



Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements

Registered Charity Number: 118574

For the year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

Music Relief Foundation

Registered Charity Number: 1185747

Financial Year: 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

1. Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Address

Thornton Heath Leisure Centre
100 High Street
Thornton Heath
CR7 8LF

Trustees Who Served During the Year

- **Kofi Dwinnfour** – Chair (served until his death in December 2024)
- **Blyth Weston** – Treasurer
- **Adrian Thompson**
- **Magdalene Usikaro**
- **Valeria Ehrenheim**
- **Debbie Ariyo OBE** – Appointed and elected Chair in January 2025

Trustee Changes

Following the death of former Chair Mr Bob-Amara in December 2023, Kofi Dwinnfour assumed the role of Chair in January 2024. After Kofi's passing in December 2024, the Board convened in January 2025 and appointed Debbie Ariyo OBE as Chair. Debbie brings over 20 years' experience leading AFRUCA Safeguarding Children and provides strong governance and safeguarding expertise.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Music Relief Foundation is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its Constitution, adopted at the time of registration. The Board

of Trustees meets quarterly and is responsible for governance, strategic direction, risk management, financial oversight, safeguarding, and programme development.

New trustees undertake a structured induction covering governance responsibilities, charity finance, safeguarding, and operational processes. Day-to-day delivery is carried out by administrative staff, sessional youth workers and freelance musicians under the leadership of the CEO, with ongoing oversight from the Trustees.

3. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objectives

The charity exists to support socially and economically disadvantaged young people by:

- **Advancing development and improving life outcomes** through music-based learning, recreation, and creative activities
- **Developing skills, confidence, and resilience**, enabling positive participation in society
- **Promoting social inclusion** for young people at risk of isolation or marginalisation
- **Relieving unemployment** by supporting access to training, employability pathways, and personal development opportunities

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have ensured that public benefit principles underpin all programme design and delivery.

4. Achievements and Performance

During 2024/25, Music Relief Foundation delivered several impactful programmes:

4.1 MRF Music School

The music school, launched in 2021, underwent a full review and restructuring to support operational sustainability.

Key improvements included:

- Updated and more equitable fee structure
- Tutor and student handbooks
- Refined terms and conditions to strengthen accountability
- Administrative processes to support a long-term self-sustaining model

During the financial year, 60 young people were enrolled at the Music School and developed new musical skills across a wide range of disciplines, including guitar, piano, violin, viola, flute, drums, cello, saxophone, choir, band practice, and other ensemble activities. Our learners ranged in age from 5 to 80, demonstrating the school's inclusive and intergenerational approach to music education.

Several students successfully achieved Entry Level and Grade One qualifications from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). Students who completed Grade One are now progressing towards their Grade Two assessments, marking an important milestone in their musical development.

Through our participation in the Jack Petchey Foundation Awards, we were proud to nominate and celebrate several students for their commitment, progress, and leadership. Attending the awards programme provided an invaluable opportunity to raise aspirations, build confidence, and encourage positive leadership qualities among our young people.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our dedicated tutors, whose passion, professionalism, and commitment make the work of the Music School possible. Without their continued support, we would not be able to reach and inspire so many children and learners in our community.

Quotes from parents –

1. *Absolutely amazing music school, with affordable music lessons. Magdalene is attentive and friendly, and the music teachers are patient, enthusiastic and experienced. I cannot recommend MRF enough!*

2. *Such a lovely organisation. Affordable music lessons in the community, taught by great teachers. My son did guitar lessons at MRF and really enjoyed them. He learnt new skills, read music and made friends. I highly recommend MRF!*
3. *Outstanding!!! MRF offer an invaluable service to the community. You CAN'T say you get what you pay for here, but you definitely get more! The prices are very affordable, but the teachers (guitar, keyboard, and vocal) are of a very high standard. Both my 11yr old daughter and I have taken music lessons, and we are both very pleased with the teaching we received.*

4.2 MRF Bi-annual Soirées

Launched July 2024, these events:

- Celebrated student achievements
- Strengthened parental and community engagement
- Began generating modest income
- Built confidence and performance skills among young people

During the financial year, we held two soirees in June and December 2024. These events were a major community activity, with over 200 children and their families attending each. Each event served as a music festival for young people, with our various students performing and showcasing their musical skills. Additionally, some of our adult students participated, including our Choir group, who gave strong performances and renditions to the delight of the audience. The soirees have become a staple in the Croydon calendar, and we would continue to hold these events with the community's support.

Quote from a parent for the soiree -

'My child has performed in the soirée four times, and each time he performs, his confidence increases and his performance has greatly improved.'

Quote from an adult student for the soiree –

I love that the soirees are open to adults like me. As an adult learner, having always loved to play an instrument but never learned earlier. I especially love the fact that my tutor is very attentive to my needs and fully

understands, and that I get to display what I have been learning. It is very scary to perform in front of an audience, especially when you are not very competent at playing, but the soirees are much more than a showcase; they are about bringing the MRF family together.

4.3 MRF Afterschool Club

Made possible through the **Million Hours Fund**, delivered in partnership with the National Lottery.

Achievements:

- Recruitment of a dedicated Project Coordinator
- Improved structure, planning and delivery
- Higher quality support for children and young people

During the year, [100] young people attended the after-school club, which offered [music and mentoring sessions]. This also enabled us to provide safe after-school environments for children, helping keep them off the streets and engage them in positive activities during this period.

Quotes from the young people –

I enjoy taking part in the sessions

I feel comfortable and welcome here

I feel connected to other young people

I am learning a new skill

4.4 Amplify Her Voice – Girls' Forum

Funded by the National Lottery and launched in November 2023. The programme:

- Created a safe space for girls to discuss issues impacting their wellbeing
- Drew inspiration from national conversations on violence against women and girls
- Was selected by Media Trust for specialist volunteer support from media professionals

Media Trust supported the programme by coordinating a day of pro-bono volunteer support from professionals at organisations including Channel 4, Microsoft, and independent advertising agencies. These volunteers shared valuable digital marketing expertise, helping us strengthen how the programme is promoted and supporting our aim of building a movement of empowered girls who feel confident speaking out against violence.

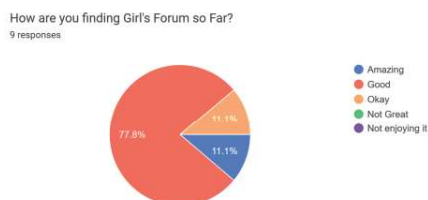
The insight and strategies provided helped to shape both the design and delivery of the programme, as well as positively influencing the girls' engagement, responses, and participation.

During the financial year, the programme directly supported **24 girls**, delivering targeted sessions on financial literacy, drug awareness, mental health and wellbeing, gangs and crime prevention, and other issues affecting their safety, confidence, and life chances.

Quote from Chris William – Head of Music Department, Archbishop Tenison School –

'I'm so pleased to hear that the program ended on a strong note and that such positive relationships were built with the students. I know from speaking with some of them just how impactful the sessions have been. Despite a few hiccups along the way, I genuinely believe that Amplify Her Voice has added real value to our school community, and that's down to the energy, care, and commitment you, Moatter, and Magdalene brought to it. Thank you as well for the gracious way you've worked with us. I really appreciate your professionalism and willingness to keep the focus on what's best for the students. I'm very much looking forward to seeing your feedback and building further opportunities for collaboration between Music Relief and Archbishop Tenison's in the future.'

Responses from the girls –



What makes the Girl's forum fun for you?

The activities and being with people I know

Everything

The games that we play help us understand the topics

It's engaging, and we learn at the same time

I like all the knowledge we get from the topics we learn, and I love interacting with others

I like how interactive the sessions and games are.

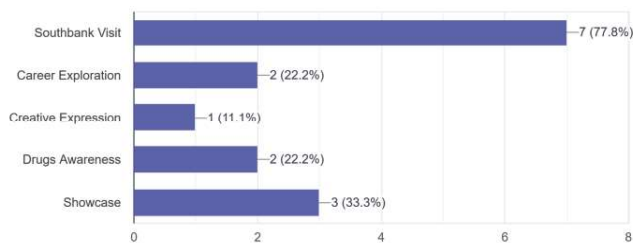
The engagement

Being able to talk about different topics every week

The interactive activities, having people come in and teach us about certain topics

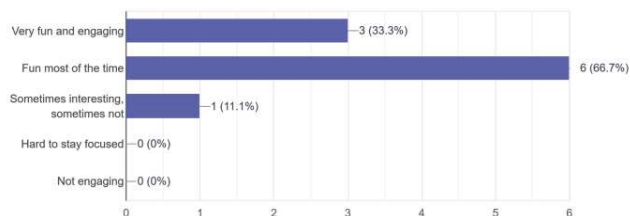
Which sessions are you most excited about next?

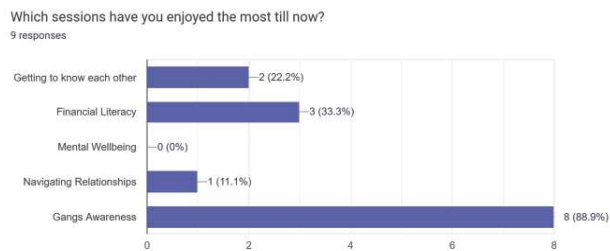
9 responses



What do you think about the way the sessions run?

9 responses





4.5 Key Operational Insights

- The Project Coordinator strengthened systems, pricing, planning and financial discipline
- Soirées enhanced the school’s reputation and family engagement
- Programmes allowed outreach to multiple new schools
- Community awareness and visibility of the charity increased

5. Financial Review

Total Income: £120,934.73

Total Expenditure: £94,889.75

While income exceeded expenditure, the majority of funds were **restricted** and unavailable for core running costs.

- **Restricted Income:** approximately £90,350 (project-specific funding)
- **Unrestricted Income:** £11,985.14
- **Unrestricted Expenditure:** £94,889.75

This resulted in a **significant operational deficit**, highlighting the ongoing challenge of sustainably funding core costs.

Reserves Policy

The charity aims to build unrestricted reserves equivalent to **three months of core operating costs**. This target has not yet been achieved.

Going Concern

Despite pressures on unrestricted funding, Trustees consider the charity a going concern, supported by strong restricted income streams, clear community need, and active fundraising plans.

6. Plans for Future Periods

The charity will:

- Strengthen unrestricted fundraising and individual giving
- Expand music provision in both high-need and more affluent communities
- Scale the Girls' Forum and Afterschool programmes
- Further develop a sustainable Music School model
- Build new partnerships, grants, and community collaborations
- Improve internal financial controls and long-term planning

7. Risk Management

Key Risk	Mitigation
Unrestricted funding shortfall	Diversified fundraising, corporate training delivery by the CEO, increased individual giving, and new funder engagement
Operational capacity	Clearer job descriptions, improved onboarding, and reduced micro-management
Safeguarding	Ongoing training and strict compliance procedures
Trustee succession	Strengthened recruitment and induction processes

8. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for:

- Preparing financial statements in accordance with UK GAAP and Charity SORP (FRS 102)
- Ensuring accounts give a true and fair view
- Maintaining adequate accounting records
- Safeguarding assets and preventing fraud
- Preparing accounts on a going-concern basis

This report has been prepared under the **small charities' exemption**
(Companies Act 2006, Section 415A).

9. Approval

This Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board on: **[22/01/26]**

Signed on behalf of the trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Ariyo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Debbie Ariyo OBE
Chair of Trustees
Music Relief Foundation**

**Music Relief Foundation Statement of
Financial Activities For The year ended
31st March 2025**

INCOME	Charity Funds		Total £
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	
Community Events	-	623.00	623.00
Music School	18,099.08	6,787.50	24,886.58
Total	18,099.08	7,410.50	25,509.58
Donations	-	5,074.64	5,074.64
Grants	90,350.51	-	90,350.51
	90,350.51	5,074.64	95,425.15
Total Income	108,449.59	12,485.14	120,934.73

Expenditure			Total £
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	
Community Events			
Travel and subsistence	-	83.51	83.51
Purchases	-	120.00	120.00
Holiday Club			
Purchases	-	801.05	801.05
Music School			
Subcontractors	-	31,199.10	31,199.10
Musical instruments	-	1,720.81	1,720.81
Sub Total	-	33,924.47	33,924.47

Administration			
Accountancy fees	-	720.00	720.00
Advertising Expense	-	1,171.47	1,171.47
Bank charges	-	410.24	410.24
General Administrative Expenses	-	1,880.15	1,880.15
Insurance	-	748.04	748.04
Training	-	118.71	118.71
Website Cost	-	402.91	402.91
Printing, Postage and Stationery	-	1,698.26	1,698.26
Professional and Legal expense	-	7,065.00	7,065.00
Office expenses	-	1,118.98	1,118.98
Subscription	-	1,335.96	1,335.96
Rent	-	2,520.00	2,520.00
Salaries tax	-	3,330.67	3,330.67
Software & IT	-	1,432.03	1,432.03

Subcontractor	-	451.46	451.46
Telephone & Internet	-	1,619.02	1,619.02
Travel and Subsistence	-	4,603.10	4,603.10
Wages	-	30,339.28	30,339.28
Sub Total	-	60,965.28	60,965.28
Total Expenditure	-	94,889.75	94,889.75
Income	108,449.59	- 82,404.61	26,044.98

**Music Relief Foundation Statement of
Financial Position For The year ended
31st March 2025**

	Charity Funds		
	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
	£	£	£
Current Assets			
Bank	-	33,485	33,485
Debtors	-	9,190	9,190
	-	42,675	42,675
 Creditors: Due within one year			
Creditors	-	12,405	12,405
Net Salaries	-	14,085	14,085
Other Taxes & Social Securities	-	3,066	3,066
	-	29,556	29,556
 Net Current Assets	-	72,231	13,119
 Creditors: Due over one year			
Bank Loan	-	11,000	11,000
Total Net Assets	-	61,231	2,119
 Charity Funds			
Opening Balance Equity	79,185 -	103,111 -	23,926
Retained Earnings	108,450 -	82,405	26,045
Total Charity funds	187,635 -	185,516	2,119