicable Accounting Standards.

3. Debtors : amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	-	3,253
Prepayments	-	774
Other Debtors	83	-
	83	4,027

2. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Creditors	968	210
Social Security and other taxes	-	38
Amounts received in advance	44,250	26,880
	45,218	27,128

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Book Clubs in Schools, Charity number 1185409.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Book Clubs in Schools (the Charity) for the year ending 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

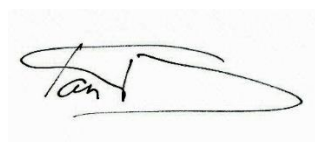
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning of the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Ian Tackley
Fellow of Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
34 Southdean Gardens
London SW19 6NU

16th March 2026

Book Clubs in Schools

A decade of difference



BOOK CLUBS

IN SCHOOLS

Charity number 1185409



Introduction

Over the past 10 years, Book Clubs in Schools has encouraged young people to discover the wider world through reading for pleasure. BCiS offers older pupils the opportunity to lead books clubs for younger pupils, facilitating an inclusive space of interactive and lively discussion. All the skills gained through Book Clubs, including oracy, leadership and increased confidence, are taken back into the classroom. BCiS have worked with over 250 schools and 40,000 students nationwide.

Ali Palmer and Beth Ginsburg met at their children's primary school. Whilst volunteering for a one-to-one reading initiative, Beth mentioned her mum ran a book club in New York in the public school system. Encouraging children to read isn't easy, and this sounded like a fun way to get them to read and discuss books. As their children moved from primary school to secondary, they realised that there was a lot of potential to keep children engaged and interested in reading by making reading a shared social experience. The model evolved — with the magic ingredient of older pupils as the Book Club Leaders for younger children.



Left to right - Katy Donnelly, Alex Wheatle, Beth Ginsburg, Alison Palmer, Jason Reynolds





“With older pupils as the Book Clubs Leaders, the clubs became truly interactive, inclusive and informal. Quieter children felt able to talk more freely. We discovered that when a child sees another child reading, especially someone they admire – a friend, an older sibling, or another pupil – they see reading as a fun choice. And when that person shares a book that made them laugh, cry or stay up past bedtime, it makes reading contagious.”

BCiS Co-founder Ali Palmer, The BookSeller Article, “Kids inspire Kids”, May 1 2025



“It’s been a joy to watch the children grow through the programme. They’ve become so much more confident when discussing books and so much more opinionated. It’s really brought them alive, especially when it comes to their reading and ability to discuss the motivations of characters. Their engagement with text has become much, much stronger.”

Tom Armstrong, Southmead Primary School



Our Projects

Book Clubs

Our core programme is delivered in secondary schools and trains older pupils (Y9-12) to lead book clubs for younger pupils (Y6-8). BCiS has created all the resources needed for the book clubs including week-by-week question and activity guides, posters, certificates and badges, and online training for the older pupils. Each Book Club meets over a term and all the members read the same book, with pages allocated each week. The question and activity guides ensure that the Book Club Leaders have a plan for each week.

“Reading by yourself is nice, but also listening to other people gives you an opportunity. Because maybe when you read through it in your head, sometimes you skim through it really quickly. When other people read it, you really get embraced in the story”.

Book Clubber, from
Open University Research Report



“Feedback from staff leading the clubs highlights the enjoyment and engagement students have shown with the selected texts, even among those who are typically reluctant readers.”

Pauline Lawrence,
Haverstock School



PRU and Alternative Provision

Our Pupil Referral Unit and AP work aims to combine reading and book discussions with activities - e.g. author workshops, animation or other creative activities which add significant additional benefits in terms of engagement.

“You really have transformed literacy for our teenagers!”

Bunty Dames,
Francis Barber PRU





Picture Book Clubs

Picture Book Club - a peer led book club format for primary schools and involves Y5 or Y6s leading small book clubs for Y1 or Y2s. We provide all the materials schools need to run a peer led book club in a primary school. Schools are supplied with a box of 15 picture books, carefully selected to include a diverse range of authors and styles - plus an activity booklet, stickers and bookmarks.

"Picture Book Club is great. So far, my year 6 children have not missed a session and have automatically covered absent peers. It's been brilliant to see their enthusiasm. They are a very mixed bunch too - some real non-readers!"

Jemima Wade, Headteacher,
Argyle Primary School

"It has been so beneficial as usually reading isn't included specifically in summer activities/transition, and it really helped to put reading front and centre."

Ms H Swinyard,
School Librarian,
Greig City Academy



WALKER
BOOKS

"Picture Book Club was a roaring success. We couldn't quite figure out who got the most from it - the Year 1 children or the Year 6 children. The younger children loved being read to and the older children grew hugely in confidence. There were so many benefits."

Michael Bradley, Headteacher,
Merton Abbey Primary School



Summer Book Club

Summer Book Club makes sure reading is a highlight of secondary transition and helps establish its importance from the moment pupils start their new school. We provide all the resources schools need to run assemblies, send letters home to parents and a summer activity pack for pupils to use alongside reading the book - plus a live online author event in September as a welcome to secondary school. We have partnered with Walker Books so schools can purchase books at 50% discount, or a 99p e-book is available.

Key Achievements and Milestones

2014

- **March:** Book Clubs in Schools (BCiS) launched as a Community Interest Company.
- **Initial pilot programmes** delivered in select schools.



“Provided young people with an opportunity to connect and make friends.”



2015 - 2018

- Expansion across London and the South East.
- Over **10,000** pupils engaged.
- Development of training materials, resources, and curated book lists.
- Partnerships formed with schools to embed the programme as an extracurricular activity.
- Delivered pilot project in two Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), including author visits and animation projects.



“Relationships within Book Club sessions were characterised as informal and inclusive... these characteristics were recognised as different to those experienced in English lessons.”

2019

- **September:** BCiS became a registered charity.
- Began offering **free books and resources** to qualifying schools with over 40% pupil premium through partnership with Give a Book.
- Introduced a formal training programme for student leaders and teachers.
- Focus on **inclusivity and diversity** in book selections strengthened.

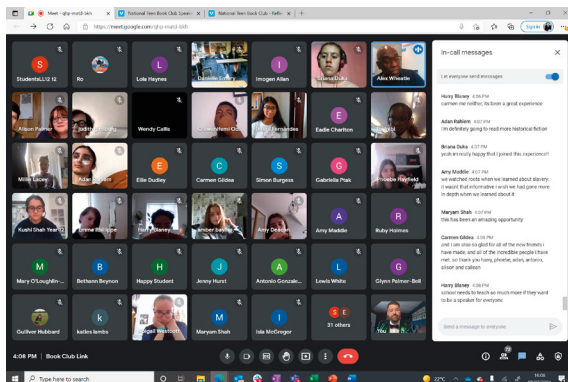


*Quotes from Open University Research Report



2020

- COVID-19 pandemic forces a shift to online delivery of book clubs.
- Launch of **National Teen Book Club**, an online reading and discussion platform for ages 14-19, in partnership with Speakers for Schools.
- All resources moved to online delivery so schools can access and run the programme more easily.



"Helped to position reading as something worth doing"



2021

- Continued expansion into the West Midlands, North East, and North West.
- Over **17,000** pupils have participated since inception.
- Summer Book Club initiated in 150 schools.



Summer book club

Sign up for **free** resources. Everything you need to run an engaging summer reading project.

[Find out more](#)



Key Achievements and Milestones

2022

- Returned to **face-to-face** book clubs post-pandemic.
- Secured new funding to expand PRU book clubs to run in four locations from September 2022.
- Collaboration with MediaTrust and Mercers' Company to create a film about the programme.
- Sponsored YA category of the Diverse Book Awards as part of our commitment to sharing diverse stories.



"Clubbers felt they were able to talk in ways that made sense to them, not in a 'schooled' way."



2023

- Expanded PRU book club programme to **7 locations**, broadening access in alternative education settings.
- Introduced **Picture Book Club** in 45 schools.
- **Summer Book Club – Year 7 Transition** scaled up with over **250 schools signed up** and **12,000 pupils** receiving books to support summer reading and transition.

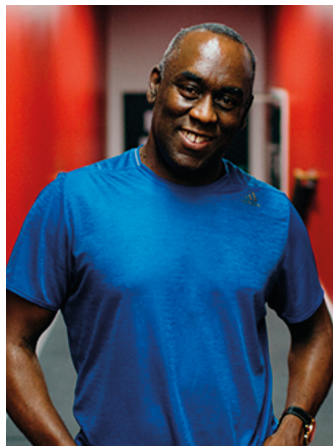


2024

- Ongoing support from key funders including John Lyon's Charity, Mercers' Company, Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, Give a Book, and Brian Murtagh.
- Continued delivery of inclusive, peer-led book clubs in over 45 schools nationwide.
- Working with the Open University to research the programme.



Patron and Ambassadors



Alex Wheatle MBE our patron, 1963-2025

Alex was always generous with his time and advice and was passionate about getting young people reading, which shone through when you read his ground breaking books and listened to him speak. He had an amazing ability to go into any room and connect with everyone. We work in schools and pupil referral units and when he spoke to young people who maybe weren't having the easiest time at school, they knew that he understood what was going on for them. We are certain that his books will continue to engage and entertain children and young people for many years to come.



"Alex Wheatle was a bright empathetic star in the world of children's books, bringing his deep understanding about the power of stories to connect young people to themselves and to our complex world. Stories can make each and every one of us know that we are seen and heard. This deep connection to our stories matters."

Sita Brahmachari

"I am delighted and feel humbled to be carrying the torch forward along with the wonderful author Tom Palmer to help continue the incredible work that Alex started to be part of a movement to ensure that every child has a chance to fall in love with stories, to be sustained by them and to help navigate their lives with all the opportunities and life experiences reading brings us."



Tom Palmer

"I am so proud to have been asked to become a Book Clubs in Schools ambassador. Getting accessible books into schools and encouraging children to enjoy reading them for pleasure is at the heart of what I want to do with my life. So it feels like an honour."

Case Studies

Book Clubs in Schools: A Case Study

Pupils from Kings College School and Harris Wimbledon act as Book Club Leaders at Merton Abbey Primary School and Southmead Primary School, two schools with high pupil premium which means they receive books from Give a Book. The clubs met every week on a Friday afternoon to discuss a chosen book; with around 6-8 groups running at once, gaining social and communication skills whilst reading for pleasure.

Perspective of a Book Club Leader

“The bond I made with my Book Club groups was something so special and I felt extremely proud to be such an important role model for those children and it was so rewarding to watch their confidence grow right before my eyes... Friday afternoons were the highlight of my week at school; I honestly could not recommend Book Club enough. The experience was invaluable and taught me so many things about my own character such as to have patience, leadership skills and the impact of positive reinforcement on young children.”

Sofia, Book Club Leader

“A good opportunity to develop a profile and skills in leadership.”



“They saw a real improvement in the children’s reading fluency and engagement with the book.”



“A great experience teaching younger children in which some of them struggled with reading.”



Impact at a Glance

- 35,000 Book Clubbers and 5,000 Book Club leaders have participated in BCiS book clubs since 2014. 40,000 books have been read.
- 97% of Book Club Leaders recommend leadership roles to peers.
- 91% of book club leaders feel more confident leading a group discussion.
- 55% of Book Club participants report enjoying reading more.
- 67% of participants are more interested in what others have to say.
- 53% feel greater connection to their school community through book clubs.

And the big headline for me, it's about bringing the big beautiful parts of reading to the children in the school. You know, that real love of reading, everything that children's literature can bring to them about opening them up to a wider world.

Micheal Bradley,
Head at Merton Abbey



Looking Ahead

- Continue to grow our diverse book list and resources.
- Develop our PRU programme and support to schools.
- Expand digital offerings and increase school participation.
- Deepen impact measurement and evidence of outcomes.
- Secure sustainable funding to reach more young people!

**“Book Clubs in Schools build spaces for dreaming,
well-being and making meaning for some of the
young people who have the least access to books.”**

Sita Brahmachari



Illustrations by
@leannecoelhok



BOOK CLUBS

IN SCHOOLS

Charity number 1185409

www.bookclubsinschools.org

Thank You!

To our schools,
funders, volunteers,
and young readers
– your support has
driven a decade of
difference.

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1185409

Accounts



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**



BOOK CLUBS

IN SCHOOLS

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024

Charity name: Book Clubs in Schools

Charity registration number: 1185409

Charity's principal address: 37 Southdean Gardens, London, SW19 6NT

Summary of the purposes of the charity

Book Clubs in Schools (BCiS) was established to advance the education of children and young people in the UK for the public benefit, giving priority to those pupils who are affected by social and economic disadvantage, by the encouragement of reading and the promotion of literacy skills through the provision of book clubs and related literacy activities.

BCiS began as a Community Interest Company in March 2014 and became a charity in September 2019. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Book Clubs in Schools' core purpose is to tackle these gaps and to re-engage pupils in reading for pleasure and the wide benefits it brings. Our Book Club programme provides a framework for children and young people to access and discuss books. It provides a format that allows students to engage with books in a more informal way, where there are no 'right' or 'wrong' answers and they are encouraged to bring their own knowledge and experiences to discussions.

The younger pupils engage in reading for pleasure and develop social and communication skills such as confidence, resilience, creativity and critical thinking. They develop friendships with older pupils who lead the clubs, and gain role models that are positive and accessible. Alongside the skills the younger pupils develop, the older pupils learn how to lead a group discussion, become mentors and volunteer, possibly for the first time.

A book club format positions reading for pleasure as a social activity where pupils can share views about books and their reactions to the themes they cover. 'Book talk' is identified in research as a key means for children to develop their knowledge of books, how to choose books they will enjoy and develop their confidence and identity as a reader. Books also offer a vehicle for discussion about difficult topics (e.g. bullying or anxiety) or current affairs (e.g.

climate change or immigration) where the issues can be discussed in a fictional context that allows for a more open discussion and allows young people to practice articulating and sharing views and listening to others. This builds their confidence not only as readers but as learners able to participate in discussions across all curriculum areas.

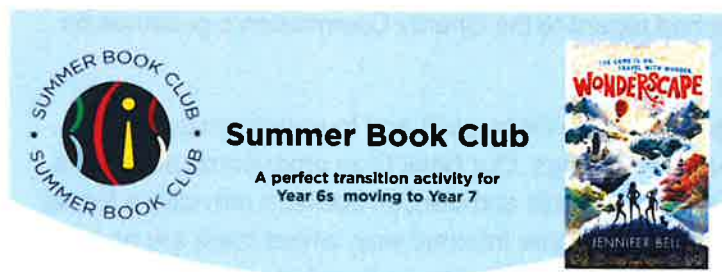
We prioritise schools in disadvantaged areas with over 40% pupil premium (national average is 26.9%) and use books that reflect the diversity of the pupils and a full range of reading levels. Since we started ten years ago, over 40,000 pupils have participated in Book Clubs in Schools.

BCiS provides all resources, support and training for teachers and older pupils and free books to schools which qualify (with more than 40% Pupil Premium pupils). BCiS promotes diversity through its curated book list so that young people can relate to the characters and stories they read. We support the Diverse Book Awards.

Achievements and Performance

Our feedback surveys find that schools and teachers see increased participation and motivation in class, as well as a stronger sense of community and sense of belonging to the school due to our unique peer led approach. Participant feedback indicates that 55% of pupils enjoy reading more, 53% feel a greater connection to their school community and 91% feel more confident leading a group discussion.

Picture Book Club has been sent to 45 schools who are using the curated book boxes which include all resources including stickers, bookmarks and a little activity for the younger pupils to complete. Year 5/6 read aloud to Year 1 and both gain in confidence and have fun.



Summer Book Club – Year 7 Transition - designed for use over the summer holiday, the programme provides all the materials teachers need to introduce the book, plus an activity pack which can be used in summer school or by pupils over the summer holidays as a

transition activity to prepare for secondary school. We worked with Walker Books using *Wonderscape* by Jessica Bell who provided discounted print copies at half-price and e-books for 99p. There was a live Q&A for pupils to join in at their new secondary schools in September. Over 250 schools signed up to take part and 12,000 pupils received the book.

Pupil referral units (PRUs) - we are now working with seven PRUs and offering the Book Club+ a creative activity such as animation, photography or author workshops to show how books can be a way into other creative activities. This is a more hands-on project – we work closely with the schools.

Fundraising objectives

BCiS financial year runs from 1 September to 31 August to align with the UK school year. BCiS delivers the programme by charging schools £300 for all the resources to run the

programme. This ensures that schools are invested in the outcomes. BCiS has set fundraising objectives against a budget for the costs of the programme.

In the year ended 31 August 2024 BCiS raised money from school subscriptions and from foundations and trusts including: John Lyon's Charity, Mercers' Company, The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, Robert Gavron, Brian Murtagh. We also received books for our projects from Give a Book.

Financial Review

The funding model for BCiS is based on receiving fees from schools who utilise the book club model and from grants from different funders, often philanthropic organisations, which has allowed the charity to expand its outreach. BCiS has been in a start-up phase for a number of years, unfortunately the pandemic hit just at the point BCiS was gaining traction however the financial situation has been improving since that period.

In the year ended 31 August 2024 the charity had retained reserves of £2,648 as compared to £2,544 in the prior year. In the year ended 31 August 2024 we broke even (Year ended 31 August 2023: deficit of £5,892). BCiS remains a going concern as it has sufficient cash to manage future operations and the Charity has received a number of significant grants during the year ended 31 August 2024 which will fund projects in the year ending 31 August 2025. Cash held at 31 August 2024 amounted to £25,749 which is an increase as to that held on 31 August 2023 of £23,721.

Fundraising continues to be challenging however BCiS is winning grants from different sources and also additional schools from across the country are enrolling in the programme therefore enhancing the outreach and sustainability of the Charity.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a CIO with a constitution.

The Board of Trustees was selected to ensure a wide range of skills were included such as marketing, finance, experience of running a charity, fundraising and impact measurement as well as diversity in terms of gender and ethnicity.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

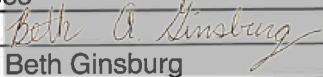
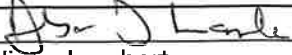
Name	Office	Dates if not the whole year
Victoria Gray		
Alison Lambert		Treasurer
Richard Parkin		
Tony Smith		
Beth Ginsburg		Chair

Alison Palmer and Katy Donnelly are the directors who manage the charity on a day to day basis.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
	Beth Ginsburg	Alison Lambert
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer

Date

15th March 2025

Company Number: CE018909

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS
Charity Number 1185409
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2024

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Income And Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Income	65,650	54,890
Cost of Sales	(60,705)	(58,867)
Gross Profit / (Loss)	4,945	(3,977)
Less: Administrative Expenses	(4,841)	(2,021)
Surplus / (Deficit) on ordinary activities before interest and other income	104	(5,998)
Interest Receivable	-	106
Less: Interest Payable	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) on ordinary activities before tax	104	(5,892)
Tax	-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) on ordinary activities after tax	104	(5,892)

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
Current Assets					
Debtors	2	4,027		83	
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>25,749</u>		<u>23,721</u>	
		29,776		23,804	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	<u>(27,128)</u>		<u>(21,260)</u>	
Net Current assets			2,648		2,544
			<u>2,648</u>		<u>2,544</u>
Reserves					
Retained Reserves			2,648		2,544
			<u>2,648</u>		<u>2,544</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the financial year ending 31st August 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial period is in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15th March 2025 and signed on its behalf.

 TRUSTEE

 TRUSTEE

The notes on page 4 form part of these financial statements.

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

**Notes To The Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 August 2024**

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with the applicable Accounting Standards.

3. Debtors : amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	3,253	-
Prepayments	774	-
Social Security and other taxes	-	83
	<u>4,027</u>	<u>83</u>

2. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	210	210
Social Security and other taxes	38	-
Amounts received in advance	26,880	21,050
	<u>27,128</u>	<u>21,260</u>

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Book Clubs in Schools, Charity number 1185409.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Book Clubs in Schools (the Charity) for the year ending 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

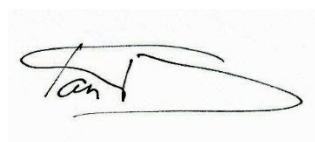
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning of the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Ian Tackley
Fellow of Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
34 Southdean Gardens
London SW19 6NU

13th January 2025

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1185409

Accounts



BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Charity name: Book Clubs in Schools
Charity registration number: 1185409
Charity's principal address: 37 Southdean Gardens, London, SW19 6NT

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Book Clubs in Schools (BCiS) was established to advance the education of children and young people in the UK for the public benefit, giving priority to those pupils who are affected by social and economic disadvantage, by the encouragement of reading and the promotion of literacy skills through the provision of book clubs and related literacy activities.

BCiS began as a Community Interest Company in March 2014 and became a charity (CIO) in September 2019. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Book Clubs in Schools (BCiS) supports reading in schools by providing resources for schools to run peer led book clubs. We believe passionately that reading can be a powerful driver of social change and open up opportunities for young people.

We promote reading for pleasure because there is strong evidence that young people who enjoy reading the most perform significantly better in academic assessments than those who enjoy reading the least (Clark and Douglas, 2011). Being a fluent and confident reader enables pupils to access the curriculum across all subjects, extends their vocabulary and supports their attainment. (Cremin, 2020). The impact of reading regularly can be a more significant factor in children's educational success than the effect of their family's socio-economic status (OECD, 2002).

Reading for pleasure is also important for young people's wider wellbeing and knowledge with 55.4%; reading for pleasure to relax; 53.5% to learn about new things and 41% to feel happy (NLT, 2022).

Using book clubs to support reading for pleasure, provides an informal and social environment that strengthens pupils' engagement in reading and develops their discussion skills. By encouraging young people to read for pleasure and discuss their thoughts on a book, BCiS helps them practise critical thinking, build interpersonal skills, and develop their confidence as a reader. Pupils are also able to access volunteering opportunities by becoming a book club leader and develop facilitation and leadership

skills, particularly for those who are at a socio-economic disadvantage. BCiS prioritises schools where over 40% of pupils are eligible for pupil premium support.

All our programmes are designed to be flexible because individual schools have very different needs and structures. For example, our programme can be run across an entire year group or it can be used for targeted intervention to support reading for specific groups.

Our peer led approach is central to our core programmes – it enables the book clubs to foster a more informal engagement in the texts which emphasises reading for pleasure and making connections with books and is more likely to engage reluctant and less confident readers. It also develops discussion skills and the confidence and skills of the book club leaders.

We also work hard to ensure that all pupils can see themselves in the books we use and therefore have a diverse selection of books.

Our main areas of activity are:

Main Programme

Our core programme is delivered in secondary schools and trains older pupils (Y10-12) to lead book clubs for younger pupils (Y6-8) and provides them with week by week guides for the chosen book. Each Book Club meets weekly over a term and all the members read the same book, with pages allocated each week. We have a curated book list that caters for all levels of reading ability and provides a wide range of diverse books. Where we can secure additional funding we also bring in author visits.

This supports schools to develop their reading for pleasure culture and provides a very adaptable model that can be delivered easily without significant staff time requirements. We support more disadvantaged schools to purchase the necessary books.

PRUs and Alternative Provision

Our extended provision in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) is for pupils who have been excluded either temporarily or permanently from mainstream schools due to their behaviour and their inability to engage with learning. These combine a book club approach with active, hands-on and creative activities.

These pupils often do not consider themselves readers and have reading levels well below those expected for their age. We focus on age appropriate but accessible books and support the PRU is exploring the books in a format that encourages engagement even from very reluctant readers.

Summer Book Club

Summer Book Club is aimed at Year 6s as they move into secondary school and involves them all reading the same book over the summer holidays. We provide all the materials for schools to introduce the book, an activity pack for the holidays, follow up activities and a live online author talk. We also work with the publisher to give schools access to discounted copies of the book.

This is key point where pupils experience changes both academically and socially. Making sure reading is a highlight of secondary transition helps establish its importance from the

moment pupils start their new school. It helps build their confidence as readers and means that when they start their new school, they will all have something in common.

Wider Literacy Activities

We also promote reading more widely through author talks, visits and events, and support for initiatives such as the Diverse Book Awards.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Main Programme



Since BCiS started in 2014 as a Community Interest Company, over 18,000 pupils have participated in Book Clubs in Schools from over 75 schools. In 2022-23 we have continued to expand the number of schools involved in the programme and we now run our book clubs across the country with concentrations in London, the South Coast, the West Midlands, North East and North West.

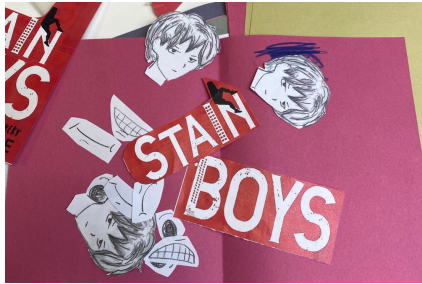
In 2022-23 we continued to invest in our website which our schools use to access all materials and training required to run the programme including project plans, training manuals, curated book list and weekly question and activity guides, and letters to send to parents and the young people. We added additional resources to promote the clubs within schools and recordings of author talks we have supported.

We also reviewed our book list and created clearer categories for different reading abilities and updated the number and range of books available. We strengthened the materials available for students to support making choices about which books to read. Keeping the list fresh and updated is important for maintaining pupil engagement and interest.

Our most recent survey results of participants indicate that out of the pupils who participate in the programme, 73% enjoyed taking part in book club, 66% feel very or quite confident talking in a group (an increase of 9%). 81% of book club leaders observe that pupils taking part are more confident reading and teachers report that the clubs build the confidence of reluctant and less assured readers. Amongst the Book Club Leaders, 100% enjoyed supporting younger pupils, 88% reported learning new skills and 97% felt it was a good way to share their enthusiasm for reading.

We also completed the first year of evaluation working with the Open University to research the programme. This has established a baseline to work from and areas for further research to understand the impact of the programme and ways in which it can be developed further.

PRUs and Alternative Provision



This is a more resource intensive programme than our main programme and relies heavily on grant funding. We are now working with five PRUs and offering a Book Club+ model which alongside the book club links to a creative activity such as animation, photography or author workshop to show how books can be a way into other creative activities.

There are very few reading for pleasure interventions aimed at PRUs and alternative provisions and this programme is filling a gap. Most of these pupils are reluctant readers and strengthening their engagement with books and confidence to talk about what they have read are important skills and support their wider academic success. Next year we aim to collect more formal data about reading levels before and after participation in the programme.

Summer Book Club



The 2023 Summer Book Club used *The Chime Seekers* by Ross Montgomery. Schools were able to access materials for their transition days, an activity pack for pupils to use over the summer, additional resources for teachers and follow up activities to do in

the September term. There was a live Q&A for pupils to join in with at their new secondary schools in September. We worked with Walker Books who provided discounted print copies at half-price and e-books for 99p. Over 220 schools signed up to take part with over 10,000 pupils taking part.

We had very strong feedback from schools about how it made reading a highlight of transition activities and stressed its importance from the start of secondary school.

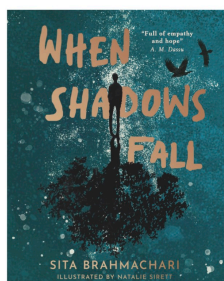
New Initiatives



In the summer term of 2023, we piloted a Picture Book Club a peer led book club format for primary schools and involves Y5/6s leading small book clubs for Y1/2s. The pilot involved 5 schools using curated book boxes with training materials and a set of resources including activity booklets for the younger pupils to complete, stickers and bookmarks. Year 5/6 read aloud to Year 1/2 and talk about the

books both gain in confidence and have fun. The feedback was excellent, and we are rolling this out to any school to use from September 2023.

Wider Literacy Activities



WHEN SHADOWS FALL

Book Club with Author and Illustrator Workshop Y10/12

Book Clubs in Schools are excited to invite **Lewisham Secondary Schools** to explore Sita Brahmachari's book *When Shadows Fall*. Schools will have access to resources to discuss the book with related activities. This will link to a **full day workshop on 28 March 2023** at the Migration Museum in Lewisham.

We were involved in a wide range of other literacy activities designed to promote reading for pleasure in schools. While these are mainly aimed at schools that we are already working with, we also try to engage a wider range of schools too. Activities this year included:

- A term long project with 2 schools in Lewisham exploring a book and its illustrations that culminated in a full day workshop in the Migration Museum with the author, illustrator and a musician.
- Support for author events at Brixton Library.
- Interviews with authors shared as online events with teachers and librarians, including with the Carnegie prize winner.
- Monthly 'secondary book chats' with teachers, librarians and authors online
- A regular newsletter including 'what to read' recommendations for teachers to use in schools

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The funding model for BCiS is based on grants from different funders, often philanthropic organisations, which has allowed the charity to expand its outreach and to support more deprived schools purchase the books required for the book clubs. BCiS also charges schools a small fee to utilise the book club model as this secures commitment from the schools and as we scale, reduces the reliance on grant funding.

In the year ended 31 August 2023 the charity had retained reserves of £2,544 as compared to £8,436 in the prior year. The reduction in retained reserves was driven by additional costs being incurred to drive the charity forward, in particular these costs were in relation to fundraising and programme planning which resulted in a retained deficit of £5,892 in the year ended 31 August 2023 (Year ended 31 August 2022: surplus £4,749).

Despite the reduction in reserves BCiS remains a going concern as it has sufficient cash to manage future operations and the Charity has received a number of significant grants during the year ended 31 August 2023 which will fund projects in the year ending 31 August 2024. Cash held at 31 August 2023 amounted to £23,721 which is an increase as to that held on 31 August 2022 of £21,924.

Fundraising continues to be challenging however BCiS is winning grants from different sources and also additional schools from across the country are enrolling in the programme therefore enhancing the outreach and sustainability of the Charity.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a CIO with a constitution.

The Board of Trustees was selected to ensure a wide range of skills were included such as marketing, finance, experience of running a charity, fundraising and impact measurement as well as diversity in terms of gender and ethnicity.

Trustees are recruited on the basis of skills gaps in the board and new appointments must be agreed by the existing Trustees. Trustees serve for a period of 3 years. Any person retiring as a charity trustee is eligible for reappointment. A trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.

The Trustees meet on at least a quarterly basis and review all activities and finances.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Name	Office	Dates if not the whole year
Catherine Whelan	Chair	resigned In November 2023
Victoria Gray		
Alison Lambert	Treasurer	
Richard Parkin		
Tony Smith		
Beth Ginsburg		appointed Chair in February 2024

Alison Palmer and Katy Donnelly are the directors who manage the charity on a day to day basis.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)

<i>Beth A. Ginsburg</i>	<i>Alison Lambert</i>
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Beth Ginsburg	Alison Lambert
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	Treasurer
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Date

29 January 2024

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Book Clubs in Schools, Charity number 1185409.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Book Clubs in Schools (the Charity) for the year ending 31 August 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

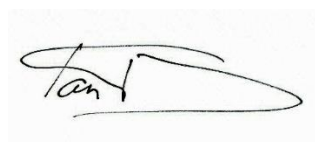
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning of the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Ian Tackley
Fellow of Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
34 Southdean Gardens
London SW19 6NU

30th January 2024

Company Number: CE018909

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS
Charity Number 1185409
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Income And Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income	54,890	59,218
Cost of Sales	(58,867)	(51,498)
Gross (Loss) / Profit	(3,977)	7,720
Less: Administrative Expenses	(2,021)	(2,971)
(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities before interest and other income	(5,998)	4,749
Interest Receivable	106	-
Less: Interest Payable	-	-
(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities before tax	(5,892)	4,749
Tax	-	-
(Deficit)/Surplus on ordinary activities after tax	(5,892)	4,749

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2023

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Current Assets					
Debtors	2	83		27	
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>23,721</u>		<u>21,924</u>	
		23,804		21,951	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	3	<u>(21,260)</u>		<u>(13,515)</u>	
Net Current assets / (liabilities)			2,544		8,436
Reserves					
Retained Reserves			<u>2,544</u>		<u>8,436</u>
			<u>2,544</u>		<u>8,436</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the financial year ending 31st August 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial period is in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2024 and signed on its behalf.



TRUSTEE



TRUSTEE

The notes on page 4 form part of these financial statements.

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Notes To The Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with the applicable Accounting Standards.

3. Debtors : amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2021 £
Other Debtors	-	27
Social Security and other taxes	83	-
	83	27

2. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2021 £
Trade Creditors	210	2,215
Amounts received in advance	21,050	11,300
	21,260	13,515

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report

From 31st 1st



for the period

**September 2021 to
August 2022**

Charity name:
Schools

BOOK CLUBS
IN SCHOOLS

Book Clubs in

Charity registration number: 1185409

Charity's principal address: 37 Southdean Gardens, London, SW19 6NT

Summary of the purposes of the charity

Book Clubs in Schools (BCiS) exists to advance the education of pupils at schools in the UK for the public benefit, in particular those pupils who are affected by social and economic disadvantage, through the provision of book clubs run as a peer mentoring, extra curriculum programme.

BCiS began as a Community Interest Company in March 2014 and became a charity in September 2019. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

BCiS aims to strengthen pupils' engagement in reading and discussion skills, particularly for those who are at a socio-economic disadvantage. By encouraging young people to read for pleasure and discuss their thoughts on a book, BCiS helps them practise critical thinking, build interpersonal skills, and access volunteering opportunities by becoming a book club leader. BCiS prioritises schools with over 40% of pupils in receipt of free school meals.

The unique features of the programme are that it is inclusive – in that an entire year group (typically year 7) can participate in book club or it can be used for targeted intervention – and that the clubs are led by older pupils.

The full BCiS book club programme is a year-long, interactive, weekly book club for Year 7s, facilitated by older secondary pupils. BCiS provides all resources, support and training for teachers and older pupils and free books to schools which qualify (with more than 40% Pupil Premium pupils). The clubs can be run virtually but work best in person. BCiS promotes diversity through its book choices for the book clubs so that young people can relate to the characters and stories they read. We support the Diverse Book Awards.

Achievements and Performance

Since BCiS started in 2014 as a Community Interest Company, over 17,000 pupils have participated in Book Clubs in Schools from over 45 schools. Currently, BCiS delivers online and in person book clubs in 90 schools and alternative provision across London, the South Coast, the West Midlands, North East and North West.

Our schools can now access all materials and training required to run the programme including project plans, training manuals, curated book list and Question and Activity guides, letters to send to parents and the young people are all found in a subscription area of the website.

The difference BCiS makes for these young people is to provide a safe, non-judgmental programme to read and discuss a book together with older pupils.

BCiS aims to improve pupils' ability to:

- ✓ respect others
- ✓ read for pleasure
- ✓ feel more confident in communicating verbally with peers
- ✓ facilitate and lead a group discussion (for Book Club Leaders)

The results of our self-evaluation surveys completed by all participants illustrate the achievements of the programme:

For Book Clubbers:

- 70% enjoy reading more
- 61% make new friends
- 58% feel more comfortable debating
- 57% feel more confident in speaking

For Book Club Leaders

- 97% would recommend others to become leaders
- 82% learn how to facilitate conversations and to be more inclusive
- 76% feel more confident leading

Alongside our main programme we also ran:



Summer Book Club - Year 7 Transition - designed for use over the summer holiday, the programme provides all the materials teachers need to introduce the book, plus an activity pack which can be used in summer school or by pupils over the summer holidays as a transition activity to prepare for secondary school. We worked with Walker Books, using *Twitch* by M.G. Leonard who provided discounted print copies at half-price and e-books for 99p. There was a live Q&A for pupils to join in at their new secondary schools in September. Over 150 schools signed up to take part.

National Teen Book Club - designed and run by BCiS with Speakers for Schools, was an online programme for pupils aged 14-19 to share a reading experience online, discuss a book in small break-out rooms, hear from creative industry professionals including authors, publishers, art directors, literary agents etc. with the opportunity to write a creative piece. We ran this as a response to Covid and the demand for online provision. We ran this project until July 2022. From September 2022 we have reverted to our face to face book club model and are no longer involved in this project.

Brixton Library Q&A - Alex Wheatle and Jason Reynolds - we brought these two award winning authors together to discuss their books and life. Both authors feature on our curated book list. Our audience were School Librarians and young people and we recorded this event so that we could share it with our book clubs.



Film Funding - we are working with MediaTrust to create a film about the programme - this was funded by the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington via The Mercers' Company.

Pupil referral units (PRUs) - we completed the pilot project funded by The People's Postcode Lottery Trust to run book clubs in two PRUs. This work included visits from the author, Alex Wheatle MBE, an animation

project and a short film. We have now secured funding to roll this out to four PRUs in September 2022.

Fundraising objectives

BCiS financial year runs from 1 September to 31 August to align with the UK school year. BCiS delivers the programme by charging each school a fee. This ensures that schools are delivering the programme to its full potential as they are invested in the outcomes. BCiS has set fundraising objectives against a budget for the costs of the programme.

In the year ended 31 August 2022 BCiS raised money from school subscriptions and from foundations and trusts including: John Lyon's Charity, Mercers' Company, The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, Sir William Boreman.

We also received books for our projects from Give a Book.

Financial Review

The funding model for BCiS includes fees from schools who utilise the model and from different funders which allows the charity to expand its outreach. BCiS has been in a start-up phase for a couple of years and has been improving its financial position since that period. In the year ended 31 August 2022 the charity had retained reserves of £8,436 as compared to £3,687 in the prior year and the financial position has continued to improve.

The improvement seen has been due to BCiS gaining traction with new funders and that new schools are now enrolling in the programme. The new funders in the year ended 31 August 2022 including People Postcode Trust and National Teen Book Club, which both donated significant sum to BCiS in the year. The three year grant from the Mercers Company continues and maintains sustainability for the charity.

Expenditure continues to be monitored carefully, however BCiS recognises that sums do need to be spent on content to continue delivering the programme to its different audiences.

BCiS has retained £21,924 of cash on the balance sheet as at 31 August 2022 which is a decrease from the prior year. The decrease is due to grants being spent in the year to which they relate as compared to needing to be carried over to future years as was seen in the Covid period.

The Trustees are comfortable with the level of reserves being retained in the Charity which meets two months of operating costs.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a CIO with a constitution.

The Board of Trustees was selected to ensure a wide range of skills were included such as marketing, finance, experience of running a charity, fundraising and impact measurement as well as diversity in terms of

gender and ethnicity. A number of board members were on the advisory board from when BCiS was a Community Interest Company so were familiar with the charity's aims and programme. We are looking to replace Caroline Reynolds.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Name year	Office	Dates if not the whole
Catherine Whelan	Chair	
Victoria Gray		
Alison Lambert	Treasurer	
Richard Parkin		
Caroline Reynolds		2019-March 2022
Tony Smith		

Beth Ginsburg and Alison Palmer are the directors who manage the charity on a day to day basis.

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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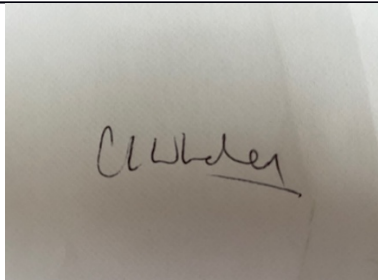
Full name(s)

Catherine Whelan	Alison Lambert
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Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	Treasurer
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Date

	
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Alison D Lambert

Company Number: CE018909

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS
Charity Number 1185409
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2022

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Income And Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 August 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income	59,218	42,389
Cost of Sales	(51,498)	(36,898)
Gross Profit / (Loss)	7,720	5,491
Less: Administrative Expenses	(2,971)	(1,922)
Surplus on ordinary activities before interest and other income	4,749	3,569
Interest Receivable	-	-
Less: Interest Payable	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities before tax	4,749	3,569
Tax	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after tax	4,749	3,569

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2022

	Notes	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
Current Assets					
Debtors	2	27			
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>21,924</u>		<u>41,595</u>	
		21,951		41,595	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	3	<u>(13,515)</u>		<u>(37,908)</u>	
Net Current assets / (liabilities)			8,436		3,687
Reserves					
Retained Reserves			<u>8,436</u>		<u>3,687</u>
			<u>8,436</u>		<u>3,687</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the financial year ending 31st August 2022 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial period is in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 01/02/23 and signed on its behalf

U. Whaley TRUSTEE

Ms. D. L. L. L. TRUSTEE

The notes on page 4 form part of these financial statements.

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Notes To The Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with the applicable Accounting Standards.

3. Debtors : amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other Debtors	27	-
	27	-

2. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade Creditors	2,215	210
Amounts received in advance	11,300	37,698
	13,515	37,908

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1185409

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report

From 1st
31st



for the period

September 2020 to
August 2021

Charity name:
Schools

BOOK CLUBS
IN SCHOOLS

Book Clubs in

Charity registration number: 1185409

Charity's principal address: 50 Ashen Grove, London, SW19 8BN

Summary of the purposes of the charity

Book Clubs in Schools (BCiS) exists to advance the education of pupils at schools in the UK for the public benefit, in particular those pupils who are affected by social and economic disadvantage, through the provision of book clubs run as a peer mentoring, extra curriculum programme.

BCiS began as a Community Interest Company in March 2014 and became a charity in September 2019. The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

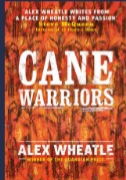
BCiS aims to strengthen pupils' engagement in reading and discussion skills, particularly for those who are at a socio-economic disadvantage. By encouraging young people to read for pleasure and discuss their thoughts on a book, BCiS helps them practise critical thinking, build interpersonal skills, and access volunteering opportunities by becoming a book club leader. BCiS prioritises schools with over 40% of pupils in receipt of free school meals.

The unique features of the programme are that it is inclusive – in that an entire year group (typically year 7) participates in book club – and that the clubs are led by older pupils.

The full BCiS book club programme is a year-long, interactive, weekly book club for Year 7s, facilitated by older secondary pupils. BCiS provides all resources, support and training for teachers and older pupils and free books to schools which qualify (with more than 40% Pupil Premium pupils). The clubs can be run virtually or in person. BCiS promotes diversity through its book choices for the book clubs so that young people can relate to the characters and stories they read.

Achievements and Performance

#NationalTeenBookClub

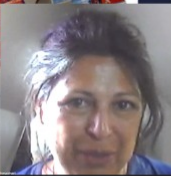
Book Clubs





Sponsorship

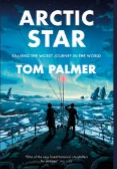
So excited to gift When Secrets Set Sail by @SitaBrahmachari to our Year 6/7 students during their Transition Days for the Mini Book Club @Schoolbookclubs

#MiniBookClub Year 7 Transition



2021





What To Read Now

#SecondaryBookChat

WEDNESDAY
8 SEPTEMBER
8 - 9PM



Since BCiS started in 2014 as a Community Interest Company, over 13,000 pupils have participated in Book Clubs in Schools from over 45 schools. Currently, BCiS delivers online and in person book clubs in 90 schools across London, the South Coast, the West Midlands and Manchester.

BCiS has been able to successfully transition from a directly managed model to a digital model. Our schools can now access all materials required to run the programme including project plans, training manuals, curated book list and Question and Activity guides, letters to send to parents and the young people are all found in a subscription area of the website. We continue to train Book Club Leaders and staff via live Zoom meetings and offer advice to schools.

The difference BCiS makes for these young people is to provide a safe, non-judgmental programme to read and discuss a book together with older pupils.

BCiS aims to improve pupils' ability to:

- ✓ respect others
- ✓ read for pleasure
- ✓ feel more confident in communicating verbally with peers
- ✓ facilitate and lead a group discussion (for Book Club Leaders)

The results of our self-evaluation surveys completed by all participants illustrate the achievements of the programme:

For Book Clubbers:

- 70% enjoy reading more
- 61% make new friends
- 58% feel more comfortable debating
- 57% feel more confident in speaking

For Book Club Leaders

- 97% would recommend others to become leaders
- 82% learn how to facilitate conversations and to be more inclusive
- 76% feel more confident leading

We have also created two 'taster projects' to recruit schools to participate in the full programme:

Mini Book Club - Year 7 Transition

www.bookclubsinschools.org/minibookclub - is a summer holiday programme which provides Questions and Activities guide for teachers to share with pupils. These resources can be used in summer school or by pupils over the summer holidays as a transition activity to prepare for secondary school. Publishers provide discounted print copies (typically half-price) and e-books for 99p. There is a live author Q&A for pupils to join in at their new secondary schools in September. Over 150 schools signed up to take part.

National Teen Book Club - <https://www.speakersforschools.org/national-teen-book-club/> run with our partner Speakers for Schools, is an online programme for pupils age 14-19 which runs for four weeks – up to seven times per year. Pupils share a reading experience online, discuss a book in small break-out rooms, hear from creative industry professionals including authors, publishers, art directors, literary agents etc. and are encouraged to write a creative piece or illustration which is published in the Speakers for Schools, virtual library. It has run five times since June 2021 and over 2,500 young people have participated.

Findings from the self-evaluation surveys:

- 85% of young people said they learnt about another culture or world view
- 78% said that they would read more

This aligns with Book Clubs in Schools' mission to increase reading for pleasure and introduce participants to a wider world.

Pupil referral units (PRUs)

We also received funding from The People's Postcode Lottery Trust for a pilot project to run book clubs in two PRUs. This work includes visits from the author, Alex Wheatle MBE, an animation project and a short film. The project is ongoing and we plan to rollout the pilot next year.

Fundraising objectives

BCiS financial year runs from 1 September to 31 August to align with the UK school year. BCiS delivers the programme by charging each school a fee. This ensures that schools are delivering the programme to its full potential as they are invested in the outcomes. BCiS has set fundraising objectives against a budget for the costs of the programme.

In the year ended 31 August 2020 BCiS raised money from school subscriptions and from foundations and trusts including: John Lyon's Charity, Mercers' Company Schroder Foundation, Siobhan Dowd Trust and

The People's Postcode Lottery Trust. We also received books for our projects from Give a Book.

Financial Review

The funding model for BCiS includes fees from schools who utilise the model and from different funders which allows the charity to expand its outreach. BCiS has been in a start-up phase for a couple of years and has been improving its financial position since that period. In the year ended 31 August 2021 the charity had retained reserves of £3,687 as compared to £118 in the prior year and the financial position has continued to improve.

The improvement seen has been due to BCiS gaining traction with new funders and that new schools are now enrolling in the programme. A number of grants which were received in the year ended 31 August 2020 could not be spent and therefore were carried forward into the year ending 31 August 2021. As at 31 August 2021 the significant asset on the balance sheet was cash in the sum of £41,595 (31 August 2020: £13,285) which includes amounts received in advance. In the year ended 31 August 2021, a specific reserves policy was put in place to ensure that three months of operating costs are retained as a reserve. The designation of reserves will be reviewed in the year ending 31 August 2022.

The charity has ensured that it remains a going concern through retaining cash balances during its start-up phase. This will continue, however funding from different sources has been secured and therefore the going concern position will improve in future years.

The current climate is a risk to any charity and for BCiS it is difficult to engage with new schools and funders. Many of the funds for which BCiS was eligible closed to new applicants during 2021 as they looked after their current cohort to ensure they survived or were only providing emergency frontline services funding. This change in policy by funders led BCiS to struggle to secure funding from foundations and trusts. Despite this pressure BCiS secured its first three year grant from the Mercers' Company and this has created some sustainability for the charity.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a CIO with a constitution.

The Board of Trustees was selected to ensure a wide range of skills were included such as marketing, finance, experience of running a charity, fundraising and impact measurement as well as diversity in terms of gender and ethnicity. Trustees were selected from various sectors including private, public and charity and to provide the user experience viewpoint a teacher from one of the school in the programme was appointed to sit on the board. A number of board members were on the advisory board from when BCiS was a Community Interest Company so were familiar with the charity's aims and programme.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Name	Office	Dates if not the whole year
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Catherine Whelan	Chair
Victoria Gray	
Alison Lambert	Treasurer
Richard Parkin	
Caroline Reynolds	
Tony Smith	

Beth Ginsburg and Alison Palmer are the directors who manage the charity on a day to day basis.

Declarations

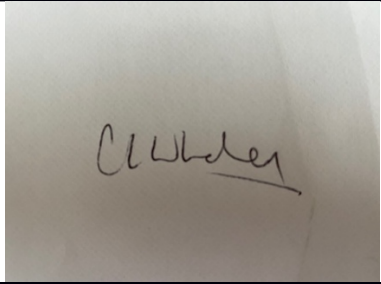
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
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Full name(s)	Catherine Whelan	Alison Lambert
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
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Date	
------	---

Company Number: CE018909

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS
Charity Number 1185409
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2021

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Income And Expenditure Account For the Year Ended 31 August 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Income	42,389	20,514
Cost of Sales	(36,898)	(17,938)
Gross Profit / (Loss)	5,491	2,576
Less: Administrative Expenses	(1,922)	(1,714)
Surplus on ordinary activities before interest and other income	3,569	862
Interest Receivable	-	-
Less: Interest Payable	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities before tax	3,569	862
Tax	-	-
Surplus on ordinary activities after tax	3,569	862

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Balance Sheet As At 31 August 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank and in hand		<u>41,595</u>		<u>13,285</u>	
		41,595		13,285	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2	<u>(37,908)</u>		<u>(13,167)</u>	
Net Current assets / (liabilities)			3,687		118
Reserves					
Retained Reserves			<u>3,687</u>		<u>118</u>
			3,687		118

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

For the financial year ending 31st August 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial period is in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on _____ and signed on its behalf.

_____ TRUSTEE

_____ TRUSTEE

The notes on page 4 form part of these financial statements.

BOOK CLUBS IN SCHOOLS

Notes To The Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 August 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis of accounting and are prepared in accordance with the applicable Accounting Standards.

2. Creditors : amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade Creditors	210	517
Amounts received in advance	37,698	12,650
	37,908	13,167

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Book Clubs in Schools, Charity number 1185409.

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Book Clubs in Schools (the Charity) for the year ending 31 August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act')

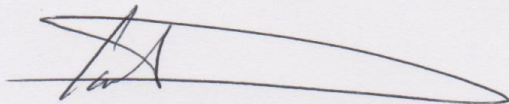
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act: or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning of the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Ian Tackley
Fellow of Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
34 Southdean Gardens
London SW19 6NU

11th April 2022