

Charity registration number: 1196215

School Partnerships Alliance

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended

31st August 2025

Wenn Townsend

Chartered Accountants

Oxford

School Partnerships Alliance

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School Partnerships Alliance

**Charity Reference and Administrative Details
for the year ended 31st August 2025**

Charity registration number: 1196215

Trustees: T J M Arbuthnott
S E Butterworth
T Campbell
J Dhesi
S K Lester
N A Mattin
J L Robinson
N L Winkley

CEO: J A F Spence

Registered office: c/o McCarthy Denning
70 Mark Lane
London
EC3R 7NQ

Examiner: Wenn Townsend
30 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LE

Bankers: Metro Bank
One Southampton Row
London
WC1B 5HA

School Partnerships Alliance
Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2025

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Trustees of the charity

The Trustees who have served during the year and since the period end were as follows:

T J M Arbuthnott
S E Butterworth
T Campbell (appointed May 2025)
J Dhesi
S K Lester
N A Mattin
J L Robinson
N L Winkley

Objectives and activities

The objects of the CIO are, for the public benefit, to advance education, in particular but not exclusively, by developing school partnerships. The School Partnerships Alliance (S.P.A.) exists to give partnership work the profile it deserves through a dedicated membership-led charity, recognising and celebrating that schools in both the maintained and independent sectors have much to give and things to learn. The aim is to develop the educational, social and employment capacities and opportunities of all children and young people, particularly disadvantaged children and young people, and to improve their conditions of life.

Our mission is to promote sustainable and mutually beneficial cross-sector school partnerships that are recognised as a force for school improvement and the strongest pupil outcomes. To achieve this (i) we work to raise the profile of partnerships, (ii) provide access to and support for partnership networks, (iii) develop high quality training and a common language and framework for partnerships, (iv) undertake research and (v) evaluate the impact of partnerships. What we hope to achieve is the development of a wide and engaged community of partnership professionals working together across educational sectors to become a force for system-wide improvement that supports learner aspirations, outcomes, social enrichment and well-being.

During this reporting period, S.P.A. has focused on sustaining membership, developing research, running events and conferences, and establishing its strategic and operational priorities under a new CEO. It has sought to develop positive and effective relationships with the DfE and other bodies and organisations to support partnership work going on across the educational sector and to ensure that all schools, regardless of location, type and size, have a route into partnership working. The focus has been on opportunities that can transform young lives (and teachers lives), through the creation of a strategy for educational partnerships which will serve acknowledged national educational priorities and that can be scaled.

To fulfil our purpose, we look to incentivize engagement in partnership work across maintained and independent schools; encourage schools undertake impactful and measurable partnership projects; and convince politicians, potential sponsors (e.g. trusts, businesses and livery companies) and the inspectorates (OFSTED and ISI) that all children benefit from such engagements.

Trustees agreed that S.P.A. should equip partnership leads with a common language and framework that will help schools at every stage of partnership engagement and development, and it is on this basis that plans for a school membership offer are now in place which will focus on practical support, peer to peer exchange, development opportunities and training courses. In addition, S.P.A. has created an Innovation Hub, which brings practitioners and experts from across the country together to tackle shared partnership issues, and create shared solutions.

School Partnerships Alliance

Trustees Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31st August 2025

Public benefit statement

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

Achievements and performance

During this time key appointments and engagements included:

Month	Key milestones
September 2024	CPD session for members
October 2024	CEO attendance at HMC Conference Innovation Hub meeting for Champions Networking event (online) CEO meeting with the Champions
November 2024	2 nd annual Conference – Oundle School
December 2024	Webinar for members with the CEO-elect
January 2025	Appointment of new CEO CEO presents at the HMC new members' induction CEO presents at CIVITAS 'Future of Independent Education' launch at House of Lords CEO presents at AMCIS conference <i>CEO embarks on a programme of visits to maintained and independent schools (over 50 visits by July 2025)</i>
February 2025	S.P.A. in-person networking event, Birmingham CEO attendance at Eton Star Conference Innovation Hub meeting for Champions
March 2025	CEO presents at Westminster Insights Independent Schools Conference CEO attendance at HMC Public Benefit and Partnerships meeting S.P.A. Spring Forum held in Charter School Bermondsey CEO presentation at FEDSpace Future of Partnerships in Place Appointment of Development and Communications Lead
April 2025	CEO presents at SEA Conference in Berkhamsted
May 2025	CEO attendance and presentation at HMC Spring Conference CEO attendance at Eton Star Retreat CEO attendance at Foundation for Education Development consultation S.P.A. marketing strategy meeting with Trustees
June 2025	S.P.A. Trustees Strategy Day CEO launches Flourishing Leaders in Independent Schools engagement with the National Society of Education CEO presents at AGBIS webinar with CEOs of IDPE, SEA and AMCIS S.P.A. launch National Swim Research project with Swim England and others
August 2025	Appointment of Membership and Communications Manager

School Partnerships Alliance

Trustees Annual Report (continued) for the year ended 31st August 2025

Financial review (including reserves policy)

The results for the year are shown on page 6, which show a deficit of £2,359 (2024: surplus of £17,900) for the year. As at 31st August 2025 the charity had net assets of £59,936 including cash at bank held of £58,490.

The Trustees intend to hold sufficient general reserves to support between 2-3 months of core operating costs at each year end, which is currently estimated to be circa £30,000. Free reserves held at 31st August 2025 were approximately £59,000, which is deemed to be in line with this policy particularly given that the charity is in its formative years.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO') with registered number 1196215 on 20th October 2021, and it is governed by its constitution adopted at that date.

The Trustees meet a minimum of four times a year as a Board, with the Chief Executive of the organisation in attendance.

A Finance and Resources Committee (incorporating responsibility for Audit and Risk) and a Nominations and Successions Committee have been established, which meet in between Trustee meetings, with any recommendations discussed and approved at a full Trustee meeting.

Trustee meetings are held in person and online.

Management

The Trustees consider that the Chief Executive, supported by a small team, manages all aspects of the organisation's activities. The CEO leads on development of the organisational strategy and plans, with the Trustee board providing input, sign off, oversight, governance and accountability.

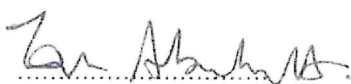
All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee remuneration was paid in the year.

Trustees and the Chief Executive are required to disclose all relevant interests, and in accordance with the CIO's policy withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Board Development

Induction of new Trustees includes meetings with the Chair and Chief Executive to clarify the CIO's expectations of a new Trustee as well as their specific role. They are provided with copies of Charity Commission guidance for new Trustees together with the CIO Constitution, most recent Financial Statements and a copy of its policies. They also sign a Trustee Declaration which encompasses a Code of Conduct and receive further orientation relevant to their role within the larger Board.

On behalf of the board



T J M Arbuthnott
Trustee



N A Mattin
Trustee

18th November 2025

School Partnerships Alliance

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of School Partnerships Alliance

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 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.



**B Hayes BSc FCA
Wenn Townsend
Chartered Accountants
Oxford**

18th November 2025

School Partnerships Alliance
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Charitable activities	2	132,920	149,929
Total income and endowments		<u>132,920</u>	<u>149,929</u>
 Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	3	(135,279)	(132,029)
Total expenditure		<u>(135,279)</u>	<u>(132,029)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		(2,359)	17,900
Transfers between funds		-	-
Net movement in funds	10	<u>(2,359)</u>	<u>17,900</u>
 Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	10	62,295	44,395
Total funds carried forward	10	<u><u>59,936</u></u>	<u><u>62,295</u></u>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

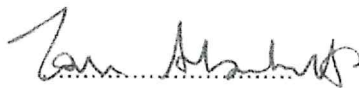
School Partnerships Alliance

Balance Sheet
as at 31st August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	411	1,027
Current assets			
Debtors – accounts receivable		16,000	17,590
Cash at bank and in hand		58,490	61,283
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(14,965)	(17,605)
Net current assets		59,525	61,268
Total assets less current liabilities		59,936	62,295
Net assets		59,936	62,295
Charity funds			
Unrestricted funds	10	59,936	62,295
Total charity funds		59,936	62,295

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 18th November 2025

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees



T J M Arbuthnott
Trustee



N A Mattin
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form part of these financial statements

School Partnerships Alliance
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2025

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

School Partnerships Alliance is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Trustees' Report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the gift to the charity. For example, the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP. Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

School Partnerships Alliance
Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31st August 2025

1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Computer Equipment – 25% straight line

(g) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(h) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit and loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(j) Leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

School Partnerships Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the year ended 31st August 2025

1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(k) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(l) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(m) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. Charitable activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Champions Programme	119,000	134,150
Membership	9,220	15,779
Other – National Conference	4,700	-
	<u>132,920</u>	<u>149,929</u>

School Partnerships Alliance

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31st August 2025**

3. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Partnership promotion and development:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Direct costs:		
Wages and salaries	69,535	88,681
Consultancy and professional fees	28,581	11,968
Other direct costs	301	1,066
Support costs (see note 4)	36,862	30,314
	<u>135,279</u>	<u>132,029</u>

4. Support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Admin support	19,546	17,233
Governance (see note 5)	1,600	1,500
Book-keeping fees	5,792	3,533
Insurance	1,091	1,045
IT software and consumables	3,420	3,624
Depreciation	616	616
Travel and entertaining	2,118	2,338
Other	2,679	425
	<u>36,862</u>	<u>30,314</u>

5. Governance costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent examiner's remuneration	1,600	1,500
	<u>1,600</u>	<u>1,500</u>

6. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2024: None).

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £49,080 (2024: £59,232). The Trust considers its key management personnel comprise the CEO and Board of Trustees.

No Trustee expenses were reimbursed (2024: £Nil) during the year.

School Partnerships Alliance

**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)
for the year ended 31st August 2025**

7. Staff costs and employee benefits

	2025 Number	2025 FTE	2024 Number	2024 FTE
Charitable activities	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

The total staff costs and employee benefits were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	65,917	81,280
Social security	2,168	5,345
Defined contribution pension costs	<u>1,450</u>	<u>2,056</u>
	<u>69,535</u>	<u>88,681</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2024: None).

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
At 31st August 2024 and 31st August 2025	<u>2,464</u>	<u>2,464</u>
Depreciation		
At 31st August 2024	1,437	1,437
Charge for the year	<u>616</u>	<u>616</u>
At 31st August 2025	<u>2,053</u>	<u>2,053</u>
Net book value		
At 31st August 2024	<u>1,027</u>	<u>1,027</u>
At 31st August 2025	<u>411</u>	<u>411</u>

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	5,686	1,752
Other tax and social security	2,794	2,089
Accruals and deferred income	<u>6,485</u>	<u>13,764</u>
	<u>14,965</u>	<u>17,605</u>

School Partnerships Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) for the year ended 31st August 2025

10. Fund reconciliation

Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 31.8.2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.8.2025 £
Unrestricted general funds	62,295	132,920	(135,279)	59,936

	Balance at 31.8.2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31.8.2024 £
Unrestricted general funds	44,395	149,929	(132,029)	62,295

11. Analysis of net assets between funds

2025	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	411	411
Cash at bank	58,490	58,490
Other current assets/liabilities	1,035	1,035
Total	59,936	59,936
2024	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	1,027	1,027
Cash at bank	61,283	61,283
Other current assets/liabilities	(15)	(15)
Total	62,295	62,295

12. Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the year was £1,450 (2024: £2,056).

13. Related party transactions

Four Trustees of the charity were employed by four organisations that contributed funds to the charity as donors to the Champions programme. These funds were at the same level as other Champion contributors. Trustees are content that there are no conflicts of interest in these donations.