



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	01	January	2024		31	December	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

RATHMELL SCHOOL TRUST

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1188700

Charity's principal address

THE OLD SCHOOL, HESLEY LANE

RATHMELL

SETTLE

Postcode

BD24 0LA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rosemary Hyslop	Chair		R. Hyslop
2	Jacqueline Frankland	Treasurer		J. Frankland
3	Keith Mothersdale	Ordinary		
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18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Rosemary Hyslop	
Jacqueline Frankland	
Keith Mothersdale	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Accountants	RCM Associates Ltd	Green Farm Barn, The Green, Rathmell, BD24 0JX

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	3 Trustees all who live within 7 miles of the school
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	By invitation following a Trustees Special Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Leeds Diocese Board of Finance Ltd (LDBF) disputed the Reverter Claim accepted by the Trustees for the site of the village school built in 1874/5 and so in March 2023 LDBF raised a claim in Leeds High Court against the Trustees personally, papers were served in June 2023 and the case was scheduled in Leeds High Court in April 2024.

The Trustees immediately sought legal advice and Kings Counsel advised that there was no case against them by LDBF and that LDBF should withdraw their claim immediately, however they did not. No evidence to the contrary has been forthcoming from LDBF or their solicitors.

Unfortunately, a threat from LDBF to sue the trustees personally for all legal costs which they would incur if they appealed against losing their claim (no matter how many appeals would be required) meant the trustees had to concede the day before the hearing was due to start.

The Charity Commission and the DfE have been kept informed on all matters. The Trustees continue to maintain the premises, keep it insured and in good order for the benefit and enrichment of the local community as per the Object accepted by the Charity Commission on application by the trustees to have the Trust formally registered as a Charity in 2020.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the charity are to protect and care for all property and grounds known as and associated with Rathmell School Trust. This includes the former primary school, the School House and School Field and the provision of facilities to support the enrichment of the local community.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

We provide a safe and secure facility for our local community to use as they may require. We have utilised the former classrooms as private office/work rooms for local business people in order to provide a secure income which is used for the maintenance, insurance and general costs of the Trusts (as authorised by the Trustees) and have new tenants in the School House as of June 2024. This income enables the Trust to be financially sustainable.

We are able to offer educational (academic or vocational) support and provide a safe place for this and other activities for our community as they may wish.

The trust is financially strong and can meet all its commitments as required.

We, the Trustees have all received, read and accepted the statutory declaration as required by the Charity Commission.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The Trustees are committed to care for all the property associated with the Trust and be financially prudent to protect the long-term success, viability and stability of the Trust.

We have a group of local volunteers who support the Trust activities and offer different skills to us as we may require them.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As a result of conceding the Court claim due to financial pressure, the Judge issued a Court Order in which she stated that the Trustees had not done enough to dismiss the claim made by LDBF. The trustees forwarded the Court Order to the DfE, the Charity Commission and the Land Registry: the DfE have suggested the Trustees try again to have “dialogue” with LDBF to find a mutually acceptable resolution which we have done and are hoping to meet with Mr Jonathan Woods from LDBF on neutral territory some time in April 2025. The Charity Commission have not commented. The Land Registry have said that there is nothing in the Court Order to compel the trustees to sign over to anyone or any organisation, any property held in Title Absolute by them on behalf of Rathmell School Trust.

We have been able to engage with our local community members and provide a food service once a month to assist with the wellbeing of our residents whilst reviewing the needs of our locality and this has allowed us to offer support, help and care and to be of service when required.

We have provided a safe place for local residents to continue their work and support their families and for local groups to use the facilities to support their work (ie: Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust). As and when they need to work online we have full access to the B4RN ultra-high speed fibre optic network to enable people of any age to access the internet which not all domestic residences have the capability to do.

We regularly host Rathmell Young Farmers Club and they use the school for their club meetings.

We also host a variety of vocational educational classes to support the interests and well-being of local residents in and around the area.

A small number of local children use the quiet spaces for additional educational support in preparation for the GCSE/University entrance exams.

Children are able to play and cycle safely within the confines of the playground and sports field area and this has helped them and their parents with their own physical and mental health care.

We have hosted several first aid courses for local groups to help them care for the local community as well as support for other medical services if required.

We aim to continue to offer support to our widespread, local community.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Prudent financial management ensures we retain at least one third of our annual revenue as reserves.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

The charity received donations and other funds from crowd-funding and other campaigns towards the unexpected cost of legal fees to defend and protect the trustees against the legal action taken by LDBF against the trustees personally. The trustees believe it is fundamentally against the best interests of the village charity for LDBF to continue their action. The charity supports local activities and people and the beneficiaries are solely the local residents, (and in particular the children of the local residents who are encouraged to take advantage of the premises for their own educational advancement). Day-to-day operational and over-head funding is generally self-sourced.

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Jacqueline Frankland

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Treasurer

Date

25/03/2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
RATHMELL SCHOOL TRUST

No (if any)
1188700

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2024	To	Period end date 31/12/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Rental Income	17,330	-	-	17,330	15,598
Bank Interest Received	130	-	-	130	91
Catering Income	1,620	-	-	1,620	7,172
COIF Income	188	-	-	188	234
Donations	16,990	-	-	16,990	15,654
Loans from Trustees	52,800	-	-	52,800	12,000
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	89,058	-	-	89,058	50,749
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
COIF Investments	10,523	-	-	10,523	-
Sub total	10,523	-	-	10,523	-
Total receipts	99,581	-	-	99,581	50,749
A3 Payments					
Repairs & Maintenance	4,370	-	-	4,370	11,991
Light, Heat & Power	5,304	-	-	5,304	4,936
Insurance	1,410	-	-	1,410	1,345
Catering Provisions	2,666	-	-	2,666	4,556
Rent, Rates & Sewage	750	-	-	750	693
Computer, Telephone & Broadband costs	516	-	-	516	456
Legal Fees	73,486	-	-	73,486	37,918
Accountancy	1,410	-	-	1,410	702
Sundries	1,122	-	-	1,122	1,384
Sub total	91,034	-	-	91,034	63,981
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	91,034	-	-	91,034	63,981
Net of receipts/(payments)	8,547	-	-	8,547	- 13,232
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	8,450	-	-	8,450	21,682
Cash funds this year end	16,997	-	-	16,997	8,450

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current Bank Account	4,718	-	-
	Business Premium Account	12,279	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	16,997	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	COIF Fund - 16877001T	Unrestricted	-	635
			-	-
			-	635

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	School Site	Unrestricted	-	120,000
	School House	Unrestricted	-	350,000
	Field	Unrestricted	-	75,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	545,000

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Jacqueline Frankland	25/03/2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
RATHMELL SCHOOL TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31 DECEMBER 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1188700

Set out on pages

8 AND 9

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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.

Signed: *R. McCool*

Date: 25/03/2025

Name: RICHARD CHRISTOPHER MCCOOL

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA

Address:

GREEN FARM BARN, THE GREEN

RATHMELL, SETTLE, NORTH YORKSHIRE BD24 0JX

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.