

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 26.01.24 TO 25.01.25





A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

This year we've seen so much growth and change at Our Free Minds - we have more students than ever attending and the addition of our shipping container has added a much needed retreat space. Used as a quiet space, a break out room, or whatever else is needed or decided on at the time, the shipping container has given us some breathing room whilst we continue to look for a more permanent location or 'home' for Our Free Minds.

We have also welcomed new trustees and have a dedicated fund-raiser on the team. Our offering has expanded with Guy Asherson-Taylor qualifying to teach the Arts Awards - our first group of students is currently preparing their coursework and exhibitions.

With so much energy and enthusiasm from the students and their families, we are proud of continuing to provide the space for them to explore what they find interesting and important in a non-directive and non-judgemental environment.

It is gratifying and heart-warming to see our small community evolve and expand, but it is witnessing the positive changes in students attending that is the stand out advantage of being involved with Our Free Minds.

KATIE KOTTING

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES



OUR PURPOSE

AS SET OUT IN OUR GOVERNING DOCUMENT

The advancement of education for the public benefit in the South West of England by:

- a) establishing project-based educational settings designed to provide activities which develop the capabilities, competences, skills and understanding of home-educated children and 'school refusers' aged between 5 and 18.
- b) offering out of school extra curricular activities to all children aged between 5 and 18.

The Charity's activities have been designed to deliver benefits in accordance with its objectives. Our activities have been reviewed through the year, referring to the Charities Commission's guidance on public benefit so as to ensure that our work complies with these requirements.



157,000

In Spring 2024, 157,038 pupils were absent from school more than they were present (severely absent), which is 2.18 per cent of the school population.

*<https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/>

111,700

As at census date in autumn 2024, local authorities reported 111,700 children in elective home education. This is an increase from an estimated 92,000 in the previous autumn term.

*<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/>

OFM

At Our Free Minds, we offer our educational support service to meet this growing demand and help families provide educational resources and a supportive and sociable community for their children.

OVERVIEW

ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS AND SERVICES

We create a space for young people to explore what is interesting and important to them, facilitated by open and interested adults and supported by a flexible community structure in which their voices are heard.

We do this by renting a space, during this period the Scout Hut in Burbage, three days a week and providing three adult facilitators who are available to support children with their learning projects and personal development.

During this period we worked for at least one day a week per term with over 41 different home educated children.

We also provided a variety of family activities, where the families of children can come together to connect and support one another, and socialise. We find that the families of children (whether home educating by choice, struggling in school or during the de-registering or de-schooling process) benefit from connecting with others who have been in a similar position and this in turn creates more stability and better quality of support for the children from their families. These events included two family walks (in March and August - making use of local outdoor spaces Savernake Forest and Coate Water), two family seasonal parties (Halloween and Christmas) two family summer camp out nights at the rented space in Burbage in July, and an off-site camping weekend at Litton Lakes in Dorset in July.





HOW THIS WORKS

SELF-DIRECTED, CONSENT-BASED, COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

As a self directed learning group, our members decide how they invest their time and can opt in or out of every activity. Each day will vary depending on the individual's mood, interests, ideas and inspiration.

The Charity's activities have been designed to deliver benefits in accordance with its objectives. Our activities have been reviewed through the year, referring to the Charities Commission's guidance on public benefit so as to ensure that our work complies with these requirements.

The types of activities the children undertook during this period are described in the following two pages.

Understanding Yourself

- Our high facilitator-to-child ratio allows for children to have plenty of individual as well as group attention.
- We offer all our young people regular one to one mentoring sessions with a facilitator.
- Our daily meeting provides opportunities for group discussions and consent-based agreements.
- Conflict resolution and peer support are a natural and important part of learning at Group.
- Projects are self-directed and self-managed: young people have the opportunity to be bored and create their own motivation and direction.



Science

- Using the microscope to view objects up close and learn about the parts of flowers and insects.
- Learning about different power sources, using kits to harness solar power and wind energy.
- Cultivating our own pollinator-friendly fruit and veg beds, learning about pollinators.
- Creating Marble Runs and learning about how to build more stable and efficient systems.
- Chromatography - separating pigments using water .
- Building and materials - junk modelling, tower building, straw structures.
- Floating and sinking, freezing and melting.
- Learning about the solar system.
- Creating a feather collection and researching birds.



Creativity

- Creating tiny houses in clay, cardboard, mud and mixed media, and imagining the lives of inhabitants.
- Team drawing games and challenges.
- Exploring a range of media including powders, paints, clays, pencils, pens, graphics pad.
- Sculpture using air dry clay, polymer clay, papier mache, junk modelling and wood carving
- Whittling, woodwork and pyrography.
- Crochet, knitting, French knitting, braiding and weaving.
- Portrait-drawing and art sessions with an external art teacher
- Baking and cooking.





Communication

- Using story cards to create our own collaborative modern fairytales.
- Creating stop motion animation videos.
- Devising our own dramatic interpretations of stories and working on plays written by members.
- Devising Dungeons and Dragons scenarios and taking part in games.
- Word games such as "Poetry For Neanderthals" focussed on getting meaning across with single syllable words.
- Writing stories, poems and articles and scripts.
- Using Minecraft: learning the words for the passwords, finding a world, choosing an item, working with friends to solve problems and using the laptop keyboard.



Physical Development

- Dancing and choreography including sessions from an external street dance teacher
- Chaos tag and other running games.
- Variations of ball games, climbing, skipping, running, jumping.
- Exploring the outdoor space and using the rope swing.
- Gymnastics challenges.
- Yoga sessions.
- Balance challenges.
- Long jump contests
- Offsite walks and trips to the playground.
- Obstacle courses and hurdling races.



Strategy, Number & Logic

- Logic puzzles, chess and board games.
- DnD and other role play games.
- Gathering data from science experiments and presenting it in table and graph form.
- Collecting names for start up games, and taking votes.
- Measuring ingredients for baking, working in fractions and converting.
- Measuring time and distance e.g. in long jump tournaments or hurling competitions.
- Using pairs of compasses to create mandalas and other geometric designs.
- Building understanding of shape and directional and geometric language by creating origami.
- Applying geometry in woodwork and junk modelling creations.
- Studying for GCSE Maths exams.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Beyond the learning opportunities within the setting, we invested time and energy into other areas that are crucial in stabilising the wider support of network of the children.

During this period we organised the following opportunities for our families and wider community,:

- Springtime Lakeside Walk and Playground Visit at Coate Water.
- Summer Woodland Walk and Picnic in Savernake Forest.
- Summer Family Camp Out - two nights of camping at our rented site in Burbage including BBQ and campfire.
- Lakeside Camping Trip to Litton Lakes in Dorset, with lake swimming, woodland walks and campfires
- Halloween Party with spooky activities and feast
- Christmas Party with Accessible Performance of The Snow Queen by Travelling Theatre Company.

These develop confidence in our young people, and create more opportunities beyond our walls for them to engage in and develop their own learning and interests, as well as enhancing the strength of our community by providing more opportunities for whole families to connect.





ACCESSIBILITY AND HARDSHIP PLACES

- We have a number of young people self-diagnosed and diagnosed as ASD or ADHD. We provide them with an environment in which their neurodiversity is embraced and valued, and in which they can find confidence within community and develop their skills at their own pace and in their own interests.
- We also offer Hardship places - during this period we supported 4 families (6 children) who would not otherwise have been able to afford our fees with reduced rates according to their financial need. We were able to offer these places due to fundraising and charging full fees to those who can afford to pay. During this period we were also able to introduce a second level of reduction in fees, so that we could offer even more affordable rates to those most in need.



STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

- We maintained our trustee board at four trustees.
- We recruited for two new unpaid roles: Location Hunt Taskforce Leader and Fundraising Advisor.
- We reviewed and updated the following:
 - Financial Management Policy
 - Safeguarding Policy
 - Admissions and Fees Policy
 - Missed Payments and Debts Policy
 - Role description for designated safeguarding officer
 - Role Description for Facilitator
 - Staff Handbook

MARKETING AND FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

We updated our website: www.ourfreeminds.org.

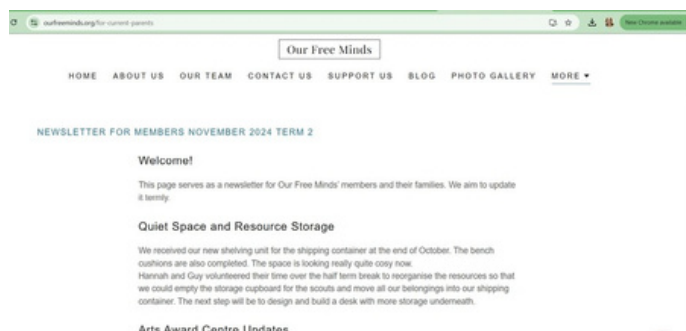
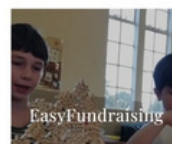
We continued publishing a termly parents newsletter online.

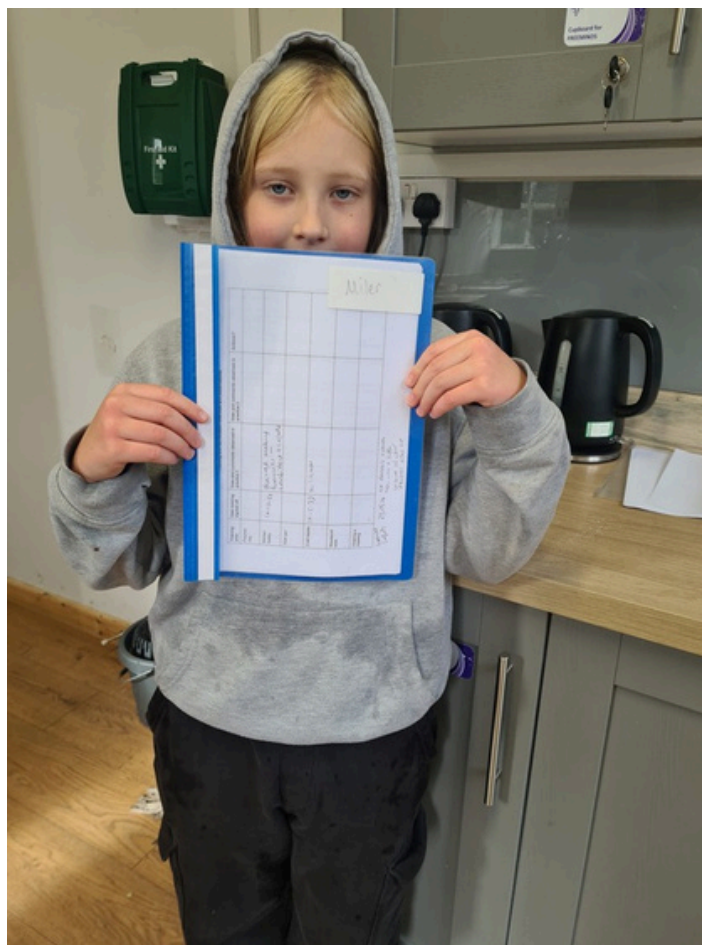
We created content for a blog with weekly updates, and used Facebook to communicate weekly with current parents about our activities and more broadly to communicate our offering to new families and the wider community.

We fundraised for and purchased our Quiet Space. We wanted a space for members to use to regulate or have small break-out groups in, or to use for projects that would benefit from a separate space such as yoga, videos, accessing online calls, or simply a space to relax and chat to friends. The idea for what type of space to invest in developed from upgrading a tent that has been borrowed from our CEO, to buying our own tent, and exploring possibilities of creating a separate space in the main building. However, after a consultation with our fundraising taskforce we elected to go for a self-contained shipping container that would be more weather proof and could be moved with us should we move sites. We invested time, energy and some finances into beginning to furnish the space with cushioned bench storage seating and tray shelves.

Our fundraising efforts this period included:

- Creating a new space on our website specifically for donations;
- A community Fireworks event, organised jointly with other charities in the local area;
- Ongoing pushes to our Easyfundraising account for raising additional funds;
- Our family Christmas Show.





TRAINING AND CPD

- All three facilitators are current Paediatric and Forest School First Aid trained with Different Perspective Training.
- Two facilitators completed the NSPCC level 1 Safeguarding training in March to upgrade their existing training, and one completed the Flick Level 3 Safeguarding training in November.
- One facilitator completed training as a Bronze and Silver Level Trinity Arts Award Instructor, and we are now a registered centre for delivering the Arts Award.
- Two facilitators attended the Freedom To Learn Forum, investing a weekend at the conference in East Kent. This was an opportunity to share best practice and make connections with other settings around the country and beyond. This also led to a visit from a team from a similar setting in Bristol, which we plan to return in 2025.
- One facilitator has regularly attended the Freedom to Learn monthly call with other settings, offering mutual support and sharing experience.



NEW PROJECTS IN THE MAKING FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

- We began work on creating a Young Facilitators Training Programme, which we expect will take around 2 to 3 years to put together and will likely include other similar settings around the country to complete.
- We continue to devote time and energy into finding a permanent home and aim to have achieved this within the next 24 months.
- We aim to be in a financial position to pay an administrator one day a week by the end of Q1 2025.
- We also aim to recruit one more volunteer facilitator for two days a week by the end of Q1 2025.



CONTRIBUTION MADE BY VOLUNTEERS

We pay two facilitators for 21 hours a week to cover their time during sessions. They volunteer an extra 4 to 39 hours a week. We also have a volunteer who volunteers her time as a facilitator 18 hours a week and also provides admin support for 4 to 9 hours a week .

The volunteered time during this period was spent:

- Hunting for a new space to house our sessions, so that we can leave long term projects overnight and create more opportunities for our young people and the wider community beyond our current hours.
- Marketing - for example, working on the website, advertising on Facebook, designing and creating posters and online banners, creating our info pack and other materials that describe who we are and what we do.
- Planning, organising and attending fundraising events and activities such as the Christmas Show and Fireworks Night.
- Communicating with parents and supporting and nurturing our community such as writing the parents newsletter, communicating and moderating the WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages for parents and prospective parents.
- Organising and attending Family Activities and Events such as Family Walks, Seasonal Parties, and Family Camps.
- Managing finances and other admin tasks.
- Attending training / CPD sessions.
- Communicating with the wider network of Self-Directed Learning settings to share best practice and create a supportive wider network, including attendance at the Freedom to Learn Forum and monthly calls.
- Buying and managing resources.
- Cleaning and maintaining the premises.
- Travelling to and attending team meetings, finance planning meetings, and trustee meetings.
- Completing questionnaires and online meetings to assist with diagnoses requested by families of young people.

We have four trustees who volunteer their time to support the charity, attend the quarterly meetings and fulfil their trustee duties. We also have support from our fundraising advisor and Location Taskforce Leader.

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

In Spring 2024, 157,038 pupils were absent from school more than they were present (severely absent), which is 2.18 per cent of the school population (<https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/>). Some of these children lose confidence, becoming anxious and isolated.

As at census date in autumn 2024, local authorities reported 111,700 children in elective home education. This is an increase from an estimated 92,000 in the previous autumn term (<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/>).

Our Free Minds exists to fill the gap, providing:

- a place to feel safe with a wealth of resources.
- a chance to develop citizenship and voice in a supportive, sociable, stable community.
- opportunities for children in mainstream schools to access a self directed approach.

We hope that the three anonymised and combined example case studies and parent testimonials on the following pages may illustrate this better than anything else.

“The benefits of these kinds of transformations to both the individuals directly involved and society as a whole are far-reaching. To have the opportunity to be immersed in and embraced by a stable democratic community helps to prepare children for life in the wider community - and importantly, it enables them to begin to develop and grow into people who know their own interests and know how to pursue them so that they can live fulfilling and happy lives.”

Hannah Woolven, parent and facilitator

Parent testimonial

“Alfie attended Our Free Minds (OFM) for 18 months and our daughter Rose attended for 6 months. OFM supported Alfie during a very difficult time and provided much needed care, support and a regular opportunity to socialise and learn with other children and adults. OFM is the most inclusive service for children that we have encountered and had a huge positive impact on our son’s wellbeing. There isn’t another organisation like it in our area which is why we travelled 40 minutes each way to attend. I believe it offers a vital service to young people who are home educated / not in school. I wish there were more organisations like it so more families could access the benefits. More and more families are choosing to home educate or feel there are no other options for their child. OFM provides a regular opportunity for these children to socialise and learn together. It recognises that not all children can thrive or cope with our mainstream education system. It is also one of the few services in our area where parents do not have to be present which provides a much needed break for parents. Both our children thoroughly enjoyed attending and learnt so much during their sessions. My son developed an interest in 3D printing, flint mapping, Minecraft and whittling. He was supported in a range of social skills such as conflict resolution, making agreements and the need to follow these, turn taking and understanding others’ differences. Our daughter developed close friendships with children of a variety of ages and was able to develop her interest in outdoor play and art. We would highly recommend OFM to any family and believe it provides such an important service and community.”

Our Free Minds parent, Edie Methven

Meet “Gwennie”

Gwennie is 13. She is also autistic. At school she was meeting academic requirements and doing well socially, but found that she had no energy for pursuing any of her other interests, or even attending after school clubs or making the most of the other extra curricular opportunities available to her.

Her family was concerned that her mental health was suffering, as her energy levels were so low she was spending most of her time on the sofa or in bed outside of school hours. It felt like years since she had followed her passion of creative writing or theatre, or even read books for pleasure. It seemed like she was also in a state of constantly high anxiety, which was draining for everyone.

Gwennie now

On her first day, Gwennie compared her experience at Our Free Minds with that of school: “at school it’s like everyone is judging each other all the time. Teachers are judging kids, kids are judging teachers, teachers are judging each other, kids are judging each other. Here, it seems like no one ever judges anyone else! It’s very freeing.”

Fast forward and she is now an active and vocal member of our group. She is passionate about writing poetry and short stories and regularly asks for feedback or editorial support from adults and other young people. She has achieved top marks in two GCSEs, years earlier than she would have taken them in school, and has also made use of our new Arts Award scheme, having completed and submitted her Silver Award in December. She says she has found her own rhythm, and that has enabled her to pursue her passions at her own pace.



Meet "Kit"

Kit is 8. He left school after his parents noticed that he was feeling a lot of rage, and his relationship to learning had deteriorated. He was not only uninspired, he had begun to sabotage his work and anything that was related to school. He was expressing a great deal of anguish and despair, and his confidence had shrunk. He was at the point of hiding behind his parents at social engagements, even with wider family and close friends.

Kit now

After only six months with Our Free Minds, Kit is a model community member. He is deeply empathic, and sparkles with joy. On arrival in the morning he will get straight on with some activity or other - often drawing or crafting. He organises himself, getting all the materials he needs without the need for any support at all. During the sessions he works with incredible focus on his various beautiful artistic and creative writing projects. He is often seen taking breaks with a book, or joining some kind of role play game. He is a keen natural scientist and loves to laugh and joke with other group members. His parents say that he has grown immeasurably in confidence - and even other family members have noticed the change.



Meet "Jennie"

Jennie is 9. She has a diagnosis for ADHD. She began her home education journey by flexi-schooling, but her anxiety levels were so high that it seemed untenable for her to continue in a mainstream environment. Her response to the pressure she felt at school was to lash out, and she felt like she was constantly letting everyone down. Her mood was low, and her stress level was high. She seemed to be very volatile, and would be quick to use attack as a method of defence - verbally and physically. Her parents were concerned about her future, fearing exclusion from school and wondering how to help their child find their place in the world.

Jennie now

When Jennie first started at Our Free Minds she was bursting into tears several times a day. She would occasionally lash out at others, and didn't seem to consistently respect boundaries.

Our Free Minds has provided that all important ingredient Jennie needed: a space to be accepted just as she is. Through the non-judgmental, consistent positive regard she has experienced, Jennie has come to relax into her life and build some wonderful friendships. She engages with passion in many activities throughout the day, and is learning how to communicate clearly and effectively with other people. She is also getting better at accepting boundaries, and is able to advocate clearly for herself and others. She still gets upset sometimes, but we now rarely see tears more than once a term, which is a sign of her increasing resilience and self-acceptance. She is often to be found designing creations, engineering and junk modelling, drawing maps or joining in running games and competitive activities. She is a dearly valued member of the community.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charitable incorporated organisation ended the year with an increase of net income and movement of funds of £10,844. The charitable incorporated organisation's total funds as at 25 January 2025 were £22,168, which are made up of £19,663 of unrestricted funds.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained without throughout the period within the charity's current account. We do not currently have a separate account for reserves but plan to set one up within the next two years.

Amount of reserves held in a separate reserves account is zero.

The reasons for holding zero reserves is that during this second year as a CIO we felt it important to ensure we maintained flexibility and a financial buffer in our current account while we grew and settled. As our member numbers stabilise we plan to open a reserves account in 2025 and begin transferring funds into it from our current account at a reasonable rate.

We have no funds materially in deficit.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Trustee selection methods as per the Charity's Constitution:

18. The CIO shall have a Board of Trustees (the "Board") comprising at least 3 persons.

19. (i) New Trustees may be recruited to the Board at any time by the Trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as Trustees, the Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

(ii) The Board may elect such officers (chair, secretary, treasurer) as they see fit.
First Trustees

20. The first Trustees are as follows:

Katherine Kotting

Jemma Eadie

Mara Simmons

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity name: Our Free Minds CIO

Registered charity number: 1201014

Charity's principal address: 4 Old Meadow Cottages, Lockeridge, Wiltshire SN8 4EN

Director name: Guy Asherson-Taylor

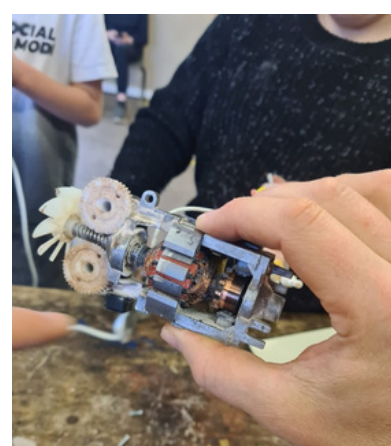
TRUSTEES

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the Charity. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute in the event of a winding up.

None of the trustees hold title to property belonging to the charity .

No funds are held as custodian trustees on behalf of others.

		Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	
	1	Katie Kotting	Chair		
	2	Mara Simmons			
	3	Clea Sambrook	Safeguarding and Treasurer		
	4	Sze Wai Wong	Secretary	Resigned 29.04.24	
	5	Poppy De Witt	Secretary	Appointed 29.04.24	



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Charity registration number 1201014 (England and Wales)

OUR FREE MINDS CIO
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	K Kotting C Sambrook M Simmons P De Witt	(Appointed 29 February 2024)
Charity number	1201014	
Principal address	4 Old Meadow Cottages Lockeridge Marlborough SN8 4EN	
Independent examiner	David Owen & Co 17 The Market Place Devizes Wiltshire SN10 1HT	

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

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OUR FREE MINDS CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 25 January 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles, the Charities Act 2011 and "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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The object of the CIO is the advancement of education for the public benefit in the South West of England by:

- a) establishing project-based educational settings designed to provide activities which develop the capabilities, competences, skills and understanding of home-educated children and 'school refusers' aged between 5 and 18.
- b) offering out of school extra curricular activities to all children aged between 5 and 18.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

The charity rents a local scout hut for three days a week, during term time, and provides three adult facilitators who are available to support the attending children with their learning projects and personal development. During the reporting period the charity worked with over 41 home educated children. During the reporting period, 6 family days were arranged in order to provide chances for connections in the community.

The charity has a number of young people self-diagnosed and diagnosed as ASD or ADHD. They provide them with an environment in which their neurodiversity is embraced and valued, and in which they can find confidence within community and develop their skills at their own pace and in their own interests.

The charity also offers Hardship places - during this period they supported 4 families (6 children) who would not otherwise have been able to afford fees with reduced rates according to their financial need.

Financial review

The charitable incorporated organisation ended the year with a increase of net income and movement of funds of £10,844. The charitable incorporated organisation's total funds as at 25 January 2025 were £22,168, which are made up of £19,663 of unrestricted funds.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

K Kotting
C Sambrook
M Simmons
P De Witt

(Appointed 29 February 2024)

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustee positions are advertised on local social media platforms. Applicants are interviewed by the chair of trustees and then presented to the board for final decision. The application process is guided by document CC30- Finding New Trustees (Finding new trustees (CC30)- [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)).

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



K Kotting
Chair

21 November 2025

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF OUR FREE MINDS CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Our Free Minds CIO (the charity) for the year ended 25 January 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 Charities Act 2011.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Mr Joe Bunton ACA
David Owen & Co

17 The Market Place
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 1HT

Dated: 21 November 2025

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	2,777	-	2,777	1,913	2,505	4,418
Charitable activities	4	43,843	-	43,843	55,873	-	55,873
Total income		46,620	-	46,620	57,786	2,505	60,291
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	5	35,776	-	35,776	48,967	-	48,967
Total expenditure		35,776	-	35,776	48,967	-	48,967
Net income and movement in funds		10,844	-	10,844	8,819	2,505	11,324
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 26 January 2024		8,819	2,505	11,324	-	-	-
Fund balances at 25 January 2025		19,663	2,505	22,168	8,819	2,505	11,324

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 25 JANUARY 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11		6,503		-
Current assets					
Debtors	12	2,445		2,422	
Cash at bank and in hand		16,325		13,132	
		<u>18,770</u>		<u>15,554</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(3,105)</u>		<u>(4,230)</u>	
Net current assets			15,665		11,324
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>22,168</u>		<u>11,324</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	15	2,505		2,505	
Unrestricted funds	16	19,663		8,819	
		<u>22,168</u>		<u>11,324</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21 November 2025



K Kotting
Chair

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Our Free Minds CIO is a charitable incorporated organisation. The registered office is 4 Old Meadow Cottages, Lockeridge, Marlborough, SN8 4EN.

1.1 Reporting period

An entity shall present a complete set of financial statements annually, including comparative information from the previous financial year. The current accounting period for this set of financial statements is a period longer than one year, being 15 months. As this is the first year there is no comparative period.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.5 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	15% reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Taxation

Our Free Minds CIO, as a registered charity, obtains exemption from taxation under part 10, ITA 2007 and s.256 TCGA 1992.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.13 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds
	2025 £
Donations and gifts	2,777
	<u>2,777</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds
	2025 £
Services provided	43,843
	<u>43,843</u>

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct and support costs for charitable activities 2025 £	Direct and support costs for charitable activities 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	-	8,267
Learning resources	804	2,955
	<u>804</u>	<u>11,222</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 6)		
Governance	34,972	37,745
	<u>35,776</u>	<u>48,967</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>35,776</u>	<u>48,967</u>

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

6 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	32,283	36,082
Governance costs	2,689	1,663
	<u>34,972</u>	<u>37,745</u>
Analysed between:		
Direct and support costs for charitable activities	<u>34,972</u>	<u>37,745</u>

7 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	642	720
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	<u>1,147</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

9 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Employment costs		
	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	31,315	43,183
Other pension costs	<u>947</u>	<u>1,086</u>
	<u>32,262</u>	<u>44,269</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

10 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment £
Cost	
Additions	7,650
At 25 January 2025	7,650
Depreciation and impairment	
Depreciation charged in the year	1,147
At 25 January 2025	1,147
Carrying amount	
At 25 January 2025	6,503

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	2,445	2,194
Prepayments and accrued income	-	228
	2,445	2,422

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	231	227
Trade creditors	478	612
Other creditors	1,397	2,671
Accruals and deferred income	999	720
	3,105	4,230

14 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	-	45

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

15 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 26 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	At 25 January 2025 £
Comfortable space	2,505	-	2,505
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous period:	At 26 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	At 25 January 2024 £
	-	2,505	2,505
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

16 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 26 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 25 January 2025 £
General funds	8,819	46,620	(35,776)	19,663
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Previous period:	At 26 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 25 January 2024 £
General funds	-	57,786	(48,967)	8,819
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 25 January 2025:			
Tangible assets	6,503	-	6,503
Current assets/(liabilities)	13,160	2,505	15,665
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	19,663	2,505	22,168
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

OUR FREE MINDS CIO

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 25 JANUARY 2025

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 25 January 2024:			
Current assets/(liabilities)	8,819	2,505	11,324
	<u>8,819</u>	<u>2,505</u>	<u>11,324</u>

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the period.