



**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.

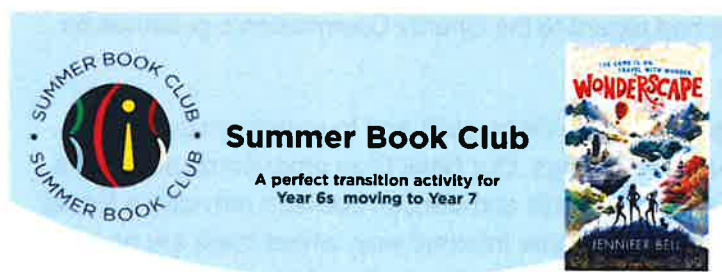
We prioritise schools in disadvantaged areas with over 40% pupil premium (national average is 26.9%) and use books that reflect the diversity of the pupils and a full range of reading levels. Since we started ten years ago, over 40,000 pupils have participated in Book Clubs in Schools.

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

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Signature(s)		
		Beth Ginsburg	Alison Lambert
	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)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross Profit / (Loss)	4,945	(3,977)
Less: Administrative Expenses	(4,841)	(2,021)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
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	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus / (Deficit) on ordinary activities after tax	104	(5,892)
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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')

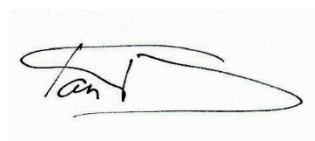
I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the Act.

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