

# TRUST PROPERTY HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS

England & Wales - Charity number 254312

## Details

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**Other names** CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS, CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TRUSTEES

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Trust

**Registered** 1967-11-15

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Congregation Of Christian Bros  
St Timothy's  
Rockwell Road  
West Derby  
Liverpool  
L12 4XY

**Phone** 01512280088

## Activities

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**Objects:** CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

**Activities:** To support the religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Trust and to care for the members of the Congregation. These Ministries of the Brothers of the Congregation, all of which benefit numerous members of the general public, fall into the following main areas: Education / Faith Development / Social and pastoral work / International missionary work

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Religious Activities, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Liverpool City
- Salford City
- Stoke-on-trent City
- Trafford
- Wirral

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£2,213,561	£3,605,799	£7,634,768	56
2023-08-31	£2,157,141	£3,021,615	£8,419,968	56
2022-08-31	£2,313,923	£2,941,602	£9,511,216	53
2021-08-31	£2,211,129	£3,110,979	£10,237,849	49
2020-08-31	£3,496,603	£5,556,258	£10,618,488	83

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BROTHER DOMINIC SASSI		2014-05-05
BROTHER EAMON O'BRIEN		
BROTHER PATRICK GEORGE GORDON		
Br Jim Donovan		2022-06-30
Br Michael Halligan		2024-11-01
Brother David Gibson		2020-07-02

## Linked charities

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- HELEN MARY HOGG BEQUEST (254312-1)

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2024

**TRUST PROPERTY HELD IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE  
ENGLISH PROVINCE OF  
THE CONGREGATION OF  
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**(THE ENGLISH PROVINCE  
OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
TRUSTEES)**

Registered Charity No. 254312

**THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
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Financial Statements**

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**Legal and Administration details:**

Full Name	Trust Property Held in Connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers
Governing Document	Amended Trust deed dated 27 February 2015
Charity Registration	Number 254312
Trustees	D. Gibson (Chair of Trustees) P.G. Gordon E. O'Brien D. Sassi J. Donovan Br Michael Halligan (appointed on 1 November 2024)
Principal Address	St. Timothy's, Rockwell Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 4XY
Financial Administrator	L&P Trustee Services Ltd
Auditors	Forvis Mazars LLP One St. Peter's Square Manchester M2 3DE
Solicitors	Hill Dickinson 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
Principal Banker	HSBC 11 Stamford New Road Altrincham Cheshire WA14 1BW
Investment Advisors	Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland 23 St. Stephens Green Dublin 2

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

The Trustees present their report, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. It was founded in Waterford, Ireland in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice. It is divided into 5 distinct Provinces across the world.

The financial statements accompanying this report are the financial statements of the charitable trust in which the assets of the Christian Brothers in England are held. The Christian Brothers in England, in canon law terms, forms part of the European Province.

**Background**

Edmund Rice was born at Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny on 1 June 1762. It was a time of political and religious oppression, when poverty and want affected the lives of the vast majority of the citizens of the land.

As there was no formal schooling available to Catholics at that time, Edmund was educated both at home and at the local 'pay school' in Moate Lane, where Catholics who could afford to pay sent their children to school. After his early schooling Edmund moved to Waterford in 1779. In Waterford, he worked for his uncle, Michael Rice, in the family business, provisioning ships calling at Waterford's busy dockside. Edmund was a good businessman, and in due course inherited the family business from his uncle. Under his careful management, it prospered greatly. He became a wealthy man.

In 1785, at the age of 23, Edmund married Mary Elliott. There is very little that history reveals about the marriage other than that it came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of his young wife in 1789. Edmund found himself the sole parent of a small child who was delicate in health, and possibly suffering from a disability. Being a strong family man, Edmund initially entrusted the care of young Mary Rice to his stepsister, Joan, in 3 Arundel Place in Waterford where he had set up house.

The next twelve years of Edmund's life were hidden years during which he coped with his sorrows, ran his business, and ensured the wellbeing of his little daughter, Mary.

In 1802, at the age of 40, Edmund took a very decisive step. He embarked on a spiritual journey that changed his life utterly. The inspiration for his decision probably came from the example of Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters. Like Nano, he decided to devote the remainder of his life, and all of his resources, to the education and care of the poor. He sold his victualler's business in Waterford and arranged for his step-sister, Joan Murphy, and his handicapped daughter to move to Callan. He himself moved to a large stable in New Street, which he opened as a free school for poor Catholic boys. To help him with his project, Edmund recruited some hired help.

Edmund's decision to educate the poor was seen by his friends as both foolhardy and unwise. Some advised against it, arguing that the poor were better off ignorant. Technically, Edmund's action was also illegal because, although the political scene had changed greatly and the Act of Union had been passed in 1800, many of the Penal Laws were still on the Statute Books, and educating poor Catholics could be interpreted as a seditious act. The beginning of Edmund's educational project was tentative and inauspicious. The hired help evaporated early on, demoralised by the enormity and difficulty of the task. On his own again, Edmund trusted in God, believing that if it was God's work it would surely prevail. His faith was rewarded when two young men from his own town of Callan, Patrick Finn and Thomas Grosvenor, volunteered to join ranks with him in his new venture. The nucleus of a new religious congregation was forming, and Edmund was inspired to take the next step.

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In June 1802, Edmund began to build a monastery to accommodate his small community. This was another seditious act that left him vulnerable before the Law. The monastery was soon completed, which he called Mount Sion. By this time, a fourth member, John Mulcahon, had joined the little group.

Word soon got around and, gradually, other volunteers came to Mount Sion offering their services freely for the realisation of Edmund's dream. This little group formed itself into a small, religious community following a well ordered way of life inspired by the Rule of the Presentation Sisters, a way of life with which Edmund was familiar through his contact with the Presentation Sisters in Waterford.

As the number of volunteers grew, so too did the capacity for service of the poor, and in due course a school was opened in Carrick-on-Suir in 1806, and another in Dungarvan towards the end of 1807. By 1808, the new movement had eight members, and Edmund believed that the time was right for formally establishing themselves as a religious congregation. He approached the Bishop of Waterford, Reverend Dr. John Power, to allow them to formalise their religious commitment by professing religious vows according to the Rule of the Presentation Sisters. Bishop Power agreed enthusiastically and on 15 August 1808, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edmund and his seven followers made simple profession of vows in the chapel of the Presentation Sisters in Hennessy's Road, Waterford. The Bishop, on behalf of the Church, formally received their professions.

The good news of Edmund's educational crusade on behalf of the poor soon spread beyond the boundaries of the diocese of Waterford. Other bishops got to hear about it, and because the social conditions of the poor were much the same in every diocese in the country, a number of bishops expressed the wish that Edmund would open a school for the poor in their diocese also. In 1811 the Brothers opened a school in Cork; In 1812, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Brothers opened another school in Hanover Street on the south quays. In quick succession the following schools were opened: Cappaquin (1813), Limerick (1816), Thurles (1816), Mill Street (Dublin, 1816), Francis St. (Dublin 1820), and eventually in Preston (England 1825). Preston was the first opening outside of Ireland, and constituted a major development in the missionary outreach of the new congregation.

The poverty and deprivation with which some of these early foundations had to contend shocked even Edmund himself, and grounded him even more solidly in his trust in Divine Providence. "May the will of God be done in it (Hanover Street)", he prayed.

The spread of the new fraternity into several dioceses created huge administrative difficulties for the early Brothers. Since each community was under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary of the diocese in which it was located, the transfer of Brothers from one community to another, issues of finance, formation matters, and community policy generally all became fraught with difficulties. Edmund felt that these difficulties amounted to a serious constraint on the development of his burgeoning congregation, and he looked around for an alternative model of administration to the diocesan model which was proving so cumbersome. Very quickly, he discovered that the solution to these difficulties lay in getting papal approval for his congregation as an Apostolic Institute, a status enjoyed by the congregation of De LaSalle Brothers for many decades.

To facilitate the move away from a diocesan structure, in 1817 Edmund and his Brothers with the approval of the Archbishop of Dublin, applied to the Holy See for an Apostolic Brief. In due course, and despite some opposition, His Holiness, Pope Pius VII granted Edmund's request, and issued the formal brief establishing the Congregation as an Apostolic Institute in 1820. The Brothers formally accepted the brief on 20 January 1822. Edmund Rice was elected Superior General of the new Apostolic Institute.

Nineteen of the thirty Brothers eligible to vote were present in Mount Sion on that historic day. Of those early Brothers who did not sign, some withdrew from the congregation at that point, while others wished to retain their diocesan affiliations and consequently refused the Brief. One of these, Br. Michael Austin Riordan, became the nucleus around which the Presentation Brothers Congregation developed.

The spread of the Congregation from small beginnings in Waterford in 1802 to the worldwide organisation it is today, working in over thirty countries spread across the five continents, is a matter of history. What the story points to is the resilient nature of Edmund's founding charism, and its ability to incarnate itself in many countries, proclaiming its message of liberation through education in many languages and many cultures.

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**OBJECTIVES**

**Charitable Objects**

The principal object of the Charity, as set out in the amended Trust Deed, is to “advance the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on in Great Britain or abroad by or under the direction or with the support of the Province as the Trustees with the approval of the Provincial Leader shall from time to time think fit”.

**Aims**

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation and to care for those members throughout their lives within the Congregation. These Ministries of the Brothers of the Congregation, all of which benefit numerous members of the general public, fall into the following main areas:

- Education
- Faith development
- Social and pastoral work
- International missionary work
- Care and welfare of members

Each of these is considered in turn below:

**Education**

The Charity provides support and services for six schools in direct or Academy Trusteeship and, without charge, to a further four associated schools in diocesan or independent Trusteeship.

**Criteria for Measuring Success in Edmund Rice Schools**

Measuring success for beneficiaries and the wider society in terms of numerical and scientific criteria is rather difficult for the English Region of the European Province but, being the Trustees of the two independent Preparatory schools in England and being an important part of the overall successful operations of the four Academy Colleges as well as involvement in the ethos of the four Associate schools, is important and is undertaken under two strands:

First Strand

Answering to outside Agencies to whom the schools are accountable and which have their own measurable standards as follows:

The **Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)** - as it applies to the Academy Schools:

- Pupil progress - the precise measure of students across three key stages (key stage 3, 4 and 5) is done through internal and external examinations.
- Pupil attendance - set at 95% > school attendance across each academic year.
- Pupil Premium - extra targeted funding allocated to schools who have eligible students (FSM) – schools have to account for their use of funding and its measured outcomes in terms of pupil progress compared to non-recipients.
- Provision for safeguarding of children in education.

Schools undergo regular inspections during which their statistics are analysed.

**Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)** - as it applies to Preparatory schools:

Use of inspections (every six years) to measure pupil progress; provision of a series of policies / procedures in a variety of areas e.g. Finance, measurement of pupil progress, safeguarding, safe recruitment, behaviour and discipline etc.

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Schools are rated according to their compliance against the standards as perceived by an inspectorate team.

**Second Strand**

Answering to the standards as laid out in the 'Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education' and on which many of our schools build their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). These plans use the SMART acronym; **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely**. Each target has a clear set of smart outcomes which allow the school to perform an accurate measure of its degree of success.

The Trustees meet annually face-to-face with the senior leadership and governors of the Academies and Preparatory schools and undertake an audit of success within the school which includes both external and internal judgements.

**Secondary schools**

All four of the secondary schools are now Academy Trusts and invite the Trustees to their annual AGMs in accordance with the Articles of Association:

- St Edward's College, Liverpool
- St Anslem's College, Birkenhead
- St Ambrose College, Hale Barns
- St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS102 section 9, "Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements", as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provision laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions as defined by FRS102 section 9.

**Primary schools**

There are two independent primary schools which continue in direct trusteeship, with the Congregation Trustees as registered proprietors:

- St. Ambrose Preparatory School, Hale Barns, Altrincham
- St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent

St Joseph's Preparatory School closed subsequent to the year end on 31 December 2024. This is discussed further in 'Future Plans' on page 22.

The results of these schools are included in these financial statements.

**Associated schools:**

There are four associated schools in other trusteeships and, as such, it is not appropriate to include their results in these financial statements.

- St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland (11-18) - diocesan trusteeship (Hexham and Newcastle)
- St. Boniface RC Academy, Plymouth (11-18) – diocesan trusteeship (Plymouth)
- St. Mary's College, Crosby (HMC independent secondary 11-18) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust
- St. Mary's College Preparatory School (independent primary) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust

These schools continue within the family of Edmund Rice schools. All four receive in-service and immersion opportunities and ethos support, co-ordinated and delivered by the Network Support Team employed by the Congregation Trustees.

The 'difference' the Charity seeks to make through its schools operation is the provision and support of outstanding Catholic faith-based education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The aim is to achieve outstanding educational outcomes for boys and girls from nursery entry to the age of 18+, through the realisation of eight core principles set out by the Trustees.

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The 10 schools belong to the Edmund Rice family of schools by providing, and seeking continuously to improve, an educational programme grounded on the eight principles set out in a shared vision document, 'Reaching Out - The Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education'. These eight governing criteria define the identity and mission of the schools in England and provide a template for school development and mission evaluation. Through the implementation of these values the Charity seeks to promote individual educational, spiritual, physical, moral, social and cultural development within a Christian vision of the person and in the spirit of service established by the Founder, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Each school strives to be a Christian community where the fullest talents of each pupil are developed in a spirit of wider social awareness and with commitment to social justice and community responsibility.

The '**Essentials**' are:

1. **Evangelising the modern world** - Participating in the mission of the Catholic Church by bringing the Good News of Christ to all aspects of the life of the school community, and in dialogue with youth and contemporary culture, thus fulfilling the specific calling of the Congregation of Christian Brothers: The Evangelisation of youth through the Apostolate of Christian Education
2. **Promoting the spiritual** - Nurturing a living faith, fostering Christian spirituality, educating in Gospel-based values, living beyond the material dimension .
3. **Building a Christian community** - Growing as a school community in which the quality of care and relationships is Christ-inspired, based on mutual respect, self-sacrifice, and fully human dignity.
4. **Compassion for those in need** - Showing, in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, particular love and concern towards the weakest members of the school community and reaching out beyond the school in compassion and practical action for the poor and marginalised both locally and internationally.
5. **Concern for the whole person** - Centering the curriculum, opportunities, and challenges of the school on the balanced and integrated development of its students, and staff, across all the positive dimensions of personal growth- religious, moral, intellectual, cultural, physical, and social.
6. **Striving for excellence** - Encouraging each individual to use his or her talents to the full, whether academic, cultural, or physical, and pursuing the highest standards in all aspects of learning, teaching, and extracurricular endeavour.
7. **Education as a Christian calling** - Valuing and enabling the role and vocation of Christian teachers and support staff as a calling from God and a sharing in the Church's mission.
8. **Education for justice** - Inspiring the minds and hearts of the young to care for all God's creation and build a more just society, God's Kingdom on earth, and developing in them the talents for active citizenship and transformational leadership.

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The Trustees' expanded 'Charter' document, 'Reaching Out' continues to be the basis for in-school in-service training to further embed, apply, and develop the eight guiding principles of the charity and thereby continue to improve the learning experience and opportunities of all pupils. The Trustees ensure the implementation of the 'Eight Essentials' in the life of the schools through:

- Their role in selecting and appointing the Foundation Governors of the schools, and in the selection, appointment, and continuing formation of committed Headteachers and members of the school leadership teams. This applies both to the schools in direct trusteeship and to the newly formed Academies.
- Continuous liaison and meeting with and support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and school leadership teams
- The provision of in-service training for teachers and governors
- The active promotion of the 'Eight Essentials' as the template for school development planning, SEF (self-evaluation) and for state and diocesan inspection.

Each school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils, and fully adheres to statutory requirements and best practice in this respect and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Inspections of the state-funded schools by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education Children Services and Skills) and of the independent schools by ISIS (Independent Schools Inspectorate) report that the quality of pastoral care in our schools is outstanding, that safeguarding and anti-bullying practices are effectively in place, and that the quality of provision for social, moral, and spiritual development and for social engagement, is excellent.

Each school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds. Though the first obligation is to admit Roman Catholic pupils, the schools are open to pupils of all faiths or none and are committed, in relation to all pupils admitted, to complete inclusivity. The admissions and oversubscription criteria of the selective schools comply fully with the current statutory Admissions Code and with equal opportunity legislation.

As equal opportunity providers the schools are committed to a working environment free from any form of discrimination. The schools are committed to making reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are, or become, disabled.

In the financial year the Trustees' objectives in the educational sector included:

- Continued improvement to the delivery of the eight core values through ongoing formation and in-service training for Heads, teaching and support staff and governors.
- Continuing to expand the social outreach activities of the schools. The Schools' Team encourages each school to engage pupils in actions of charity, justice and advocacy towards the needy, especially those made poor and marginalised, in the local community and the wider world, in the spirit of Edmund Rice and engaging with the work of Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.
- The growth and further inspiration of the wider Edmund Rice Network.

The work of the Trustees in the schools is co-ordinated by a full-time Schools Officer, who provides guidance and support for Heads and Governing Bodies and:

- Organises in-service training for newly qualified and established staff.
- Organises inter-school conferences for Heads, Governors and for staff.
- Assists with school development planning.
- Advises on the recruitment and appointment of senior staff.
- Offers support for the spiritual life of senior staff and governors.
- Oversees best practice and compliance with safeguarding procedures

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**Faith development**

As a Religious Congregation, faith development is of prime importance to the Trustees. All aspects of the Trust's work involve the advancement of religion whether it is in the educational, pastoral or international missionary fields. The Trust continues to assess its work and to search for better ways of carrying out this ministry in today's world.

The work in this area is mainly carried out through the schools and the local parishes where members of the Province reside. In addition, members of the Province provide prayer guidance and spiritual direction.

From the early 1990s the Congregation of Christian Brothers, as a religious institute, has made a priority of sharing its mission with the laity, laicising the leadership and governance of the schools. Beyond that, as with other religious orders, there is an expanding emphasis on the growth of "spiritual families", groups of associated lay people offered opportunities to draw spiritual and apostolic fruitfulness from the original charism. Thus the Trustees' objectives include the development of an Edmund Rice Network of lay people who wish to associate themselves with the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Brothers.

The 'Edmund Rice Network' consists of local groups of interested adults gathering for spiritual sharing and reflection and who are encouraged to involve themselves in some form of social outreach. Although the majority of Network participants are drawn from staff and parents in the schools, meetings are open to all interested adults – indeed to anyone who wishes in some way, however informally, to connect with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. Opportunities for spiritual conversation and faith-based social action are provided. The Network Support Team, in addition to its work with schools, seeks to build new local groups of lay associates on this model.

The Trustees fund combined school and Network services delivered by a Network Support Team employed by the Trustees. The Team take on the roles of:

- A Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network
- A Network Facilitator who promotes and organises involvement in Network events and opportunities; these include spiritual and adult immersion opportunities across the European and global Edmund Rice Network for teachers and support staff from the 10 schools and for parents and friends and interested adults. The Facilitator also writes the English Network magazine and develops resources for schools and the Network.

The Edmund Rice Network group acts as a hub for Network development involving both lay associates and Christian Brothers. Extensive use is made of the Network Centre, for in-service sessions with teachers, support staff, governors, and pupils from the schools, and for gatherings with the wider community.

Since 2010 small spiritual conversation groups have developed in Manchester, Liverpool, the Wirral and Salford. These groups are focused on the three challenges, 'Love tenderly, walk humbly, and act justly.'

In addition, a series of sessions has been organised at the Network Centre, offering all comers the opportunity for spiritual conversation and prayerful reflection on life experience.

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**Social and pastoral work**

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by the Edmund Rice Network and individual Brothers:

- Working in parishes, visiting, helping in catechetical programs and helping parishioners develop their spiritual lives
- Community social work with the homeless
- Advocacy and support for asylum seekers and refugees
- Various justice and peace initiatives
- Guiding prayer groups
- Working as counsellors

The aims of the Trustees in this area include:

- Enabling members of the Province to carry out meaningful social and pastoral work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area; and
- Encouraging and motivating members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised.

**International missionary work**

The charity supports the international religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation. Members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers are working in developing countries around the world. The Brothers work to help restore the education provision in those countries. They are involved in school education, special education for handicapped children and adult literacy programmes. In addition others are working with orphans and children displaced because of war. The tracing of families of displaced children and the former child combatants is another area of vital importance.

These young people are also offered literacy, numeracy and other skills-training programmes to help them re-integrate into society and to find ways of living economic and socially independent lives.

In addition, the Trust contributed to the establishment of Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust (ERBT), an English registered charity whose purpose is to support the mission of the Congregation worldwide but especially in the majority (developing) world.

**Care and welfare of members**

Those members who earn salaries or receive pensions donate them to the Trust and therefore have no independent means of support. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Trust includes both the upkeep and up-skilling / retraining of the members so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public.

In addition, the Trust must also care for the elderly members who are now themselves in need of care. These members have no resources of their own and have devoted a significant part of their lives to the mission of the Congregation.

In this regard, the aims of the Trustees over the current and forthcoming years include:

- Providing the necessary training to ensure that the members of the Trust can continue to further the mission of the Congregation.
- Enabling members to continue with their individual ministries for as long as possible.
- Reviewing the properties used as Community houses and assessing their suitability for an ageing membership. Those identified as being unsuitable will be adapted or replaced with more appropriate properties.
- Ensuring members receive the level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly have.

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**Public benefit**

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The four secondary schools supported and serviced by the Trustees and the Schools Office educate over 4,000 students, are state-funded and completely non-fee paying. They are open to all with places accessed according to the admissions and oversubscription policies determined by Governing Bodies in conformity with the statutory Admissions Code and appeals procedures currently in force. All of the senior schools deliver further public benefit through the social outreach activities described elsewhere in this report and through community use of their facilities.

The two primary schools are independent fee-paying schools. The Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given consideration to the supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee-charging. Each school has its own annual statement of objectives to fulfil its mission and excellence as an Edmund Rice school. This forms part of each school's development planning. The two fee-paying primary schools are committed to maximising access by keeping fees as low as possible. Fees are kept well below the average for the independent sector nationally, below average regionally, and within the reach of families where both parents work.

Each of the primary schools continues to develop its own bursary scheme to make a number of places available to children whose parents cannot pay fees. The number of advertised bursaries available remains limited because of the unusually low level of fees and the need for due regard for other families already struggling to fund their child's education. Considerable bursary assistance is given to families who become unemployed or fall on hard times. Bursaries are awarded, subject to meeting the standard entrance requirements of the school, solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship when a pupil's education or future prospects would be at risk (for example, in the case of redundancy or divorce). In addition, discounts are provided to families when they have more than one child attending the school.

Each of the fee-paying primary schools seeks to provide wider public benefit by a range of means, for example:

- Providing facilities for Edmund Rice Camps (summer holiday weeks) for disadvantaged children from inner city primary schools.
- Participation in curricular and staff development partnership links with local state schools.
- Opening facilities to community groups free of charge out of school hours e.g. adult education classes, neighbouring state schools, and sports teams.

The Edmund Rice Network delivers public benefit through its outreach work with refugees and asylum seekers in Liverpool and Greater Manchester and with marginalised youth in Salford, as described elsewhere in this report.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Educational Programme / School Governance**

All four of the state-funded secondary schools are high performing Catholic schools in their authorities, oversubscribed, performing powerfully in national league tables, and highly valued regionally for the strength of their Christian-Catholic ethos. They are notable also for their contribution to local improvement partnerships and to community cohesion through outreach activities, collaboration with other schools in the maintained sector, and the community use of their facilities.

St. Joseph's College in Stoke on Trent has continued to play a substantial role in educational regeneration within a previously failing authority both as a Teaching School and running the SCITT (school centred initial teacher training) to provide new teachers for the Local Authority.

St. Edward's College, St. Ambrose College and St. Anselm's College provide collaborative partnerships within their areas.

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The two independent Preparatory Schools are subject to inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

Some examples of the in-school support services and opportunities provided and funded across the schools by the Trustees are:

- Joint inset with all staff from Prep schools
- Joint inset with senior schools
- Residential conference for heads and chairs
- Training with all year 7 students in each of our academies
- Induction for all new staff and Governors
- Heads' retreat
- Leadership training for senior leadership teams
- Advocacy work with both Junior and senior school pupils.

### **Edmund Rice Primary Awards**

On 20th June we invited the Year 6 pupils from all four Edmund Rice primary schools to host our annual Primary Awards Day. Students and staff gathered at Holy Angels Parish Hall early in the morning, along with the office team and our esteemed guest of honour who would later that morning present the awards, Dr Wayne Tinsey, the EREBB Global Ambassador. In turn, each school presented to the group how they had engaged with the awards scheme this year and what community outreach, or advocacy work they had done as their project. From visits with the elderly, to talks on human rights, re-wilding school gardens and assisting the work of local charities all of the students in year 6 have done Edmund's work this year. The aim of the Edmund Rice Primary Awards is to explore the current mission of Edmund Rice education. We do this by revisiting the Edmund Rice story, our charism and heritage, getting to know and connecting with the wider Edmund Rice network and its ministries, exploring callings and vocation, learning about human rights and advocacy and how we raise our voices with those most vulnerable listening to the cry of the Earth. In response to what they have learned in the program, each Year 6 class responds by putting their 'faith into action' and undertaking a project which reflects Blessed Edmund's approach of reaching out in compassionate action. After hearing from all our schools and presenting the medals, we enjoyed a smashing picnic lunch in the beautiful parish hall garden where the sun was shining. We thank St Ambrose College catering department for supplying delicious sandwiches. June 20th is World Refugee Day so we joined with St Ambrose College to participate in an advocacy drone photo shoot to show we #stand together with refugees. Primary students were treated to a sneak preview of the upcoming College play about the asylum process in the UK: Real people. You can read about this further on in the magazine.

Thank you to all Year 6 pupils who have engaged so enthusiastically with the awards program this year and for their wonderful, supportive staff. We wish them all the best of luck with their move to senior school next term.





### Leadership in The Edmund Rice Context

We welcomed some of our new deputies and headteachers at Woodeaves to work with Wayne Tinsey on what leadership and mission means in our particular Edmund Rice context. Wayne's vast experience of leadership in Edmund Rice schools and his global vision for Edmund Rice education truly inspired our leaders, they were affirmed that love and compassion must be at the heart of what we offer in our schools.

The workshop challenged our leaders to have Edmund's courage in striving to teach more than knowledge but to ask the questions that our society needs asking. Enjoying time with a global Edmund Rice educator motivates our school leaders to continue to build on the global connections a network such as ours affords. Our new leaders also shared their thoughts on how the Edmund Rice education team can better support them in their mission.

### Advocacy and Justice

Engaging Schools advocacy for and with asylum seekers and refugees, an ERI enrichment session.

In May, we contributed to an ERI Enrichment zoom training which focused on how schools can engage their communities in advocacy and justice work with refugees and people seeking asylum. Along with Sean D'Alfonso from North America, the advocacy coordinator for schools in their region and Cormac McArt from the Westcourt Social justice centre in Belfast, Ann delivered a session to demonstrate the significant work which has been done and continues amongst our students and staff to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and the asylum failings in this country. We explored programmes and advocacy campaigns that we have all been involved in in our own regions, looked at the facts around migration and the anti-immigrant bias often presented by media and governments. More than 100 participants from across the international community joined the session. We have created a resources page to help any schools wanting to become more engaged with this global humanitarian crisis. As part of the enrichment, we launched our social media campaign that we ran throughout Refugee week (17-21 June) to include photos from groups all across our network showing our solidarity with refugees.

## ENRICHMENT

theme:

### A School's advocacy response to Asylum Seekers and Refugees

**Participants:**

Teachers, educators and leadership in schools and education and all interested or working with asylum seekers and refugees

Facilitators: Ann Nichols (UK), Sean D'Alfonso (USA) & Cormac Mc Art (NI), members of the Edmund Rice Network, will share their personal experiences & creative strategies on creating awareness, changing mindsets & initiating campaigns that students & schools have engaged with in responding to this human rights issue at a local level.

edmund rice



- Interviews
- Resources & activities
- Global perspective



**Date: Friday, 3 May 2024**

**Timing for Geneva: 16:00 - 17:30 hrs. (GMT+2)**

**Duration: 90 minutes**

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**Edmund Rice Schools stand “#TogetherWithRefugees” in a spirit of togetherness**

To mark World Refugee Day on Thursday 20th June, schools from a national and international network come together to show their solidarity with the most marginalised in our society, those seeking asylum and refuge from global crises.

Primary schools St Joseph’s Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent, Runnymede St Edward’s Catholic Primary, St Mary’s Preparatory school, Liverpool and St Ambrose Preparatory School, Altrincham came together with senior students from St Ambrose college, Altrincham to watch a teaser performance of the play the boys from the College have written and devised themselves this year in response to learning about the challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers in the UK.

Outside the college building, with an audience arranged into a heart shape to represent the logo ‘Together with Refugees’, the cast performed the opening of the production to honour people who have been forced to flee.

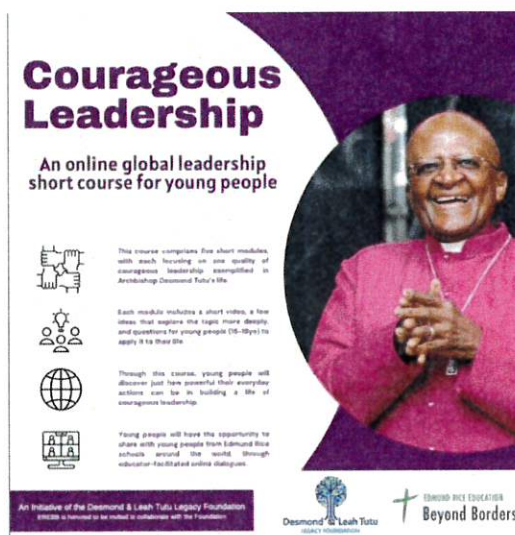
As Edmund’s people we are called to show compassion for those in need and to demonstrate our love and concern for the most vulnerable in our society. Patrick Groves, Deputy Headteacher at St Ambrose College said, “We are all created in the image of God and we are proud that our pupils have recognised the importance of highlighting these, often heart-breaking, individual stories. Putting faith into practical action also reflects the spirit of Edmund Rice.”

Each of the Year 6 classes at the 4 primary schools coming together have completed an award programme through the Edmund Rice Schools’ Office this year which focuses on advocacy, justice and service. As part of their programme, they have learnt about the asylum process, what it means to be a refugee and met with refugees themselves. Year 6 pupils receive their awards in a joint celebration on June 20th for completing their service element of the scheme.

The Edmund Rice network works to support those seeking asylum and refugees through Salford Edmund Rice Volunteers and Asylum Link Merseyside.



**Classroom Partners**



Building on the success of the EREBB program developed and managed by Edmund Rice Education Australia and Edmund Rice England which links student groups across our network around global issues linked to the SDGs, the next phase of partnerships will expand to include an option to link around leadership. We encourage staff overseeing student leadership teams (e.g. prefect teams) to register with GCP to connect their team with a similar group overseas. When undertaking this project students first complete the free, short but very powerful online leadership ‘Courageous Leadership’ course run by the Desmond Tutu foundation.



**Social and Pastoral work**

Throughout the year, the Edmund Rice Network and the Brothers continued to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual Ministries. This work enables the charity to reach out to those in need within society generally and benefit a significant number of people.

Within the Network ‘religion’ is understood as requiring committed social outreach as well as faith-sharing and prayer. The principal current expression of this commitment is outreach in the spirit of Edmund Rice, to the ‘strangers in our midst’. Network members continue to provide weekly through-the-year support to:

- Asylum Link Merseyside, working with a Christian Brother at the St. Anne’s Centre in Overbury Street, Liverpool. The focus here is on befriending, accompaniment, and the (free) provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.
- SERV – Edmund Rice volunteers working with asylum seekers and refugees as well as hosting a youth club and an Edmund Rice Camp.
- Homelessness organisations such as the Whitechapel Centre in Liverpool involving students in awareness raising and fundraising.

**International missionary work**

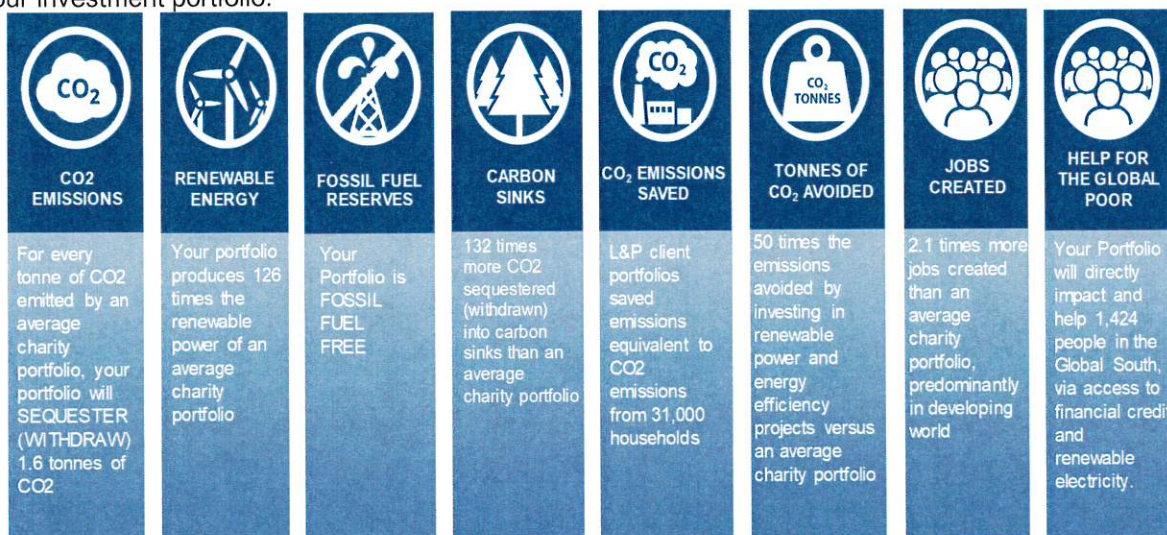
During the financial year, the Trust made a donation of £15k (2023 - £17.8k) to an NGO group called Dailit. This group works in Bangladesh to improve the social economic condition and the social position of socially excluded individuals and groups through education, health and income generating activities. The Trustees hope to support this NGO in the future.

**Positive Impact Investing**

**Our Mission Driven Investment Approach**

As investors, it can be easy to get caught up in simple financial return. However, investing is an extremely useful tool for not only generating financial returns but also creating an impact on the world around us. We see our investment portfolio as an extension of our Mission. Alongside our active ministries, we strive to create meaningful change through positive impact investing. At the same time, we actively avoid investments in industries that are contrary to our values, such as fossil fuels and armaments. By doing so, we ensure that our financial resources are not supporting harmful activities.

However, avoiding harm is only part of the equation. We believe that driving positive change through our investments is even more powerful. That's why we focus on opportunities that promote individual well-being and environmental sustainability. We assess our impact across key areas that reflect how our investments contribute to a better world. Below are some of the positive outcomes achieved through our investment portfolio:



**The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Every investment within our portfolio is analysed to assess its contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals, adopted by all UN member states, serve as a global blueprint for creating a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future.

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The SDGs aim to address some of the world's most pressing challenges by focusing on ending poverty, protecting the environment, and improving overall well-being. They encourage governments, businesses, and investors to take meaningful action toward achieving these objectives by 2030. By aligning our investments with the SDGs, we ensure that our financial decisions are not only responsible but also actively driving positive change. Through this approach, we contribute to solutions that foster economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:



Source: UN (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) closely align with the charitable missions and ethical principles upheld by religious organizations. Rooted in values of human dignity, social justice, and environmental stewardship, the SDGs provide a framework for addressing some of the world's most urgent challenges—many of which religious communities have long worked to combat.

Since the publication of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis has strongly emphasized the need for sustainable development and care for our common home. His call for "...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet" underscores the moral responsibility to act urgently on issues such as climate change, inequality, and global poverty. Pope Francis has also voiced direct support for the SDGs, notably in his speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly's formal adoption of the 17 Goals. His endorsement reinforced the ambitious and transformational vision of the SDGs, aligning them with the principles of integral human development—the idea that progress must support both people and the planet.

By integrating the SDGs into investment strategies, faith-based organizations can actively contribute to a more just, sustainable, and compassionate world, ensuring that financial resources are directed toward initiatives that reflect their core values. To ensure alignment of the SDGs we use a comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact screen which guarantees the Portfolio remains consistent with the ethos of the charity. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the material production of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Additional Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening to improve the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio.

**Environmental Impact**

**Overall Carbon Footprint**



Measurement of carbon emissions plays a critical role in shaping our understanding of how our investment portfolio affects the climate crisis, and also enables us to better address it. Additionally, limiting carbon emissions interacts with several SDGs, helping address Climate Action in particular. Climate justice is another aspect addressed in our portfolio, as climate change predominantly impacts those who've done the least to contribute to pollution and have less resources to deal with it. Therefore, control of carbon emissions in our portfolio also contributes to reducing poverty (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10) and preserving life on land (SDG15) and in the ocean (SDG14)

The portfolio includes several carbon sink investments designed to capture and remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Among these, forestry stands out as a particularly effective solution, as trees naturally absorb CO<sub>2</sub> during their growth process. As a result, the inclusion of forestry funds helps to offset the majority of the portfolio's carbon emissions, effectively balancing its environmental impact.

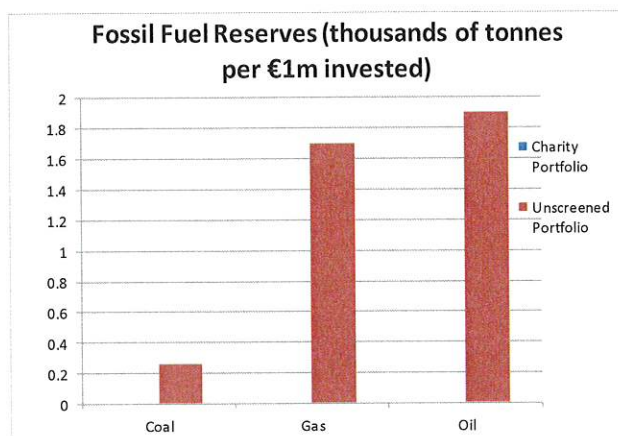
Put another way, this means that the Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) 192 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide or equivalent gases) from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce c. 1,466 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio very much part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

**Fossil Fuel Reserves**

In early 2017, the Trustees made the decision to fully divest from fossil fuels, ensuring that the portfolio now holds no fossil fuel reserves. This policy guarantees that there is no direct exposure to companies involved in thermal coal, oil, natural gas, or other unconventional reserves, such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas.

A significant portion of these fossil fuel reserves is expected to become "stranded assets", meaning they may never be utilized if global efforts to limit temperature rise to below 2°C are successful. By avoiding these assets, the portfolio not only reinforces its commitment to environmental sustainability but also mitigates financial risks associated with stranded fossil fuel investments.

The chart illustrates the fossil fuel reserves held within the portfolio compared to an unscreened portfolio. As shown, the portfolio holds zero fossil fuel reserves, reinforcing its dedication to supporting the global transition to sustainable energy. This approach ensures that investments align with the portfolio's overarching impact-driven strategy, actively contributing to the shift away from fossil fuels toward clean, renewable energy solutions.



**Chart showing the Charity's Investment Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves (no blue bar)**

### Renewable Energy

As the transition to renewable energy is crucial in addressing climate change, impact-focused investors typically aim for a high level of renewable power generation within their portfolios. In our portfolio, renewable energy production is supported through various investments across Ireland, Europe, the U.S., and developing regions. These investments play a vital role in advancing clean energy solutions while contributing to global sustainability goals.

Below, we highlight some of the key impact metrics of these renewable energy funds:

Renewable Energy Fund	
Renewable energy fund holding both onshore and offshore projects	
• Energy for 300,000 houses per annum	
• Avoids emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> per annum	
• 1,000,000 MWh of renewable power per annum	

Solar Income Fund	
Fund holding approx. 40 solar plants in Europe	
• Energy for 150,000 houses per annum	
• Avoids emissions of 162,000 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> per annum	
• 480,000 MWh of renewable power per annum	

The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) it replaces. In 2024, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 1,052 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. This is equivalent to:

- Removing 227 cars from the roads every year
- 2,419 barrels of oil saved
- 876 acres of pine forest absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> for one year
- 115 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 2,278 MWh in 2024, enough energy to power approx. 616 homes.

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**Environmental Protection and Carbon Sequestration**

Environmental protection is a critical aspect of sustainability addressed by the Portfolio. The forestry investments within the Portfolio have a mandate to:

- Produce sustainable timber;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere;
- Protect natural resources and biodiversity of the area, in order to minimise the effect on the biodiversity and general environmental welfare.



The managers of the forestry investments in the portfolio review any new forest properties at the outset to record and maintain Biodiversity already present. They have also adopted an approach in their management to enhance biodiversity by planning linkage between features using corridors so that the biodiversity features on site are conserved and new features being created are all joined and form part of a biodiversity unit within each property. These features are measured and captured on the managers' geographic information system (GIS). A detailed biodiversity classification and rating system is in place and the managers are being set to enrich diversity across the funds and have throughout the portfolio.

**Social Impact**

**Job Creation**



Providing employment is one of the best methods of reducing poverty, and therefore it has a number of positive beneficial effects across the SDGs, from poverty reduction (SDG1) to providing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8). As the majority of the jobs created by the impact investments are in the developing world, and tend to favour women as much (if not more) than men, then job creation in these areas improves Gender Equality (SDG5) and Reduces Inequalities (SDG10), both between sexes and between the developed and developing regions of the world.

The Portfolio has a number of funds which provide job creation through their economic activity. The equity funds provide capital to companies that employ anywhere between hundreds to hundreds of thousands, and therefore additional capital from investors should enable these companies to create jobs, albeit that the job creation impact from additional investment in these typically large, established businesses is low. However, other funds that operate in the developing world tend to produce far higher job creation and comprise the majority of the additional jobs produced for the portfolio as a whole.

The new jobs created by an unscreened portfolio of the same size as the Portfolio would only create 5 new jobs, while the Portfolio helped create circa 10 direct jobs in 2024.

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## Homelessness Crisis

As of 2024, there were an estimated 14,000 homeless individuals in Ireland, indicating a dramatic rise of over 250% in the number of homeless families since 2015. This stark increase highlights the deepening crisis in Ireland's social housing sector, which has been struggling to meet demand due to severe limitations in the availability of residential properties and a rapidly growing population. At the time of this report, Ireland's population had surpassed 5 million people, reaching its highest level since 1851. This population growth, coupled with increasing urbanization and economic pressures, has put enormous strain on the housing market.

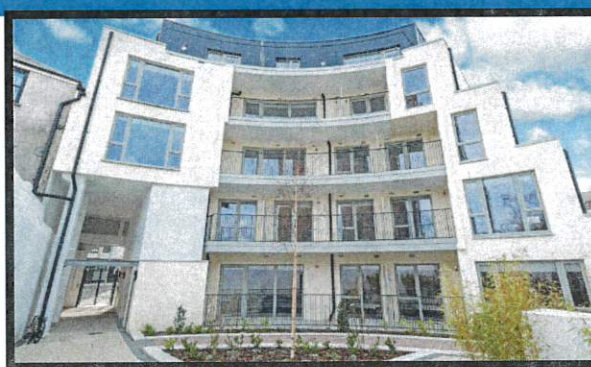
In response to this urgent need for affordable housing, the portfolio has included the New Haven Social Housing Fund, which is specifically designed to address the chronic shortage of housing for vulnerable populations in Ireland. The Fund's primary aim is to invest in and develop sustainable, high-quality housing for those most in need, including low-income families, individuals facing homelessness, and other at-risk groups.

The following outlines the key goals of the **New Haven Social Housing Fund**, which works to mitigate the social and economic challenges posed by this growing crisis:

### Social Housing Fund

Innovative fund acquires properties for social housing purposes

- Provide €100m+ in long term capital to housing sector
- Target high ESG and sustainability standards
- 500+ new homes to be provided for social housing needs



## Care and Welfare of Members

Throughout the year the charity continued to assist members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work. A number of members were cared for in the Cowper Care nursing care home in Ireland whilst the charity enabled other members to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. In addition, the charity welcomes members from other Provinces to stay in England to allow them to study and acquire skills they can take back to their own Provinces.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Results for the year

During the year, total incoming resources amounted to £2.2m (2023: £2.2m) Of the incoming resources, a total of £1.8m (2023: £1.8m) related to the fees receivable and other income of the charity's independent schools, with other incoming resources accounting for £0.4m (2023: £0.4m). Investment income and interest receivable totalled £98k (2023: £71k), while donations and gifts totalled £35k (2023: £3k).

Resources expended totalled £3.6m (2023: £3.0m), with 99% (2023: 99%) being expended on direct charitable activities. Expenditure in the charity's independent schools totalled £2.1m (2023: £2.0m). Expenditure incurred on maintaining the members of the Congregation and supporting them in their ministry and pastoral work amounted to £1.4m (2023: £976k). Mission support costs totalled £124k (2023: £76k) in the year. Expenditure on governance during the year was well controlled and amounted to £52k (2023: £38k).

Net outgoing resources for the year, therefore, were £1.4m. Investment losses of £103k offset by £22k actuarial gains on the defined benefit pension scheme and £700k gain on disposal of fixed assets resulted in a net movement in funds for the year of (£786k).

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**Investment policy**

The charity's investments are held in unitised funds, the purpose of which is to provide investment income to promote the charitable objectives of the Trust, and to provide capital growth in the reserves over the medium term. They are invested with a medium risk investment strategy. The objectives for the investments are as follows:

- To provide an annual income for the charity
- To preserve the capital value of the portfolio in real terms
- To generate a real return, depending on conditions in financial markets, after the initial two objectives have been met
- To achieve the above targets while utilising the charity's stated ethical investment policy

The investment funds are under the management of Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland Ltd. As noted above, all funds have an ethical investment screen; they exclude companies that fall foul of certain ethical criteria, and in most cases favour stocks that provide positive benefits to society; these funds only hold investments that are compatible with the Charity's religious ethos.

**Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to £7.6m (2023: £8.4m). Of this, £2.7m (2023: £2.8m) is represented by properties and other tangible fixed assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees have designated another £6.8m to provide for school and education funding, mission and ministry works and the care and welfare of the members. Details are given in note 19 of these Financial Statements. The Trustees review and reassess these designations on an on-going basis.

Un-designated or general funds amount to £1.4m. This equates to approximately 5 months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work and its commitments, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to between 4 and 8 months' expenditure.

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## **FUTURE PLANS**

The charity intends to continue to review its spending plans and needs and to make every effort to manage its existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the charity aims.

The Trustees intend to meet the following objectives:

- Through the work of the Network Support Team to continuously improve the implementation of the 'Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education' through the provision of support services, including support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and leadership teams and in-service training for teachers and support staff.
- As regards future planning, the CCBT intends to become a founding member of the Gaudete Trust which is a collaborative venture involving five Religious Orders who are involved in education. This venture will enable the rich heritage of Religious Orders to affirm their commitment to Catholic education and to continue to enrich it. The CCBT intends to put all their seven schools into the Gaudete Trust, thus relieving the present trustees of the responsibility of trusteeship. The Gaudete Trust will be allied to a Multi Academy Trust, which will include the Congregation's present four stand-alone academies. The Gaudete Trust – will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation recognised by the Charities Commission and a Public Juridic Person recognised by the Hierarchy of England and Wales.
- To continue to extend the Developing World Immersion Programme. This will include the investigation of immersion opportunities in other Developing World Countries and the drawing in of schools yet to send groups on immersion.
- To continue to develop links with the work of 'Edmund Rice International', the Christian Brother non-governmental organisation based in Geneva and working within the United Nations on issues of global social justice, in particular the rights of the child.
- To continue to grow the wider Edmund Rice Network in England, using school communities as the core but establishing local groups open to the wider community and providing opportunities for faith-sharing, spiritual reflection, and action for social justice (in particular support for refugees and asylum seekers).
- To continue to grow the Edmund Rice Network specifically for the age group 18-25, continuing the connection with ex-students of the schools, providing them with further opportunities for immersion, service, social engagement, and reflection both in Britain and Ireland and in the Developing World.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by an Amended Trust Deed dated 27 February 2015. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (charity number 254312).

In accordance with the Amended Trust Deed "the number of Trustees shall not be less than four including any ex-officio Trustee and shall never be more than eight and on the occurrence of any vacancy reducing the Trustees to less than four a new Trustee or new Trustees shall be appointed as soon as possible in order to restore the number of Trustees to four at the least"

In terms of Canon Law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Congregation Leader and the Leadership Team in Rome. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter. The European Province is governed by the Province Leader and the Province Leadership Team, who are nominated by members of the European Province. Members of the Province Leadership Team are chosen for their personal qualities, their understanding and experience of the ministries of the Brothers and to secure a good skills mix among them. Each Community in the Province is governed by a local leader, who is appointed by the Province Leader. The Province Leadership Team visits each Community at least once a year and throughout the year there is a system of accountability operational throughout the Province to help to ensure that the Province Leadership Team are aware of the progress and development of the ministries carried out in the name of the Province.

## **Appointment and Training of Trustees**

The statutory power of appointing new or additional Trustees is vested in the Province Leader. Trustees are chosen for their personal qualities and their understanding and experience of the ministries throughout the Province. To date, the Trustees have been members of the European Province of the Congregation and as such they will already be well informed about the Mission, governing documents and strategic planning and history of the charity.

When a new Trustee is appointed they are given a copy of the Amended Trust Deed and the Charity Commission's booklets for Trustees. In addition, they meet with the existing Trustees during which they are given an outline of their responsibilities and continuing obligations.

## **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Charity and its activities. When necessary, they seek advice from the charity's professional advisors.

The day to day running of the Academies is delegated to Governing Bodies appointed according to the statutory framework and instruments of government for state-funded schools. The day to day running of the Independent Preparatory Schools is delegated to Governing Bodies, in accordance with the instruments of government provided by the Trustees. The Trustees receive regular financial and educational reports from all the Boards of Governors and Headteachers of the schools.

The Independent School Governors and the Foundation Governors in the state-funded schools are appointed by the Trustees for a given term of years and may be re-appointed when their term ends.

## **Risk Management**

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment on an annual basis and monitor progress on a annual basis. This process is supported by the Finance Office, who works closely with the Trustees in this area. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

**Governance and management:** considers the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required, etc.

**Financial:** considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash-flow planning, the appointment of Stewardship advisors where necessary.

**Age Profile:** considers the ageing population of the members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers – English Province which is supported by the Charity. This incorporates the review of the training, skillsets and energy of the Brothers in a leadership, Ministry or Mission role. The risks are mitigated through training, Trustee visitation to each Community, regular Province meetings, healthcare reviews and rotating Brothers in different roles and the sharing of knowledge. The Trustees invest time, energy and allocate resources to ensure the continuing of the Charity both now and into the future. This can also include the involvement of lay people to support the Brothers and the involvement of professional advisors in relation to stewardship advice to the Trustees.

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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees of the Charity are required to prepare for each financial year accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the source and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements. The Trustees are conscious of their responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint Forvis Mazars LLP as auditors to the Charity will be proposed to the forthcoming Trustee Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 26/06/2025  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by:



D Gibson  
Trustee

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2022 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation and anti-money laundering regulation.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the charity is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax and pension legislation.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to income recognition, depreciation, defined benefit pension scheme disclosures, historical provisions and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

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There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of the audit report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Forvis Mazars LLP*  
[Forvis Mazars LLP \(Jun 30, 2025 14:02 GMT+1\)](#)

For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3 Wellington Place  
Leeds  
LS1 4AP

Date **30/06/2025**

Forvis Mazars LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	35,094	-	35,094	3,095
Investment income	4	97,962	-	97,962	71,018
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,770,598	33,438	1,804,036	1,760,969
Other income	6	276,469	-	276,469	322,059
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,180,123</b>	<b>33,438</b>	<b>2,213,561</b>	<b>2,157,141</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		28,583	-	28,583	30,132
Charitable activities		3,556,857	20,359	3,577,216	2,991,483
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>3,585,440</b>	<b>20,359</b>	<b>3,605,799</b>	<b>3,021,615</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(1,405,317)</b>	<b>13,079</b>	<b>(1,392,238)</b>	<b>(864,474)</b>
Transfers between funds	17/18	-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income after transfers</b>		<b>(1,405,317)</b>	<b>13,079</b>	<b>(1,392,238)</b>	<b>(864,474)</b>
Net (losses) / gains on investments	11	(102,196)	-	(102,196)	(226,774)
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		687,234	-	687,234	-
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	22,000	-	22,000	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(798,279)</b>	<b>13,079</b>	<b>(785,200)</b>	<b>(1,091,248)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		8,404,520	15,448	8,419,968	9,511,216
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>7,606,241</b>	<b>28,527</b>	<b>7,634,768</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	10	2,658,138	2,807,976
Investments	11	6,137,760	6,380,800
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>8,795,898</b>	<b>9,188,776</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors falling due within one year	12	331,832	219,600
Debtors falling due in more than one year	12	137,000	187,500
Cash at bank and in hand		856,458	830,163
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,325,290</b>	<b>1,237,265</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(777,213)	(645,213)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>548,077</b>	<b>592,052</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>9,343,975</b>	<b>9,780,828</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(994,207)	(905,860)
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES</b>	15	(715,000)	(455,000)
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>		<b>7,634,768</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>7,634,768</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Restricted funds	17	28,527	15,448
Unrestricted funds	18	7,606,241	8,404,520
Pension reserve	22	-	-
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>7,634,768</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>

Approved by the Trustees  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by



D Gibson  
Trustee 26/06/2025

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	21	<u>(998,779)</u>	<u>(1,032,060)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Investment income		97,962	71,018
Purchase of investments		(2,969,035)	(1,213,298)
Sale of investments		1,929,870	1,869,255
Cash movement on investments		1,277,853	486,982
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(12,076)	(50,784)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		700,500	-
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		<u>1,025,074</u>	<u>1,163,173</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		26,295	131,111
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>830,163</u>	<u>699,052</u>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<u><u>856,458</u></u>	<u><u>830,163</u></u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 August		<u>856,458</u>	<u>830,163</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents		<u><u>856,458</u></u>	<u><u>830,163</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", effective 1 January 2019 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements have been prepared in Pound Sterling as this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and 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 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice Charities SORP 2005" which has since been withdrawn.

**Going concern**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The current economic conditions present increased risks for all charities. In response to such conditions, the Trustees have carefully considered these risks, included an assessment of uncertainty on future forecasts for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, and to the extent to which they might affect the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and have not identified any material uncertainties within their review. They are satisfied that given the cash position of the charity and the size of the investment portfolio, that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis.

They therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

**Fixed assets**

The original sites and buildings for the Charity's four schools and various other buildings are included on the balance sheet at an aggregate nominal value of £1. Building work completed more recently has been capitalised at cost. Consequently, the balance sheet does not reflect the full value of the freehold land and buildings used by the Charity and the charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for depreciation excludes any amount in respect of the assets in question.

Property used by the academy schools is classified as a programme related social investment as any financial return obtained is not a primary reason for making the investment in that the property is held specifically to enable the schools to undertake particular activities using the property that contribute to the charitable purposes.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided to write off assets over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Freehold land and buildings	2%	straight line
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	15%	reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25%	reducing balance

**Social investments**

Social investments are stated at cost less depreciation. Social investments consist of premises relating to the four academy schools.

**Operating leases payable**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

**Operating leases receivable**

Assets leased out under operating leases are included within the freehold properties and are depreciated over their useful life. Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the year end. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Pension costs**

A multi-employer defined benefit scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010. Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS17, payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for as a defined benefit scheme as detailed in note 22.

Contributions payable to the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of the pensions over the remaining service lives of employees in the scheme. The pension charge is calculated on the basis of actuarial advice.

The Charity also contributes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary and advised to the Trustees by the Scheme Administrator. This scheme is treated as a multi-employer defined benefit scheme and contributions are accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

**Educational income**

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

**Donations**

Donations receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, generally the earlier of notification or receipt.

**Legacies**

Legacies receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, when the relevant recognition criteria has been met.

**Investment income**

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt.

**Earned income**

This consists substantially of pensions received by the Charity on behalf of the Christian Brothers. The corresponding living costs of Christian Brothers are included under Province Support.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Support costs have been allocated to the main charitable activities in accordance with the total direct costs of those activities. Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Expenditure on raising funds comprises investment management fees. Redundancy costs are recognised when incurred.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are income received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the Charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the Trustees.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 31 August 2024

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

In applying the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions in determining the carrying amount of assets and liabilities. The Trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the outcomes may differ.

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, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Critical judgements in applying the charity's accounting policies**

The critical judgement that the Trustees' have made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is discussed below.

i) Assessing indicators of impairment for trade receivables

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the Trustees have considered both internal and external sources of information such as market conditions and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

i) Recoverability of receivables

The charity establishes a provision for receivables that are estimated to not be recoverable. When assessing recoverability the Trustees' consider factors such as the ageing of receivables, past experience of recoverability, and the credit profile of individuals.

ii) Determining residual values and useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations over future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation and maintenance programmes.

iii) Provisions

The charity provides for potential litigation payments in respect of historical abuse claims. This is done in conjunction with the charity's solicitor and is based on the individual claim facts and historical outcome of settled claims and therefore requires some judgement from management.

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**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (continued)**

(iv) Pensions

The charity operates a defined benefit pension fund. This means that the charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain former employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the associated obligation depend on a number of factors, including:

- life expectancy
- salary increases,
- assets valuations,
- discount rate as determined with reference to return on high quality corporate bonds.

The charity uses an independent actuary to help determine reasonable estimates for these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See note 22 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit pension scheme.

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Donations and legacies	35,094	3,095
	<u>35,094</u>	<u>3,095</u>

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Investment fund income	97,962	71,018
Bank interest	-	-
	<u>97,962</u>	<u>71,018</u>

**5. INCOME FROM OPERATION OF THE SCHOOLS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Fee income	1,577,752	1,508,562
Education related income	226,284	252,407
	<u>1,804,036</u>	<u>1,760,969</u>

**6. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Earned income	194,891	218,122
Sundry income	64,925	87,329
Rent receivable in respect of operating leases	16,653	16,608
	<u>276,469</u>	<u>322,059</u>

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**7. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	Operation of schools	Province support £	Mission support £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Raising funds	-	28,583	-	28,583	30,132
Staff costs (note 8)	1,528,389	290,530	-	1,818,919	1,620,336
Living allowances	-	248,881	-	248,881	243,977
Nursing homes	-	64,200	-	64,200	100,113
Governance costs (note 9)	-	51,745	-	51,745	52,969
Donations	-	-	124,419	124,419	75,629
Administration	166,460	659,674	-	826,134	463,838
Premises	156,536	-	-	156,536	146,067
Teaching goods	68,903	-	-	68,903	58,781
Services	68,336	-	-	68,336	79,204
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	3,342
Unpaid fees provision	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation & impairment (note 10)	102,684	46,459	-	149,143	147,227
	<u>2,091,308</u>	<u>1,390,072</u>	<u>124,419</u>	<u>3,605,799</u>	<u>3,021,615</u>

**8. STAFF COSTS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Gross wages	1,352,183	1,311,308
Social security costs	116,497	88,011
Pension costs	242,094	184,572
Redundancy	108,145	-
Pension deficit funding	-	36,445
	<u>1,818,919</u>	<u>1,620,336</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Average number of employees	56	56

There were no employees (2023: one employee) who received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year (2023: £70,000 to £80,000).

During the year the charity incurred redundancy costs totalling £108,145 (2023: £nil). Amounts outstanding in respect of redundancy costs as at 31 August 2024 total £nil (2023: £nil). Of this amount £77,750 was an ex-gratia payment made to the individuals due to a moral obligation arising from their long service to the Charity.

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

The Trustees consider that they and the Heads, Chairs and Governors of the two Independent Preparatory Schools along with the Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network comprise the key management of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The Trustees are members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers - English Province and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. Similarly the Boards of Governors receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Governors. Expenses relating to travel and other costs of £nil (2023: £nil) were reimbursed to no (2023: none) Trustees.

Remuneration of the Heads is reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors while the remuneration of the Schools Officer is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel in 2024 was £201,137 (2023: £174,045).

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<b>9. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration - audit	38,500	37,000
- non-audit	6,425	6,000
Other legal and professional advisory	6,820	9,969
	<u>51,745</u>	<u>52,696</u>

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>COST</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2023	5,737,134	1,106,687	79,581	6,923,402
Additions	-	12,076	-	12,076
Disposals	(28,333)	-	(7,112)	(35,445)
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 August 2024	<u>5,708,801</u>	<u>1,118,763</u>	<u>72,469</u>	<u>6,900,033</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2023	3,048,002	995,792	71,632	4,115,426
Charge for year	114,640	31,883	2,624	149,147
Disposals	(15,866)	-	(6,812)	(22,678)
Transfers	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 August 2024	<u>3,146,776</u>	<u>1,027,675</u>	<u>67,444</u>	<u>4,241,895</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUES</b>				
As at 31 August 2024	<u>2,562,025</u>	<u>91,088</u>	<u>5,025</u>	<u>2,658,138</u>
As at 31 August 2023	<u>2,689,132</u>	<u>110,895</u>	<u>7,949</u>	<u>2,807,976</u>

The net book value at 31 August 2024 represents fixed assets used for:

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct charitable purposes:</b>				
Schools	1,490,093	91,086	-	1,581,179
Other support	1,071,933	-	5,026	1,076,959
	<u>2,562,026</u>	<u>91,086</u>	<u>5,026</u>	<u>2,658,138</u>

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**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (Continued)**

Of the assets noted above, the following represents fixed assets used for social investments:

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Social investments:</b>		
Schools	751,138	780,143
	<u>751,138</u>	<u>780,143</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Investments:</b>		
Market value at 31 August 2023	6,380,800	7,679,496
Less: disposals at opening book value	(1,929,870)	(1,869,255)
Add: purchases at cost	2,969,035	1,213,298
Foreign exchange movements	97,844	71,017
Cash movements	(1,277,853)	(486,982)
	<u>6,239,956</u>	<u>6,607,574</u>
Less: Losses on investment	(102,196)	(226,774)
Market value at 31 August 2024	<u>6,137,760</u>	<u>6,380,800</u>

A summary of the investments held is shown below:

	31 August 2024	
	Cost £	Market Value £
Unit trusts	2,220,591	6,137,760
	<u>2,220,591</u>	<u>6,137,760</u>

At 31 August 2024 the charity held investments representing over 5% of the total portfolio in the following entities:

	% holding
Setanta Ethical Global Equity Fund	16.4%
iShares MSCI World Socially Responsible ETF	12.6%
Cfam Cantor Paris Aligned GLB EQ	<u>11.9%</u>

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**12. DEBTORS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	167,108	48,303
Other debtors and prepayments	164,724	171,297
	<u>331,832</u>	<u>219,600</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Other debtors	137,000	187,500
	<u>137,000</u>	<u>187,500</u>

**13. CREDITORS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	15,451	67,247
Bank overdraft	-	-
Tax and social security	24,600	36,209
Sundry creditors and accruals	219,370	254,512
Deferred income (note 14)	517,792	287,245
	<u>777,213</u>	<u>645,213</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Deferred income (note 14)	994,207	905,860
	<u>994,207</u>	<u>905,860</u>

**14. DEFERRED INCOME**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance as at 1 September	1,193,105	1,234,954
Amount released to income	(287,290)	(426,486)
Amounts returned to parents	-	-
Amount deferred in the year	606,184	384,637
Balance as at 31 August	<u>1,511,999</u>	<u>1,193,105</u>

Deferred income comprises payments in advance for school fees and lease rentals received in advance.

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**15. PROVISIONS**

	Total £
At 1 September	455,000
New provisions in the year	55,000
Increase in provisions in the year	420,000
Utilised during the year	-
Provisions reversed in the year	(215,000)
	<u>715,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>715,000</u>

The above provisions related to ongoing legal cases.

**16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>432,668</u>	<u>354,060</u>
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>856,458</u>	<u>830,172</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>80,743</u>	<u>180,805</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other debtors.  
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other payables

**17. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 31.08.23 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.08.24 £
Education in Africa	10,500	-	-	-	10,500
Maintenance of graves	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
School trips	3,948	33,438	(20,359)	-	17,027
	<u>15,448</u>	<u>33,438</u>	<u>(20,359)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,527</u>

The Education in Africa fund represents funds received and thus to be expended for that purpose.  
The Maintenance of graves fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The school trips reserve is used to cover costs of trips run as part of school operations.

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**18. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 31.08.23	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31.08.24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
CCB Designated Fund 1	2,795,510	-	(138,313)	-	-	2,657,197
CCB Designated Fund 2	827,629	19,593	-	-	-	847,221
CCB Designated Fund 3	224,313	36,097	(1,009,063)	-	950,000	201,348
CCB Designated Fund 4	3,073,206	253,772	(313,081)	-	(700,000)	2,313,897
St Joseph Designated Fund	36,357	-	-	-	-	36,357
St Ambrose Designated Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>6,957,015</b>	<b>309,462</b>	<b>(1,460,457)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250,000</b>	<b>6,056,020</b>
General Funds	1,447,505	1,870,661	(1,518,886)	-	(250,000)	1,549,280
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>8,404,520</b>	<b>2,180,123</b>	<b>(2,979,343)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,605,300</b>

The Trustees have designated funds equating to the following:

Designated Fund 1 – total of the tangible fixed assets and work in progress costs of the Charity.

Designated Fund 2 – Mission and Ministry Funding. This fund exists to support the non-educational Mission and Ministry activities of the Trust over the next decade.

Designated Fund 3 – schools/educational funding. This represents working capital needed by the schools together with a provision for the shortfall in the non-teaching staff pension scheme over the next decade.

Designated Fund 4 – amount committed for the care and welfare of the Province's members over the next decade.

St Joseph's Designated Fund – relates to funds held by the school for specific extra-curricular activities.

St Ambrose' Designated Fund – relates to funds set aside for the future replacement of the boiler and school roof.

**19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	2,658,138	-	2,657,197
Investments	6,137,760	-	6,137,760
Current assets	1,296,763	28,527	1,325,290
Creditors	(1,771,420)	-	(1,771,420)
Provisions	(715,000)	-	(715,000)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<b>7,606,241</b>	<b>28,527</b>	<b>7,634,768</b>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	2,807,976	-	2,807,976
Investments	6,380,800	-	6,380,800
Current assets	1,221,817	15,448	1,237,265
Creditors	(1,551,073)	-	(1,551,073)
Provisions	(455,000)	-	(455,000)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<b>8,404,520</b>	<b>15,448</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>

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**20. LEASING**

At 31 August 2024 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases. All operating leases relate to the rent of equipment.

	2024 £	2023 £
Payments due within:		
Within one year	-	660
Between two and five years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>660</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>660</u>

The total operating lease payments recognised as an expense was £660 (2023: £1,817).

At 31 August 2024 the charity had entered into operating lease agreements acting as lessor. The following amounts are due to be received within the following time periods:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	90,000	117,600
Between two and five years	360,000	352,800
In over five years	480,000	560,400
	<u>930,000</u>	<u>1,030,800</u>
	<u>930,000</u>	<u>1,030,800</u>

**21. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the period	(785,200)	(1,091,248)
Adjustments in respect of:		
Depreciation charges	149,147	147,227
Impairment charges	-	-
Investment income	(97,962)	(71,108)
Investment gains	102,198	226,774
Net (loss) / profit on disposals of fixed assets	(687,733)	3,339
Decrease in stock	-	-
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(61,732)	(7,680)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	220,347	(155,440)
Pension adjustment	-	-
Foreign exchange movement on investments	(97,844)	(71,017)
Increase / (decrease) in provisions	260,000	(13,000)
	<u>(998,779)</u>	<u>(1,032,057)</u>
	<u>(998,779)</u>	<u>(1,032,057)</u>

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

**Defined Benefit Pension Scheme**

The group operated a defined benefit scheme in the UK. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out at 5 April 2011 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010.

Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28 'Retirement and post-employment benefits', payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for under FRS102 Section 28 as a defined benefit scheme as detailed below.

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgement concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits, ('GMP'). The Government will need to consider this outcome in conjunction with the Government's recent consultation on GMP indexation in public sector schemes before concluding on any changes required to LGPS schemes.

**The major assumptions used by the actuary were:**

	<b>31 August 2024</b>	<b>31 August 2023</b>
Rate of increase in salaries per annum	N/A	N/A
Rate of increase in inflation linked pensions in payment per annum	3.35%	3.5%
Expected rate of return on the plan assets	3.75%	3.7%
Discount rate per annum	4.95%	5.25%
Inflation assumption per annum	3.35%	3.5%
Mortality table pre-retirement	AM/F00	AM/F00
Mortality table post retirement	100% S3PA CMI2023 (1.25%)	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)

**The assets in the scheme were:**

	<b>31 August 2024</b>	<b>31 August 2023</b>
	<b>Value £'000</b>	<b>Value £'000</b>
Equities	259	751
Bonds	4,913	990
Cash	146	3,571
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fair value of assets	5,318	5,312
Present value of funded obligations	(4,158)	(3,996)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>1,316</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

As per section 28.22 of FRS 102 a defined benefit plan asset shall only be recognised to the extent that the Charity is able to recover the surplus. Given there is no expectation the surplus will be recovered, the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Analysis of gain included in Statement of Financial Activities:**

	31 August 2024 £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Gain/(loss) on scheme assets and obligations	(134)	(350)
(Gain)/loss on notional surplus not recognised	156	350
Net amount recognised in other comprehensive income	22	-

**Reconciliation of change in defined benefit obligation:**

	31 August 2024 £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Opening defined benefit obligation	3,996	4,660
Interest cost	204	182
Actuarial losses/(gains) on obligation	183	(636)
Benefits paid	(225)	(210)
Past service cost	-	-
	<u>4,158</u>	<u>3,996</u>

**Reconciliation of change in plan assets:**

	31 August 2024 £'000	31 August 2023 £'000
Opening fair value of plan assets	5,312	6,297
Expected return on plan assets	271	247
Actuarial gains on assets	49	(986)
Contributions paid by the employer	-	26
Benefits paid	(225)	(210)
Pension scheme expenses	(89)	(62)
	<u>5,318</u>	<u>5,312</u>

**Amounts for the current and previous four periods:**

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000	2022 £'000	2021 £'000	2020 £'000
Defined benefit obligation	(4,158)	(3,996)	(4,660)	(6,577)	(6,592)
Plan assets	5,318	5,312	6,297	7,170	6,774
Surplus/(deficit)	1,160	1,316	1,637	593	182

Based on the current Schedule of Contributions, the company/group expects to pay contributions in the region of £316k to the scheme during the next accounting period.

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

**Teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The School has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the School in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) in October 2023. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 28.68% of pensionable pay from April 2024 onwards (compared to 23.68% prior to this).

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

**23. CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE HOLDINGS**

The Trustees hold certain investments and bank accounts as custodian Trustee holdings only. The assets, totalling £162,042 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £158,895) are held securely and separately from those of the Trustees who are responsible for their safe custody. They are not therefore included in the Trust's balance sheet.

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**24. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no disclosable post balance sheet events.

**25. RELATED PARTIES**

During the year the Trustees were involved with the following related party transactions:

Related party	Lease payments received	Contributions by colleges to programmes	Reimbursement of costs incurred	Donations made to the college	Outstanding at 31 August 2024	Outstanding at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Ambrose College	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Anselm's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Edward's College	45,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Joseph's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-

**Related party relationships**

The four colleges named above are considered to represent related parties due to either the English Province itself or certain of its Trustees being members of the colleges, together with the English Province having the ability to appoint a number of college governors.

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS 102 as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provisions laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions.

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

During the year the Trustees, similar to the non-Trustee Christian Brothers, donated all of their earned income by perpetual gift aid to the Charity. In the year to 31 August 2024 this amounted to £96,000 (2023: £76,446). Similarly, as stated in Note 8, the Trustees have their living and personal expenses borne by the Charity and they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. No expenses relating to travel and other costs were reimbursed to Trustees in either 2024 or 2023.

The Charity has also had transactions in the year with CCB Northern Ireland Trust. During the year the Charity recharged the Northern Ireland Trust £12,298 representing expenses incurred on their behalf (2023: £18,527). At the year end the amount owed to the Charity was £8,900 (2023: £13,656). This is linked to the Charity as Br E Garvey is a Trustee of CCB Northern Ireland Trust as well as the English Trust.

The Charity also had transactions in the year with 'The Congregation of Christian Brothers European Province - Republic of Ireland' (CCBEP-ROI), a Charity registered in the Republic of Ireland. At 31 August 2024 the Charity is owed £72,352 (2023: owed to £29,415) by CCBEP-ROI representing expenses incurred & recharged.

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**26. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	3,095	-	3,095	30,033
Investment income	4	71,018	-	71,018	209,917
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,733,862	27,107	1,760,969	1,735,732
Other income	6	322,059	-	322,059	338,241
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,130,034</b>	<b>27,107</b>	<b>2,157,141</b>	<b>2,313,923</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		30,132	-	30,132	35,817
Charitable activities		2,964,333	27,150	2,991,483	2,905,785
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>2,994,465</b>	<b>27,150</b>	<b>3,021,615</b>	<b>2,941,602</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>		<b>(864,431)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-	-
<b>Net expenditure after transfers</b>		<b>(864,431)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	(226,774)	-	(226,774)	230,246
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	23	-	-	-	(329,200)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(1,091,205)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(1,091,248)</b>	<b>(726,633)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		9,495,725	15,491	9,511,216	10,237,849
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>8,404,520</b>	<b>15,448</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2023

**TRUST PROPERTY HELD IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE  
ENGLISH PROVINCE OF  
THE CONGREGATION OF  
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**(THE ENGLISH PROVINCE  
OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
TRUSTEES)**

Registered Charity No. 254312

**THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**  
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**Financial Statements**

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**Legal and Administration details:**

Full Name	Trust Property Held in Connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers
Governing Document	Amended Trust deed dated 27 February 2015
Charity Registration	Number 254312
Trustees	D. Gibson (Chair of Trustees) P.G. Gordon E. O'Brien D. Sassi J. Donovan
Principal Address	"Woodeaves" Wicker Lane Hale Barns Altrincham Cheshire WA15 0HF
Financial Administrator	L&P Trustee Services Ltd
Auditors	Forvis Mazars LLP One St. Peter's Square Manchester M2 3DE
Solicitors	Hill Dickinson 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
Principal Banker	HSBC 11 Stamford New Road Altrincham Cheshire WA14 1BW
Investment Advisors	Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland 23 St. Stephens Green Dublin 2

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

The Trustees present their report, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. It was founded in Waterford, Ireland in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice. It is divided into 5 distinct Provinces across the world.

The financial statements accompanying this report are the financial statements of the charitable trust in which the assets of the Christian Brothers in England are held. The Christian Brothers in England, in canon law terms, forms part of the European Province.

**Background**

Edmund Rice was born at Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny on 1 June 1762. It was a time of political and religious oppression, when poverty and want affected the lives of the vast majority of the citizens of the land.

As there was no formal schooling available to Catholics at that time, Edmund was educated both at home and at the local 'pay school' in Moate Lane, where Catholics who could afford to pay sent their children to school. After his early schooling Edmund moved to Waterford in 1779. In Waterford, he worked for his uncle, Michael Rice, in the family business, provisioning ships calling at Waterford's busy dockside. Edmund was a good businessman, and in due course inherited the family business from his uncle. Under his careful management, it prospered greatly. He became a wealthy man.

In 1785, at the age of 23, Edmund married Mary Elliott. There is very little that history reveals about the marriage other than that it came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of his young wife in 1789. Edmund found himself the sole parent of a small child who was delicate in health, and possibly suffering from a disability. Being a strong family man, Edmund initially entrusted the care of young Mary Rice to his stepsister, Joan, in 3 Arundel Place in Waterford where he had set up house.

The next twelve years of Edmund's life were hidden years during which he coped with his sorrows, ran his business, and ensured the wellbeing of his little daughter, Mary.

In 1802, at the age of 40, Edmund took a very decisive step. He embarked on a spiritual journey that changed his life utterly. The inspiration for his decision probably came from the example of Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters. Like Nano, he decided to devote the remainder of his life, and all of his resources, to the education and care of the poor. He sold his victualler's business in Waterford and arranged for his step-sister, Joan Murphy, and his handicapped daughter to move to Callan. He himself moved to a large stable in New Street, which he opened as a free school for poor Catholic boys. To help him with his project, Edmund recruited some hired help.

Edmund's decision to educate the poor was seen by his friends as both foolhardy and unwise. Some advised against it, arguing that the poor were better off ignorant. Technically, Edmund's action was also illegal because, although the political scene had changed greatly and the Act of Union had been passed in 1800, many of the Penal Laws were still on the Statute Books, and educating poor Catholics could be interpreted as a seditious act. The beginning of Edmund's educational project was tentative and inauspicious. The hired help evaporated early on, demoralised by the enormity and difficulty of the task. On his own again, Edmund trusted in God, believing that if it was God's work it would surely prevail. His faith was rewarded when two young men from his own town of Callan, Patrick Finn and Thomas Grosvenor, volunteered to join ranks with him in his new venture. The nucleus of a new religious congregation was forming, and Edmund was inspired to take the next step.

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In June 1802, Edmund began to build a monastery to accommodate his small community. This was another seditious act that left him vulnerable before the Law. The monastery was soon completed, which he called Mount Sion. By this time, a fourth member, John Mulcahon, had joined the little group.

Word soon got around and, gradually, other volunteers came to Mount Sion offering their services freely for the realisation of Edmund's dream. This little group formed itself into a small, religious community following a well ordered way of life inspired by the Rule of the Presentation Sisters, a way of life with which Edmund was familiar through his contact with the Presentation Sisters in Waterford.

As the number of volunteers grew, so too did the capacity for service of the poor, and in due course a school was opened in Carrick-on-Suir in 1806, and another in Dungarvan towards the end of 1807. By 1808, the new movement had eight members, and Edmund believed that the time was right for formally establishing themselves as a religious congregation. He approached the Bishop of Waterford, Reverend Dr. John Power, to allow them to formalise their religious commitment by professing religious vows according to the Rule of the Presentation Sisters. Bishop Power agreed enthusiastically and on 15 August 1808, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edmund and his seven followers made simple profession of vows in the chapel of the Presentation Sisters in Hennessy's Road, Waterford. The Bishop, on behalf of the Church, formally received their professions.

The good news of Edmund's educational crusade on behalf of the poor soon spread beyond the boundaries of the diocese of Waterford. Other bishops got to hear about it, and because the social conditions of the poor were much the same in every diocese in the country, a number of bishops expressed the wish that Edmund would open a school for the poor in their diocese also. In 1811 the Brothers opened a school in Cork; In 1812, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Brothers opened another school in Hanover Street on the south quays. In quick succession the following schools were opened: Cappaquin (1813), Limerick (1816), Thurles (1816), Mill Street (Dublin, 1816), Francis St. (Dublin 1820), and eventually in Preston (England 1825). Preston was the first opening outside of Ireland, and constituted a major development in the missionary outreach of the new congregation.

The poverty and deprivation with which some of these early foundations had to contend shocked even Edmund himself, and grounded him even more solidly in his trust in Divine Providence. "May the will of God be done in it (Hanover Street)", he prayed.

The spread of the new fraternity into several dioceses created huge administrative difficulties for the early Brothers. Since each community was under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary of the diocese in which it was located, the transfer of Brothers from one community to another, issues of finance, formation matters, and community policy generally all became fraught with difficulties. Edmund felt that these difficulties amounted to a serious constraint on the development of his burgeoning congregation, and he looked around for an alternative model of administration to the diocesan model which was proving so cumbersome. Very quickly, he discovered that the solution to these difficulties lay in getting papal approval for his congregation as an Apostolic Institute, a status enjoyed by the congregation of De LaSalle Brothers for many decades.

To facilitate the move away from a diocesan structure, in 1817 Edmund and his Brothers with the approval of the Archbishop of Dublin, applied to the Holy See for an Apostolic Brief. In due course, and despite some opposition, His Holiness, Pope Pius VII granted Edmund's request, and issued the formal brief establishing the Congregation as an Apostolic Institute in 1820. The Brothers formally accepted the brief on 20 January 1822. Edmund Rice was elected Superior General of the new Apostolic Institute.

Nineteen of the thirty Brothers eligible to vote were present in Mount Sion on that historic day. Of those early Brothers who did not sign, some withdrew from the congregation at that point, while others wished to retain their diocesan affiliations and consequently refused the Brief. One of these, Br. Michael Austin Riordan, became the nucleus around which the Presentation Brothers Congregation developed.

The spread of the Congregation from small beginnings in Waterford in 1802 to the worldwide organisation it is today, working in over thirty countries spread across the five continents, is a matter of history. What the story points to is the resilient nature of Edmund's founding charism, and its ability to incarnate itself in many countries, proclaiming its message of liberation through education in many languages and many cultures.

## OBJECTIVES

### Charitable Objects

The principal object of the Charity, as set out in the amended Trust Deed, is to “advance the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on in Great Britain or abroad by or under the direction or with the support of the Province as the Trustees with the approval of the Provincial Leader shall from time to time think fit”.

### Aims

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation and to care for those members throughout their lives within the Congregation. These Ministries of the Brothers of the Congregation, all of which benefit numerous members of the general public, fall into the following main areas:

- Education
- Faith development
- Social and pastoral work
- International missionary work
- Care and welfare of members

Each of these is considered in turn below:

### Education

The Charity provides support and services for seven schools in direct or Academy Trusteeship and, without charge, to a further four associated schools in diocesan or independent Trusteeship.

#### **Criteria for Measuring Success in Edmund Rice Schools**

Measuring success for beneficiaries and the wider society in terms of numerical and scientific criteria is rather difficult for the English Region of the European Province but, being the Trustees of the two independent Preparatory schools in England and being an important part of the overall successful operations of the four Academy Colleges as well as involvement in the ethos of the four Associate schools, is important and is undertaken under two strands:

#### First Strand

Answering to outside Agencies to whom the schools are accountable and which have their own measurable standards as follows:

The **Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)** - as it applies to the Academy Schools:

- Pupil progress - the precise measure of students across three key stages (key stage 3, 4 and 5) is done through internal and external examinations.
- Pupil attendance - set at 95%> school attendance across each academic year.
- Pupil Premium - extra targeted funding allocated to schools who have eligible students (FSM) – schools have to account for their use of funding and its measured outcomes in terms of pupil progress compared to non-recipients.
- Provision for safeguarding of children in education.

Schools undergo regular inspections during which their statistics are analysed.

**Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)** - as it applies to Preparatory schools:

Use of inspections (every six years) to measure pupil progress; provision of a series of policies / procedures in a variety of areas e.g. Finance, measurement of pupil progress, safeguarding, safe recruitment, behaviour and discipline etc.

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Schools are rated according to their compliance against the standards as perceived by an inspectorate team.

Second Strand

Answering to the standards as laid out in the 'Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education' and on which many of our schools build their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). These plans use the SMART acronym; **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely**. Each target has a clear set of smart outcomes which allow the school to perform an accurate measure of its degree of success.

The Trustees meet annually face-to-face with the senior leadership and governors of the Academies and Preparatory schools and undertake an audit of success within the school which includes both external and internal judgements.

**Secondary schools**

All four of the secondary schools are now Academy Trusts and invite the Trustees to their annual AGMs in accordance with the Articles of Association:

- St Edward's College, Liverpool
- St Anslem's College, Birkenhead
- St Ambrose College, Hale Barns
- St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS102 section 9, "Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements", as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provision laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions as defined by FRS102 section 9.

**Primary schools**

There are two independent primary schools which continue in direct trusteeship, with the Congregation Trustees as registered proprietors:

- St. Ambrose Preparatory School, Hale Barns, Altrincham
- St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent

The results of these schools are included in these financial statements.

**Associated schools:**

There are five associated schools in other trusteeships and, as such, it is not appropriate to include their results in these financial statements.

- St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland (11-18) - diocesan trusteeship (Hexham and Newcastle)
- St. Boniface RC Academy, Plymouth (11-18) – diocesan trusteeship (Plymouth)
- St. Mary's College, Crosby (HMC independent secondary 11-18) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust
- St. Mary's College Preparatory School (independent primary) -- St. Mary's College Crosby Trust

These schools continue within the family of Edmund Rice schools. All four receive in-service and immersion opportunities and ethos support, co-ordinated and delivered by the Network Support Team employed by the Congregation Trustees.

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The 'difference' the Charity seeks to make through its schools operation is the provision and support of outstanding Catholic faith-based education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The aim is to achieve outstanding educational outcomes for boys and girls from nursery entry to the age of 18+, through the realisation of eight core principles set out by the Trustees.

The 10 schools belong to the Edmund Rice family of schools by providing, and seeking continuously to improve, an educational programme grounded on the eight principles set out in a shared vision document, 'Reaching Out - The Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education'. These eight governing criteria define the identity and mission of the schools in England and provide a template for school development and mission evaluation. Through the implementation of these values the Charity seeks to promote individual educational, spiritual, physical, moral, social and cultural development within a Christian vision of the person and in the spirit of service established by the Founder, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Each school strives to be a Christian community where the fullest talents of each pupil are developed in a spirit of wider social awareness and with commitment to social justice and community responsibility.

The '**Essentials**' are:

1. **Evangelising the modern world** - Participating in the mission of the Catholic Church by bringing the Good News of Christ to all aspects of the life of the school community, and in dialogue with youth and contemporary culture, thus fulfilling the specific calling of the Congregation of Christian Brothers: The Evangelisation of youth through the Apostolate of Christian Education
2. **Promoting the spiritual** - Nurturing a living faith, fostering Christian spirituality, educating in Gospel-based values, living beyond the material dimension .
3. **Building a Christian community** - Growing as a school community in which the quality of care and relationships is Christ-inspired, based on mutual respect, self-sacrifice, and fully human dignity.
4. **Compassion for those in need** - Showing, in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, particular love and concern towards the weakest members of the school community and reaching out beyond the school in compassion and practical action for the poor and marginalised both locally and internationally.
5. **Concern for the whole person** - Centering the curriculum, opportunities, and challenges of the school on the balanced and integrated development of its students, and staff, across all the positive dimensions of personal growth- religious, moral, intellectual, cultural, physical, and social.
6. **Striving for excellence** - Encouraging each individual to use his or her talents to the full, whether academic, cultural, or physical, and pursuing the highest standards in all aspects of learning, teaching, and extracurricular endeavour.
7. **Education as a Christian calling** - Valuing and enabling the role and vocation of Christian teachers and support staff as a calling from God and a sharing in the Church's mission.
8. **Education for justice** - Inspiring the minds and hearts of the young to care for all God's creation and build a more just society, God's Kingdom on earth, and developing in them the talents for active citizenship and transformational leadership.

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The Trustees' expanded 'Charter' document, 'Reaching Out' continues to be the basis for in-school in-service training to further embed, apply, and develop the eight guiding principles of the charity and thereby continue to improve the learning experience and opportunities of all pupils. The Trustees ensure the implementation of the 'Eight Essentials' in the life of the schools through:

- Their role in selecting and appointing the Foundation Governors of the schools, and in the selection, appointment, and continuing formation of committed Headteachers and members of the school leadership teams. This applies both to the schools in direct trusteeship and to the newly formed Academies.
- Continuous liaison and meeting with and support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and school leadership teams
- The provision of in-service training for teachers and governors
- The active promotion of the 'Eight Essentials' as the template for school development planning, SEF (self-evaluation) and for state and diocesan inspection.

Each school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils, and fully adheres to statutory requirements and best practice in this respect and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Inspections of the state-funded schools by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education Children Services and Skills) and of the independent schools by ISIS (Independent Schools Inspectorate) report that the quality of pastoral care in our schools is outstanding, that safeguarding and anti-bullying practices are effectively in place, and that the quality of provision for social, moral, and spiritual development and for social engagement, is excellent.

Each school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds. Though the first obligation is to admit Roman Catholic pupils, the schools are open to pupils of all faiths or none and are committed, in relation to all pupils admitted, to complete inclusivity. The admissions and oversubscription criteria of the selective schools comply fully with the current statutory Admissions Code and with equal opportunity legislation.

As equal opportunity providers the schools are committed to a working environment free from any form of discrimination. The schools are committed to making reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are, or become, disabled.

In the financial year the Trustees' objectives in the educational sector included:

- Continued improvement to the delivery of the eight core values through ongoing formation and in-service training for Heads, teaching and support staff and governors.
- Continuing to expand the social outreach activities of the schools. The Schools' Team encourages each school to engage pupils in actions of charity, justice and advocacy towards the needy, especially those made poor and marginalised, in the local community and the wider world, in the spirit of Edmund Rice and engaging with the work of Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.
- The growth and further inspiration of the wider Edmund Rice Network in the spirit of the themes agreed at the last General Chapter of the Christian Brothers at Nairobi, Kenya in March 2014, the European Chapter in Emmaus in August 2014 and continuing Network gatherings and cluster meetings in Ireland and England on the theme of commitment to spiritual and social renewal: 'Drawn by mystery, destined for Life' within the eight calls of the General Chapter.

The work of the Trustees in the schools is co-ordinated by a full-time Schools Officer, who provides guidance and support for Heads and Governing Bodies and:

- Organises in-service training for newly qualified and established staff.
- Organises inter-school conferences for Heads, Governors and for staff.
- Assists with school development planning.
- Advises on the recruitment and appointment of senior staff.
- Offers support for the spiritual life of senior staff and governors.
- Oversees best practice and compliance with safeguarding procedures

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**Faith development**

As a Religious Congregation, faith development is of prime importance to the Trustees. All aspects of the Trust's work involve the advancement of religion whether it is in the educational, pastoral or international missionary fields. The Trust continues to assess its work and to search for better ways of carrying out this ministry in today's world.

The work in this area is mainly carried out through the schools and the local parishes where members of the Province reside. In addition, members of the Province provide prayer guidance and spiritual direction.

From the early 1990s the Congregation of Christian Brothers, as a religious institute, has made a priority of sharing its mission with the laity, laicising the leadership and governance of the schools. Beyond that, as with other religious orders, there is an expanding emphasis on the growth of "spiritual families", groups of associated lay people offered opportunities to draw spiritual and apostolic fruitfulness from the original charism. Thus the Trustees' objectives include the development of an Edmund Rice Network of lay people who wish to associate themselves with the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Brothers.

The 'Edmund Rice Network' consists of local groups of interested adults gathering for spiritual sharing and reflection and who are encouraged to involve themselves in some form of social outreach. Although the majority of Network participants are drawn from staff and parents in the schools, meetings are open to all interested adults – indeed to anyone who wishes in some way, however informally, to connect with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. Opportunities for spiritual conversation and faith-based social action are provided. The Network Support Team, in addition to its work with schools, seeks to build new local groups of lay associates on this model.

The Trustees fund combined school and Network services delivered by a Network Support Team employed by the Trustees and based at the Edmund Rice Centre within the Christian Brother community at "Woodeaves", Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Altrincham. The Team take on the roles of:

- A Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network
- A Network Facilitator who promotes and organises involvement in Network events and opportunities; these include spiritual and adult immersion opportunities across the European and global Edmund Rice Network for teachers and support staff from the 12 schools and for parents and friends and interested adults. The Facilitator also writes the English Network magazine and develops resources for schools and the Network.
- A Youth Development Facilitator with particular responsibility for the development and expansion of three specific programmes: Developing World Immersion programmes for students; Edmund Rice Camps for disadvantaged children; the Edmund Rice Awards Scheme (extending student voluntary service), links to the work of Edmund Rice International in advocacy and social justice within our schools including the promotion of the six Priorities identified by a new initiative within the schools named Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders which is a Congregation wide project.

The Manchester-based Edmund Rice Network group acts as a hub for Network development involving both lay associates and Christian Brothers. Extensive use is made of the Network Centre, within the Brothers' residence in Hale Barns, which provides a base for Network meetings, for in-service sessions with teachers, support staff, governors, and pupils from the schools, and for gatherings with the wider community.

Since 2010 small spiritual conversation groups have developed in Manchester, Liverpool, the Wirral and Salford. These groups are focused on the three challenges, 'Love tenderly, walk humbly, and act justly.'

In addition, a series of sessions has been organised at the Network Centre, offering all comers the opportunity for spiritual conversation and prayerful reflection on life experience.

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**Social and pastoral work**

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by the Edmund Rice Network and individual Brothers:

- Working in parishes, visiting, helping in catechetical programs and helping parishioners develop their spiritual lives
- Community social work with the homeless
- Advocacy and support for asylum seekers and refugees
- Various justice and peace initiatives
- Guiding prayer groups
- Working as counsellors

The aims of the Trustees in this area include:

- Enabling members of the Province to carry out meaningful social and pastoral work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area; and
- Encouraging and motivating members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised.

**International missionary work**

The charity supports the international religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation. Members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers are working in developing countries around the world. The Brothers work to help restore the education provision in those countries. They are involved in school education, special education for handicapped children and adult literacy programmes. In addition others are working with orphans and children displaced because of war. The tracing of families of displaced children and the former child combatants is another area of vital importance.

These young people are also offered literacy, numeracy and other skills-training programmes to help them re-integrate into society and to find ways of living economic and socially independent lives.

In addition, the Trust contributed to the establishment of Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust (ERBT), an English registered charity whose purpose is to support the mission of the Congregation worldwide but especially in the majority (developing) world.

**Care and welfare of members**

Those members who earn salaries or receive pensions donate them to the Trust and therefore have no independent means of support. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Trust includes both the upkeep and up-skilling / retraining of the members so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public.

In addition, the Trust must also care for the elderly members who are now themselves in need of care. These members have no resources of their own and have devoted a significant part of their lives to the mission of the Congregation.

In this regard, the aims of the Trustees over the current and forthcoming years include:

- Providing the necessary training to ensure that the members of the Trust can continue to further the mission of the Congregation.
- Enabling members to continue with their individual ministries for as long as possible.
- Reviewing the properties used as Community houses and assessing their suitability for an ageing membership. Those identified as being unsuitable will be adapted or replaced with more appropriate properties.
- Ensuring members receive the level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly have.

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**Public benefit**

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The four secondary schools supported and serviced by the Trustees and the Schools Office educate over 4,000 students, are state-funded and completely non-fee paying. They are open to all with places accessed according to the admissions and oversubscription policies determined by Governing Bodies in conformity with the statutory Admissions Code and appeals procedures currently in force. All of the senior schools deliver further public benefit through the social outreach activities described elsewhere in this report and through community use of their facilities.

The two primary schools are independent fee-paying schools. The Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given consideration to the supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee-charging. Each school has its own annual statement of objectives to fulfil its mission and excellence as an Edmund Rice school. This forms part of each school's development planning. The two fee-paying primary schools are committed to maximising access by keeping fees as low as possible. Fees are kept well below the average for the independent sector nationally, below average regionally, and within the reach of families where both parents work.

Each of the primary schools continues to develop its own bursary scheme to make a number of places available to children whose parents cannot pay fees. The number of advertised bursaries available remains limited because of the unusually low level of fees and the need for due regard for other families already struggling to fund their child's education. Considerable bursary assistance is given to families who become unemployed or fall on hard times. Bursaries are awarded, subject to meeting the standard entrance requirements of the school, solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship when a pupil's education or future prospects would be at risk (for example, in the case of redundancy or divorce). In addition, discounts are provided to families when they have more than one child attending the school.

Each of the fee-paying primary schools seeks to provide wider public benefit by a range of means, for example:

- Providing facilities for Edmund Rice Camps (summer holiday weeks) for disadvantaged children from inner city primary schools.
- Participation in curricular and staff development partnership links with local state schools.
- Opening facilities to community groups free of charge out of school hours e.g. adult education classes, neighbouring state schools, and sports teams.

The Edmund Rice Network delivers public benefit through its outreach work with refugees and asylum seekers in Liverpool and Greater Manchester and with marginalised youth in Salford, as described elsewhere in this report.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Educational Programme / School Governance**

All four of the state-funded secondary schools are high performing Catholic schools in their authorities, oversubscribed, performing powerfully in national league tables, and highly valued regionally for the strength of their Christian-Catholic ethos. They are notable also for their contribution to local improvement partnerships and to community cohesion through outreach activities, collaboration with other schools in the maintained sector, and the community use of their facilities.

St. Joseph's College in Stoke on Trent has continued to play a substantial role in educational regeneration within a previously failing authority both as a Teaching School and running the SCITT (school centred initial teacher training) to provide new teachers for the Local Authority.

St. Edward's College, St. Ambrose College and St. Anselm's College provide collaborative partnerships within their areas.

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The two independent Preparatory Schools are subject to inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

Some examples of the in-school support services and opportunities provided and funded across the 11 schools by the Trustees are:

- Joint inset with all staff from Prep schools
- Joint inset with senior schools
- Residential conference for heads and chairs
- Training with all year 7 students in each of our academies
- Induction for all new staff and Governors
- Heads' retreat
- Leadership training for senior leadership teams
- Advocacy work with both Junior and senior school pupils.

**New Staff Induction – A Call to Participation**

It was fantastic to welcome 30 new staff members as well as newly appointed governors from our schools this September at our induction programme, held at Woodeaves. A re-vamped programme this year, inspired by our visit to Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) over the summer included getting to know Edmund, interpreting the Eight Essentials in a current context, opportunities in the network and time to share about our roles and hopes. Hearing from Brother Ger was, as always, a highlight for participants. Sharing the day together, having lunch and time to reflect on what becoming one of Edmund's people means was truly special experience for us all. Welcome and enjoy your time in our Edmund Rice family.



**Year 7 Induction Program**

The office team have delivered the Edmund Rice induction program to Year 7s in all our secondary schools this half term. Getting to know the students and hearing about what they have been learning about Edmund Rice, the network and the Eight Essentials has been a wonderful experience. We have delivered these both in person and in online sessions. Well done to the staff and students on such great foundational work with year 7s on what it means to become a member of Edmund Rice school. We look forward to hearing how they get on in their school careers.



### **Annual Schools' Conference Educating with Hope in our Hearts & Hands**

It was fantastic to re-convene our annual Schools' Conference on 6-7 October at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire. With all schools represented and having participated in a beautiful opening reflection we were delighted to open the conference with an address from our friend and guest, Brian Garrone, Director of Communication and Global Engagement & Executive Officer of EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders). Having been in Pope Francis's company just a few days previously, he was able to give us direct words from His Holiness who urged us, as a group of Catholic schools to go out and make the changes necessary in order to respond to the cry of the Earth and to the cry of the poor. Our first day continued with input from Brother Brian Bond of Edmund Rice International and from Paul Turner of the Ministry of Eco Education who both pushed our schools to react to the urgent need for us all to address sustainability in a focused, prioritised way. In groups schools shared how they have reimagined practices, become more resilient and are recovering after the COVID pandemic. Our evening was spent nurturing our wellbeing with life coaching sessions on the Wheel of Life and Journaling. Our 'thought walk' that evening was a chance to engage with messages that had been sent to us by EREBB colleagues from across the globe. Hopefully providence allocated an appropriate message to each delegate; our delegates were encouraged to respond by email and strike up a new bond across the miles with another Edmund Rice educator who had taken the time to share their thoughts with us at our gathering.

Day two was focused on our responses; Kavita Das, Principal of St John's College in Chandigarh joined us by zoom to explain how their Teacher-Foster Carer scheme works and how this helps to support a large number of marginalised families and for their children to be educated at the College. we went on to hear from Jonathan Webster, Principal at St Mary's Prep and how the staff their have committed to become a deaf-friendly community in response to one family's request to educate their son at this school. The amazing commitment of St Mary's Prep staff and the impact this has had on the whole school gave us all very moving and tangible example of how Education as a Christian Calling, inclusivity and Edmund's Charism are being lived out at this wonderful school. Another fantastic example of how the Eight Essentials are being animated and lived was presented to us by Patricia Minogue, Assistant Headteacher at Runnymede St Edward's. The newly created Magna Carta Awards programme has engaged a huge number of their pupils in living lives of love and service and in showing their faith by the way that they live. This ambitious scheme is developing confident leaders who are being encouraged to have Concern for the Whole Person and to respond to Those in Need. Another inspiring response from our schools was outlined by Caroline Cirino, Director of Sixth Form at St Joseph's College. Caroline showed how their school had responded in a creative and resilient way to COVID's impact on the Overseas Immersion programme. St Joseph's developed a Domestic Immersion replacement for their sixth formers. The impact on students has been just as profound when

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they experienced extreme need more locally in Irish and UK cities. We also heard from St Anselm's College students Thomas Jones and Harvey McGrath who spoke stirringly of their journey to raise awareness of the Climate Crisis in their school and beyond.

Our delegates left with many insights, opportunities to build relationships and also some challenges; one being to create sustainable schools with a focus on helping biodiversity loss. A quote from one delegate:

“There was a real sense of the network being ‘alive’ and I felt that impact very positively.”



### **Wellbeing Sessions in Schools**

Ann continues to deliver Wellbeing sessions in our schools based on the Capacitar – Wellness in Body, Mind and Spirit training that the office team undertook a couple of years ago. The idea is to share simple practices based on yogic, meditative methods with schools that can be easily learned and adopted into everyday routines to improve concentration, focus and that can help to reduce anxiety. One of the practices that was most effective and popular during a wellbeing day at St Mary's Prep was EFT – Emotional Freedom Technique, or 'tapping'.

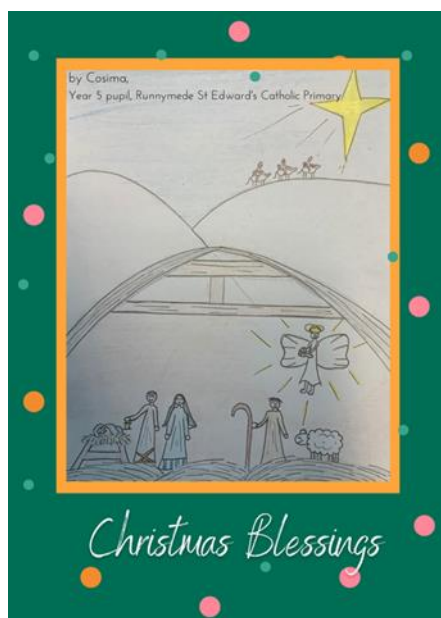
Both staff and students enjoyed the benefits that this had on them; each group was left feeling relaxed and calm. Runnymede St Edward's have booked in their second staff wellbeing session for the new year.



### **Christmas Card Competition**

Congratulations to both of our Edmund Rice England Christmas Card winners!

Our 'hard copy' Christmas card that we will be sending by post was drawn by a student from Year 5 in Runnymede St Edwards's Catholic Primary in Liverpool.



And our digital card that we will be emailing out to our global Edmund Rice family was created by a student from Infant 1 at St Ambrose Preparatory School in Hale Barns.

We are so grateful for your lovely artwork.



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### ERI Short Course on advocacy and Human Rights – Geneva

Members of the Edmund Rice Team recently completed a 3-day course with ERI (Edmund Rice International) in Geneva. This was very impactful. It filled in many gaps on the UN mechanisms and processes. We were able to visit the Human Rights Council and see a Treaty Body (Rights of the Child – Ireland review) in action. Meeting with the other participants was also very useful. We have all the resources from the sessions which are also very useful. Thanks to this training and the on-going support from ERI we feel we can engage the students in the UN processes – thus the Child Rights submission from year 6 children at Runnymede.



### Joint Schools INSET day – The Big Questions

This year we were kindly hosted by St Joseph's College for our joint secondary schools training day. We took our theme, The Big Questions from the work we have been doing with 'radical geographer' Paul Turner, CEO of the Ministry of Eco Education. The BIG QUESTIONS focus on the areas of energy, land use, transport, society, water, nature, waste. Helped by Paul and a headteacher who has implanted sustainability in her own school, Ms Erika Eisele from Dalmain Primary School in London, we explored how schools can really embed true sustainable change in terms of their builds, structures, syllabus and ethos. We ended with Headteachers taking an Earth Pledge for Edmund Rice schools to firm up their plan and commitment to our planet and the education of its communities about the cry of the Earth.



### **Child Rights and Social Protection – Input Report by Students**

Ann gathered a group of students (awards students) from Year 6 at Runnymede with their Headteacher and facilitated the writing on a requested input by the Human Rights High Commissioner in Geneva. The UNHRC is creating a document that will be shared with all member states on protecting child rights through social protection. As key stakeholders, they wanted submissions from children themselves. The students worked on this in a mature and diligent manner, delighted to be able to engage in such an important process and seeing how the voices of children can have a global influence. Ann wrote up and submitted the report. Students then had a follow up call on March 15th directly with the UN. Br Tino D'Abreu kindly had a zoom call with the awards group to congratulate them on their work and to explain the work of ERI.



### **Social and Pastoral work**

Throughout the year, the Edmund Rice Network and the Brothers continued to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual Ministries. This work enables the charity to reach out to those in need within society generally and benefit a significant number of people.

Within the Network 'religion' is understood as requiring committed social outreach as well as faith-sharing and prayer. The principal current expression of this commitment is outreach in the spirit of Edmund Rice, to the 'strangers in our midst'. Network members continue to provide weekly through-the-year support to:

- AsylumLink Merseyside, working with a Christian Brother at the St. Anne's Centre in Overbury Street, Liverpool. The focus here is on befriending, accompaniment, and the (free) provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.
- SERV – Edmund Rice volunteers working with asylum seekers and refugees as well as hosting a youth club and an Edmund Rice Camp.
- Homelessness organisations such as the Whitechapel Centre in Liverpool involving students in awareness raising and fundraising.

### **International missionary work**









During the financial year, the Trust made a donation of £17.8k (£20k 2022) to an NGO group called Dailit. This group works in Bangladesh to improve the social economic condition and the social position of socially excluded individuals and groups through education, health and income generating activities. The Trustees hope to support this NGO in the future.

**Positive Impact Investing**

We view our investment portfolio as part of our Mission. Alongside our active Ministries, we seek to bring about change through positive impact investing in our investment portfolios. Additionally, our investment portfolio avoids investments deemed to be harmful, such as investments in fossil fuel companies or armaments companies. Avoiding these types of investments is an important step in ensuring that our investment portfolio is not involved in harmful activities.

While avoiding harmful activities is important, we believe that it is even more important to use our investments to bring about positive change in the world. We therefore seek to investment in activities that have beneficial impacts, for both individual wellbeing and for the environment.

We assess these positive impacts under a number of headings that we believe are important measures of how our investments are positively affecting the world around us. Below are some of the positive impacts achieved by the investment portfolio:

 CO2 EMISSIONS	 RENEWABLE ENERGY	 FOSSIL FUEL RESERVES	 CARBON SINKS	 CO2 EMISSIONS SAVED	 TONNES OF CO <sub>2</sub> AVOIDED	 JOBS CREATED	 HELP FOR THE GLOBAL POOR
For every tonne of CO <sub>2</sub> emitted by an average charity portfolio, your portfolio will SEQUESTER (WITHDRAW) 1.2 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub>	Your portfolio produces 114 times the renewable power of an average charity portfolio	Your Portfolio is FOSSIL FUEL FREE	108 times more CO <sub>2</sub> sequestered (withdrawn) into carbon sinks than an average charity portfolio	L&P client portfolios saved emissions equivalent to CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from 31,000 households	47 times the emissions avoided by investing in renewable power and energy efficiency projects versus an average charity portfolio	2 times more jobs created than an average charity portfolio, predominantly in developing world	Your Portfolio will directly impact and help 1,547 people in the Global South, via access to financial credit and renewable electricity.

**The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

All of the investments within the Portfolio contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are goals developed and adopted by all member states of the United Nations to achieve “a more sustainable future for all”. They represent a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and promote prosperity and people’s wellbeing by 2030. The SDGs are as follow:



Source: UN (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

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Additionally, the SDGs are closely aligned with the charitable objectives of religious organisations. Since the publication of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has made a strong commitment to sustainable development. His appeal to “...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet”, provides a firm ethical foundation for actions that need to be taken urgently at all levels. Pope Francis’ speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly’s formal adoption of the 17 SDGs gave further support to the ambitious and transformational vision of the goals.

To ensure alignment of the SDGs we use a comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact screen which guarantees the Portfolio remains consistent with the ethos of the charity. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the production of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening as it improves the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio.

### Environmental Impact



Measurement of carbon emissions is crucial to help us understand the role our investment portfolio plays in the climate crisis, while taking measures to address it. Limiting carbon emissions interacts with several SDGs, helping address Climate Action in particular. Climate justice is another aspect addressed in our portfolio, as climate change predominantly impacts those who’ve done the least to contribute to pollution and have less resources to deal with it. Therefore, control of carbon emissions in our portfolio also contributes to reducing poverty (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10) and preserving life on land (SDG15) and in the ocean (SDG14)

### Overall Carbon Footprint

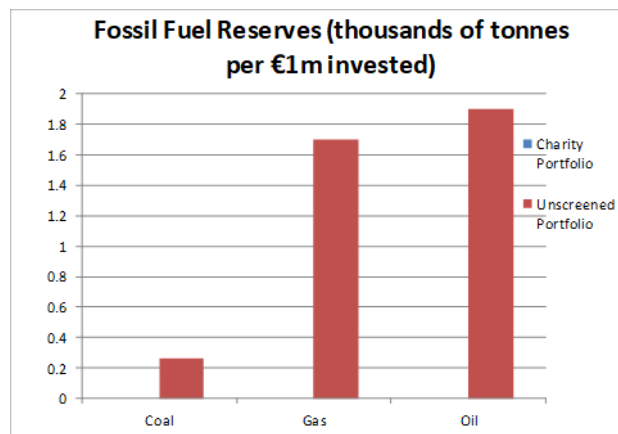
The Portfolio includes a number of carbon sink-type investments, which sequester or draw carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Forestry in particular is a very effective carbon sink, as trees absorb carbon dioxide as part of their growing process. Therefore, the presence of forestry funds means that any carbon emissions from the majority of the portfolio are effectively offset entirely by the forestry investments.

Put another way, this means that the Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) 565 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce c. 549 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio very much part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

### Fossil Fuel Reserves

Following the Trustees decision to entirely divest from fossil fuels in early 2017, the Portfolio now holds no fossil fuel reserves. The Portfolio ensures no exposure to companies that own thermal coal, oil gas reserves and other unconventional sources of reserves such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas. Many of these reserves will become “stranded” and may not be useable if we are to keep the targeted temperature rise (as a result of global warming) below 2 degrees Celsius. Hence, in addition to the impact, not holding these assets reduces the financial risk within the portfolio.

The chart below shows the fossil fuel reserves held by investments within the Portfolio across the major fossil fuels in comparison to an unscreened portfolio. As the chart shows, the Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves at all. This is a key metric to ensure that the Portfolio is not supporting fossil fuel activities that are diametrically opposed to the impact the Portfolio is trying to achieve elsewhere in the investments, namely promoting transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.



### Renewable Energy

Given the importance of promoting renewable energy sources to address climate change, any investor interested in impact investing generally seeks a high level of renewable power output from their investment portfolio.

Within the Portfolio, renewable power is produced by a number of investments based in Ireland, Europe, the US and the developing world. We note some of the key impact metrics of these funds below:

Renewable Energy Fund	
<p>Renewable energy fund holding both onshore and offshore projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for 300,000 houses per annum</li> <li>• Avoids emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum</li> <li>• 1,000,000 MWh of renewable power per annum</li> </ul>	
Solar Income Fund	
<p>Fund holding approx. 40 solar plants in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for 150,000 houses per annum</li> <li>• Avoids emissions of 162,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum</li> <li>• 480,000 MWh of renewable power per annum</li> </ul>	

The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) it replaces. In 2023, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 830 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. This is equivalent to:

- Removing 179 cars from the roads every year
- 1,909 barrels of oil saved
- 692 acres of pine forest absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> for one year
- 91 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

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In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 2,012 MWh in 2023, enough energy to power approx. 333 homes.

**Environmental Protection and Carbon Sequestration**

Environmental protection is a critical aspect of sustainability addressed by the Portfolio. The forestry investments within the Portfolio have a mandate to:

- Produce sustainable timber;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere;
- Protect natural resources and biodiversity of the area, in order to minimise the effect on the biodiversity and general environmental welfare.



*The managers of the forestry investments in the portfolio review any new forest properties at the outset to record and maintain Biodiversity already present. They have also adopted an approach in their management to enhance biodiversity by planning linkage between features using corridors so that the biodiversity features on site are conserved and new features being created are all joined and form part of a biodiversity unit within each property. These features are measured and captured on the managers' geographic information system (GIS). A detailed biodiversity classification and ranking system is in place and enhancement targets are being set to enrich diversification in fauna and flora throughout the portfolio.*

**Social Impact**

**Job Creation**



Providing employment is one of the best methods of reducing poverty, and therefore it has a number of positive beneficial effects across the SDGs, from poverty reduction (SDG1) to providing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8). As the majority of the jobs created by the impact investments are in the developing world, and tend to favour women as much (if not more) than men, then job creation in these areas improves Gender Equality (SDG5) and Reduces Inequalities (SDG10), both between sexes and between the developed and developing regions of the world.

The Portfolio has a number of funds which provide job creation through their economic activity. The equity funds provide capital to companies that employ anywhere between hundreds to hundreds of thousands, and therefore additional capital from investors should enable these companies to create jobs, albeit that the job creation impact from additional investment in these typically large, established businesses is low. However, other funds that operate in the developing world tend to produce far higher job creation and comprise the majority of the additional jobs produced for the portfolio as a whole.

The new jobs created by an unscreened portfolio of the same size as the Portfolio would only create 6 new jobs, while the Portfolio helped create circa 11 direct jobs in 2023.

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### Homelessness Crisis

In Ireland, there were 13,000 homeless people in 2023, and an increase of over 250% of homeless families since 2015. Social housing in Ireland is therefore at crisis levels mainly due to limited supply of residential property and a booming population (at the time of the report writing, the population in Ireland had reached 5 million, the highest level since 1851).

The portfolio now includes the New Haven Social Housing Fund which addresses this chronic shortage of housing for vulnerable groups in Ireland. The goals of the fund are shown below:

**Social Housing Fund**

Innovative fund acquires properties for social housing purposes

- Provide €100m+ in long term capital to housing sector
- Target high ESG and sustainability standards
- 500+ new homes to be provided for social housing needs

### Care and Welfare of Members

Throughout the year the charity continued to assist members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work. A number of members were cared for in the Cowper Care nursing care home in Ireland whilst the charity enabled other members to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. In addition, the charity welcomes members from other Provinces to stay in England to allow them to study and acquire skills they can take back to their own Provinces.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Results for the year

During the year, total incoming resources amounted to £2.2m (2022: £2.3m) Of the incoming resources, a total of £1.8m (2022: £1.7m) related to the fees receivable and other income of the charity's independent schools, with other incoming resources accounting for £0.4m (2022: £0.4m). This included £nil (2022: £nil) in relation to the loss on the disposal of assets. Investment income and interest receivable totalled £71k (2022: £210k), while donations and gifts totalled £3k (2022: £30k).

Resources expended totalled £3.0m (2022: £2.9m), with 99% (2022: 99%) being expended on direct charitable activities. Expenditure in the charity's independent schools totalled £2.0m (2022: £1.9m). Expenditure incurred on maintaining the members of the Congregation and supporting them in their ministry and pastoral work amounted to £976k (2022: £837k). Mission support costs totalled £76k (2022: £183k) in the year. Expenditure on governance during the year was well controlled and amounted to £38k (2022: £99k).

Net outgoing resources for the year, therefore, were £864k. Investment losses of £227k offset by £nil actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme resulted in a net movement in funds for the year of £1.1m.

### Investment policy

The charity's investments are held in unitised funds, the purpose of which is to provide investment income to promote the charitable objectives of the Trust, and to provide capital growth in the reserves over the medium term. They are invested with a medium risk investment strategy. The objectives for the investments are as follows:

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- To provide an annual income for the charity
- To preserve the capital value of the portfolio in real terms
- To generate a real return, depending on conditions in financial markets, after the initial two objectives have been met
- To achieve the above targets while utilising the charity's stated ethical investment policy

The investment funds are under the management of Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland Ltd. As noted above, all funds have an ethical investment screen; they exclude companies that fall foul of certain ethical criteria, and in most cases favour stocks that provide positive benefits to society; these funds only hold investments that are compatible with the Charity's religious ethos.

### **Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to £8.4m (2022: £9.5m). Of this, £2.8m (2022: £2.9m) is represented by properties and other tangible fixed assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees have designated another £4.2m to provide for school and education funding, mission and ministry works and the care and welfare of the members. Details are given in note 18 of these Financial Statements. The Trustees review and reassess these designations on an on-going basis.

Un-designated or general funds amount to £1.4m. This equates to approximately 8 months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work and its commitments, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to between 4 and 8 months' expenditure.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

The charity intends to continue to review its spending plans and needs and to make every effort to manage its existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the charity aims.

The Trustees intend to meet the following objectives:

- Through the work of the Network Support Team to continuously improve the implementation of the 'Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education' through the provision of support services, including support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and leadership teams and in-service training for teachers and support staff.
- As regards future planning, the CCBT intends to become a founding member of the Gaudete Trust which is a collaborative venture involving five Religious Orders who are involved in education. This venture will enable the rich heritage of Religious Orders to affirm their commitment to Catholic education and to continue to enrich it. The CCBT intends to put all their seven schools into the Gaudete Trust, thus relieving the present trustees of the responsibility of trusteeship. The Gaudete Trust will be allied to a Multi Academy Trust, which will include the Congregation's present four stand-alone academies. The Gaudete Trust – will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation recognised by the Charities Commission and a Public Juridic Person recognised by the Hierarchy of England and Wales.
- To continue to extend the Developing World Immersion Programme. This will include the investigation of immersion opportunities in other Developing World Countries and the drawing in of schools yet to send groups on immersion.
- To continue to develop links with the work of 'Edmund Rice International', the Christian Brother non-governmental organisation based in Geneva and working within the United Nations on issues of global social justice, in particular the rights of the child.
- To continue to grow the wider Edmund Rice Network in England, using school communities as the core but establishing local groups open to the wider community and providing opportunities for faith-sharing, spiritual reflection, and action for social justice (in particular support for refugees and asylum seekers).
- To continue to grow the Edmund Rice Network specifically for the age group 18-25, continuing the connection with ex-students of the schools, providing them with further opportunities for immersion, service, social engagement, and reflection both in Britain and Ireland and in the Developing World.

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## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by an Amended Trust Deed dated 27 February 2015. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (charity number 254312).

In accordance with the Amended Trust Deed “the number of Trustees shall not be less than four including any ex-officio Trustee and shall never be more than eight and on the occurrence of any vacancy reducing the Trustees to less than four a new Trustee or new Trustees shall be appointed as soon as possible in order to restore the number of Trustees to four at the least”

In terms of Canon Law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Congregation Leader and the Leadership Team in Rome. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter. The European Province is governed by the Province Leader and the Province Leadership Team, who are nominated by members of the European Province. Members of the Province Leadership Team are chosen for their personal qualities, their understanding and experience of the ministries of the Brothers and to secure a good skills mix among them. Each Community in the Province is governed by a local leader, who is appointed by the Province Leader. The Province Leadership Team visits each Community at least once a year and throughout the year there is a system of accountability operational throughout the Province to help to ensure that the Province Leadership Team are aware of the progress and development of the ministries carried out in the name of the Province.

### **Appointment and Training of Trustees**

The statutory power of appointing new or additional Trustees is vested in the Province Leader. Trustees are chosen for their personal qualities and their understanding and experience of the ministries throughout the Province. To date, the Trustees have been members of the European Province of the Congregation and as such they will already be well informed about the Mission, governing documents and strategic planning and history of the charity.

When a new Trustee is appointed they are given a copy of the Amended Trust Deed and the Charity Commission’s booklets for Trustees. In addition, they meet with the existing Trustees during which they are given an outline of their responsibilities and continuing obligations.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Charity and its activities. When necessary, they seek advice from the charity’s professional advisors.

The day to day running of the Academies is delegated to Governing Bodies appointed according to the statutory framework and instruments of government for state-funded schools. The day to day running of the Independent Preparatory Schools is delegated to Governing Bodies, in accordance with the instruments of government provided by the Trustees. The Trustees receive regular financial and educational reports from all the Boards of Governors and Headteachers of the schools.

The Independent School Governors and the Foundation Governors in the state-funded schools are appointed by the Trustees for a given term of years and may be re-appointed when their term ends.

### **Risk Management**

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment on an annual basis and monitor progress on an annual basis. This process is supported by the Finance Office, who works closely with the Trustees in this area. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

Governance and management: considers the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required, etc.

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Financial: considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash-flow planning, the appointment of Stewardship advisors where necessary.

Age Profile: considers the ageing population of the members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers – English Province which is supported by the Charity. This incorporates the review of the training, skillsets and energy of the Brothers in a leadership, Ministry or Mission role. The risks are mitigated through training, Trustee visitation to each Community, regular Province meetings, healthcare reviews and rotating Brothers in different roles and the sharing of knowledge. The Trustees invest time, energy and allocate resources to ensure the continuing of the Charity both now and into the future. This can also include the involvement of lay people to support the Brothers and the involvement of professional advisors in relation to stewardship advice to the Trustees.

**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees of the Charity are required to prepare for each financial year accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the source and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements. The Trustees are conscious of their responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint Forvis Mazars LLP as auditors to the Charity will be proposed to the forthcoming Trustee Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 27-Jun-2024  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by:

  
D.Gibson (Jun 27, 2024 08:50 GMT+1)

D Gibson  
Trustee

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability

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to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation and anti-money laundering regulation.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the charity is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax and pension legislation.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting

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estimates, in particular in relation to income recognition, depreciation, defined benefit pension scheme disclosures, historical provisions and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of the audit report**

We have been appointed under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and regulations made or having effect thereunder. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
For (Jun 27, 2024 16:16 GMT+1)

For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3 Wellington Place  
Leeds  
LS1 4AP

Date 27-Jun-2024

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	3,095	-	3,095	30,033
Investment income	4	71,018	-	71,018	209,917
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,733,862	27,107	1,760,969	1,735,732
Other income	6	322,059	-	322,059	338,241
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,130,034</b>	<b>27,107</b>	<b>2,157,141</b>	<b>2,313,923</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		30,132	-	30,132	35,817
Charitable activities		2,964,333	27,150	2,991,483	2,905,785
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>2,994,465</b>	<b>27,150</b>	<b>3,021,615</b>	<b>2,941,602</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(864,431)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(864,474)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>
Transfers between funds	17/18	-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income after transfers</b>		<b>(864,431)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(864,474)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>
Net (losses) / gains on investments	11	(226,774)	-	(226,774)	230,246
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	-	-	-	(329,200)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(1,091,205)</b>	<b>(43)</b>	<b>(1,091,248)</b>	<b>(726,633)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		9,495,725	15,491	9,511,216	10,237,849
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>8,404,520</b>	<b>15,448</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	10	2,807,976	2,907,761
Investments	11	6,380,800	7,679,496
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>9,188,776</b>	<b>10,587,257</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors falling due within one year	12	219,600	161,920
Debtors falling due in more than one year	12	187,500	237,500
Cash at bank and in hand		830,163	699,052
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,237,265</b>	<b>1,098,472</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(645,213)	(870,595)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>592,052</b>	<b>227,877</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>9,780,828</b>	<b>10,815,134</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(905,860)	(835,918)
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES</b>	15	(455,000)	(468,000)
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>		<b>8,419,968</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>8,419,968</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Restricted funds	17	15,448	15,491
Unrestricted funds	18	8,404,520	9,495,725
Pension reserve	22	-	-
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>8,419,968</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>

Approved by the Trustees 27-Jun-2024  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by

  
D.Gibson (Jun 27, 2024 08:50 GMT+1)

D Gibson  
Trustee

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	21	(1,032,060)	(1,403,886)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Investment income		71,018	209,917
Purchase of investments		(1,213,298)	(2,027,259)
Sale of investments		1,869,255	2,800,473
Cash movement on investments		486,982	(222,654)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(50,784)	(36,238)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	-
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		1,163,173	724,239
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		131,111	(679,647)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		699,052	1,378,699
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		830,163	699,052
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 August		830,163	699,052
Overdraft at 31 August		-	-
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		830,163	699,052

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", effective 1 January 2019 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements have been prepared in Pound Sterling as this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and 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 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice Charities SORP 2005" which has since been withdrawn.

**Going concern**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees are satisfied that given the cash position and the investment portfolio of the charity that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis.

The current economic conditions present increased risks for all charities. In response to such conditions, the Trustees have carefully considered these risks, included an assessment of uncertainty on future forecasts for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, and to the extent to which they might affect the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and have not identified any material uncertainties within their review. They therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

**Fixed assets**

The original sites and buildings for the Charity's four schools and various other buildings are included on the balance sheet at an aggregate nominal value of £1. Building work completed more recently has been capitalised at cost. Consequently, the balance sheet does not reflect the full value of the freehold land and buildings used by the Charity and the charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for depreciation excludes any amount in respect of the assets in question.

Property used by the academy schools is classified as a programme related social investment as any financial return obtained is not a primary reason for making the investment in that the property is held specifically to enable the schools to undertake particular activities using the property that contribute to the charitable purposes.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided to write off assets over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**Social investments**

Social investments are stated at cost less depreciation. Social investments consist of premises relating to the four academy schools.

**Operating leases payable**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

**Operating leases receivable**

Assets leased out under operating leases are included within the freehold properties and are depreciated over their useful life. Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

**Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the year end. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Pension costs**

A multi-employer defined benefit scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010. Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS17, payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for as a defined benefit scheme as detailed in note 22.

Contributions payable to the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of the pensions over the remaining service lives of employees in the scheme. The pension charge is calculated on the basis of actuarial advice.

The Charity also contributes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary and advised to the Trustees by the Scheme Administrator. This scheme is treated as a multi-employer defined benefit scheme and contributions are accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

**Educational income**

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

**Donations**

Donations receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, generally the earlier of notification or receipt.

**Legacies**

Legacies receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, when the relevant recognition criteria has been met.

**Investment income**

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt.

**Province Support Programme**

This consists substantially of pensions received by the Charity on behalf of the Christian Brothers. The corresponding living costs of Christian Brothers are included under Province Support.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Support costs have been allocated to the main charitable activities in accordance with the total direct costs of those activities. Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Expenditure on raising funds comprises investment management fees. Redundancy costs are recognised when incurred.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are income received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the Trustees.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

In applying the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions in determining the carrying amount of assets and liabilities. The Trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the outcomes may differ.

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, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Critical judgements in applying the charity's accounting policies**

The critical judgement that the Trustees' have made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is discussed below.

i) Assessing indicators of impairment for trade receivables

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the Trustees have considered both internal and external sources of information such as market conditions and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

i) Recoverability of receivables

The charity establishes a provision for receivables that are estimated to not be recoverable. When assessing recoverability the Trustees' consider factors such as the ageing of receivables, past experience of recoverability, and the credit profile of individuals.

ii) Determining residual values and useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations over future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation and maintenance programmes.

iii) Provisions

The charity provides for potential litigation payments in respect of historical abuse claims. This is done in conjunction with the charity's solicitor and is based on the individual claim facts and historical outcome of settled claims and therefore requires some judgement from management.

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**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (continued)**

(iv) Pensions

The charity operates a defined benefit pension fund. This means that the charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain former employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the associated obligation depend on a number of factors, including:

- life expectancy
- salary increases,
- assets valuations,
- discount rate as determined with reference to return on high quality corporate bonds.

The charity uses an independent actuary to help determine reasonable estimates for these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See note 22 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit pension scheme.

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Donations and legacies	3,095	30,033
	<u>3,095</u>	<u>30,033</u>
	<u><u>3,095</u></u>	<u><u>30,033</u></u>

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Investment fund income	71,018	209,917
Bank interest	-	-
	<u>71,018</u>	<u>209,917</u>
	<u><u>71,018</u></u>	<u><u>209,917</u></u>

**5. INCOME FROM OPERATION OF THE SCHOOLS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Fee income	1,508,562	1,561,405
Education related income	252,407	174,327
	<u>1,760,969</u>	<u>1,735,732</u>
	<u><u>1,760,969</u></u>	<u><u>1,735,732</u></u>

**6. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Province support programme	218,122	229,752
Sundry income	87,329	91,881
Rent receivable in respect of operating leases	16,608	16,608
	<u>322,059</u>	<u>338,241</u>
	<u><u>322,059</u></u>	<u><u>338,241</u></u>

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**7. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Operation of schools</b>	<b>Province support</b>	<b>Mission support</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>
		£	£	£	£
Raising funds	-	30,132	-	30,132	35,817
Staff costs (note 8)	1,439,466	180,870	-	1,620,336	1,498,732
Living allowances	-	243,977	-	243,977	304,896
Nursing homes	-	100,113	-	100,113	72,821
Governance costs (note 9)	-	52,969	-	52,969	80,859
Donations	-	-	75,629	75,629	19,673
Administration	220,477	243,361	-	463,838	483,868
Premises	146,067	-	-	146,067	133,225
Teaching goods	58,781	-	-	58,781	79,241
Services	79,204	-	-	79,204	84,870
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	3,342	-	3,342	-
Unpaid fees provision	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation & impairment (note 10)	101,496	45,731	-	147,227	147,600
	<u>2,045,491</u>	<u>900,495</u>	<u>75,629</u>	<u>3,021,615</u>	<u>2,941,602</u>

**8. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Gross wages	1,311,308	1,220,019
Social security costs	88,011	103,753
Pension costs	184,572	174,960
Pension deficit funding	36,445	-
	<u>1,620,336</u>	<u>1,498,732</u>

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Average number of employees	<u>56</u>	<u>53</u>

One employee (2022: one employee) received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year in the band £70,000 to £80,000 (2022: £60,000 to £70,000).

During the year the charity incurred redundancy costs totalling £nil (2022: £nil). Amounts outstanding in respect of redundancy costs as at 31 August 2023 total £nil (2022: £nil).

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

The Trustees consider that they and the Heads, Chairs and Governors of the two Independent Preparatory Schools along with the Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network comprise the key management of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The Trustees are members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers - English Province and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. Similarly the Boards of Governors receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Governors. Expenses relating to travel and other costs of £nil (2022: £nil) were reimbursed to no (2022: none) Trustees.

Remuneration of the Heads is reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors while the remuneration of the Schools Officer is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel in 2023 was £174,045 (2022: £188,780).

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<b>9. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditors' remuneration - audit	37,000	50,100
- non-audit	6,000	2,922
Other legal and professional advisory	9,969	27,837
	<u>52,969</u>	<u>80,859</u>

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>COST</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2022	5,737,134	1,014,603	135,381	6,887,118
Additions	-	50,784	-	50,784
Disposals	-	-	(14,500)	(14,500)
Transfers	-	41,300	(41,300)	-
Balance as at 31 August 2023	<u>5,737,134</u>	<u>1,106,687</u>	<u>79,581</u>	<u>6,923,402</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2022	2,932,826	914,684	131,847	3,979,357
Charge for year	115,176	29,402	2,649	147,227
Disposals	-	-	(11,158)	(11,158)
Transfers	-	51,706	(51,706)	-
Balance as at 31 August 2023	<u>3,048,002</u>	<u>995,792</u>	<u>71,632</u>	<u>4,115,426</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUES</b>				
As at 31 August 2023	<u>2,689,132</u>	<u>110,895</u>	<u>7,949</u>	<u>2,807,976</u>
As at 31 August 2022	<u>2,804,308</u>	<u>99,919</u>	<u>3,534</u>	<u>2,907,761</u>

The net book value at 31 August 2023 represents fixed assets used for:

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Direct charitable purposes:</b>				
Schools	1,565,432	106,357	-	1,671,789
Other support	1,123,701	4,538	7,949	1,136,188
	<u>2,689,133</u>	<u>110,895</u>	<u>7,949</u>	<u>2,807,976</u>

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**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (Continued)**

Of the assets noted above, the following represents fixed assets used for social investments:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Social investments:</b>		
Schools	780,143	812,903
	<u>780,143</u>	<u>812,903</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Market value at 31 August 2022	7,679,496	7,789,895
Less: disposals at opening book value	(1,869,255)	(2,800,473)
Add: purchases at cost	1,213,298	2,027,259
Foreign exchange movements	71,017	222,654
Cash movements	(486,982)	209,915
	<u>6,607,574</u>	<u>7,449,250</u>
Add: Gains on investment	(226,774)	230,246
	<u>6,380,800</u>	<u>7,679,496</u>
Market value at 31 August 2023	<u>6,380,800</u>	<u>7,679,496</u>

A summary of the investments held is shown below:

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Market</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Value</b>
		<b>£</b>
Unit trusts	2,361,435	6,380,800
	<u>2,361,435</u>	<u>6,380,800</u>

At 31 August 2023 the charity held investments representing over 5% of the total portfolio in the following entities:

	<b>% holding</b>
Setanta Ethical Global Equity Fund	20%
iShares MSCI World Socially Responsible ETF	19%
Portfolio Cash	11%
36 South Portfolio Insurance Fund	<u>6%</u>

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**12. DEBTORS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	48,303	49,734
Other debtors and prepayments	171,297	112,186
	<u>219,600</u>	<u>161,920</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Other debtors	187,500	237,500
	<u>187,500</u>	<u>237,500</u>

**13. CREDITORS**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	67,247	15,635
Bank overdraft	-	-
Tax and social security	36,209	29,106
Sundry creditors and accruals	254,512	426,818
Deferred income (note 14)	287,245	399,036
	<u>645,213</u>	<u>870,595</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Deferred income (note 14)	905,860	835,918
	<u>905,860</u>	<u>835,918</u>

**14. DEFERRED INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Balance as at 1 September	1,234,954	1,113,567
Amount released to income	(426,486)	(434,091)
Amounts returned to parents	-	-
Amount deferred in the year	384,637	555,478
Balance as at 31 August	<u>1,193,105</u>	<u>1,234,954</u>

Deferred income comprises payments in advance for school fees and lease rentals received in advance.

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**15. PROVISIONS**

	<b>Total £</b>
At 1 September	468,000
New provisions in the year	105,000
Increase in provisions in the year	55,000
Utilised during the year	-
Provisions reversed in the year	(173,000)
	<u>455,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>455,000</u>

The above provisions related to ongoing legal cases.

**16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>354,060</u>	<u>350,265</u>
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>830,172</u>	<u>699,052</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>180,805</u>	<u>128,633</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other debtors.  
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other payables.

**17. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 31.08.22 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31.08.23 £</b>
Education in Africa	10,500	-	-	-	10,500
Poor children in India	-	-	-	-	-
Support of retired Brothers	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance of graves	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
School trips	3,991	27,107	(27,150)	-	3,948
	<u>15,491</u>	<u>27,107</u>	<u>(27,150)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,448</u>

The Education in Africa fund represents funds received and thus to be expended for that purpose.  
The Poor children in India fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The Support of retired Brothers fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The Maintenance of graves fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The school trips reserve is used to cover costs of trips run as part of school operations.

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**18. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 31.08.22	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31.08.23
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
CCB Designated Fund 1	2,907,761	-	(112,251)	-	-	2,795,510
CCB Designated Fund 2	813,425	14,204	-	-	-	827,629
CCB Designated Fund 3	624,626	38,420	(438,733)	-	-	224,313
CCB Designated Fund 4	3,186,432	253,124	(366,350)	-	-	3,073,206
St Joseph Designated Fund	36,357	-	-	-	-	36,357
St Ambrose Designated Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>7,568,601</b>	<b>305,748</b>	<b>(917,334)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,957,015</b>
General Funds	1,927,124	1,824,286	(2,077,131)	(226,774)	-	1,447,505
Pension Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>9,495,725</b>	<b>2,130,034</b>	<b>(2,994,465)</b>	<b>(226,774)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,404,520</b>

The Trustees have designated funds equating to the following:

Designated Fund 1 – total of the tangible fixed assets and work in progress costs of the Charity.

Designated Fund 2 – Mission and Ministry Funding. This fund exists to support the non-educational Mission and Ministry activities of the Trust over the next decade.

Designated Fund 3 – schools/educational funding. This represents working capital needed by the schools together with a provision for the shortfall in the non-teaching staff pension scheme over the next decade.

Designated Fund 4 – amount committed for the care and welfare of the Province's members over the next decade.

St Joseph's Designated Fund – relates to funds held by the school for specific extra-curricular activities.

St Ambrose' Designated Fund – relates to funds set aside for the future replacement of the boiler and school roof.

**19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	2,807,976	-	2,807,976
Investments	6,380,800	-	6,380,800
Current assets	1,221,817	15,448	1,237,265
Creditors	(1,551,073)	-	(1,551,073)
Provisions	(455,000)	-	(455,000)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<b>8,404,520</b>	<b>15,448</b>	<b>8,419,968</b>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	2,907,761	-	2,907,761
Investments	7,679,496	-	7,679,496
Current assets	1,082,981	15,491	1,098,472
Creditors	(1,706,513)	-	(1,706,513)
Provisions	(468,000)	-	(468,000)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<b>9,495,725</b>	<b>15,491</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>

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**20. LEASING**

At 31 August 2023 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases. All operating leases relate to the rent of equipment.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Payments due within:		
Within one year	660	1,872
Between two and five years	-	660
	<u>660</u>	<u>2,532</u>

The total operating lease payments recognised as an expense was £1,817 (2022: £27,919).

At 31 August 2023 the charity had entered into operating lease agreements acting as lessor. The following amounts are due to be received within the following time periods:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Within one year	117,600	117,600
Between two and five years	352,800	352,800
In over five years	560,400	678,000
	<u>1,030,800</u>	<u>1,148,400</u>

**21. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net expenditure for the period	(1,091,248)	(726,633)
Adjustments in respect of:		
Depreciation charges	147,227	147,600
Impairment charges	-	-
Investment income	(71,108)	(209,917)
Investment losses / (gains)	226,774	(230,246)
Net loss / (profit) on disposals of fixed assets	3,339	-
Decrease in stock	-	-
(Increase) /decrease in debtors	(7,680)	45,678
(Decrease) in creditors	(155,440)	(78,953)
Pension adjustment	-	-
Foreign exchange movement on investments	(71,017)	(209,915)
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	(13,000)	(141,500)
	<u>(1,032,057)</u>	<u>(1,403,886)</u>

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

**Defined Benefit Pension Scheme**

The group operated a defined benefit scheme in the UK. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out at 5 April 2011 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010.

Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28 'Retirement and post-employment benefits', payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for under FRS102 Section 28 as a defined benefit scheme as detailed below.

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgement concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits, ('GMP'). The Government will need to consider this outcome in conjunction with the Government's recent consultation on GMP indexation in public sector schemes before concluding on any changes required to LGPS schemes.

**The major assumptions used by the actuary were:**

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
Rate of increase in salaries per annum	N/A	N/A
Rate of increase in inflation linked pensions in payment per annum	3.5%	3.85%
Expected rate of return on the plan assets	3.7%	3.9%
Discount rate per annum	5.25%	4.0%
Inflation assumption per annum	3.5%	3.85%
Mortality table pre-retirement	AM/F00	AM/F00
Mortality table post retirement	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)

**The assets in the scheme were:**

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
	<b>Value £'000</b>	<b>Value £'000</b>
Equities	751	4,468
Bonds	990	1,131
Cash	3,571	698
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fair value of assets	5,312	6,297
Present value of funded obligations	(3,996)	(4,660)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,637</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

As per section 28.22 of FRS 102 a defined benefit plan asset shall only be recognised to the extent that the Charity is able to recover the surplus. Given there is no expectation the surplus will be recovered, the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Analysis of gain included in Statement of Financial Activities:**

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Gain/(loss) on scheme assets and obligations	(350)	618
(Gain)/loss on notional surplus not recognised	350	(947)
Net amount recognised in other comprehensive income	-	(329)

**Reconciliation of change in defined benefit obligation:**

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	4,660	6,577
Interest cost	182	110
Actuarial losses/(gains) on obligation	(636)	(1,787)
Benefits paid	(210)	(240)
Past service cost	-	-
	<u>3,996</u>	<u>4,660</u>

**Reconciliation of change in plan assets:**

	<b>31 August 2023</b>	<b>31 August 2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening fair value of plan assets	6,297	7,170
Expected return on plan assets	247	123
Actuarial gains on assets	(986)	(1,072)
Contributions paid by the employer	26	316
Benefits paid	(210)	(240)
Pension scheme expenses	(62)	-
	<u>5,312</u>	<u>6,297</u>

**Amounts for the current and previous four periods:**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Defined benefit obligation	(3,396)	(4,660)	(6,577)	(6,592)	(6,857)
Plan assets	5,312	6,297	7,170	6,774	6,457
Surplus/(deficit)	1,916	1,637	593	182	(400)

Based on the current Schedule of Contributions, the company/group expects to pay contributions in the region of £316k to the scheme during the next accounting period.

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

**Teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The School has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the School in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) in April 2019. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £198 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19). DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2019-20 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

**23. CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE HOLDINGS**

The Trustees hold certain investments and bank accounts as custodian Trustee holdings only. The assets, totalling £158,895 at 31 August 2023 (2022: £157,171) are held securely and separately from those of the Trustees who are responsible for their safe custody. They are not therefore included in the Trust's balance sheet.

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**24. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

After the balance sheet date, the charity sold one of its properties. The charity received £700,000 in respect of this transaction.

**25. RELATED PARTIES**

During the year the Trustees were involved with the following related party transactions:

Related party	Lease payments received	Contributions by colleges to programmes	Reimbursement of costs incurred	Donations made to the college	Outstanding at 31 August 2023	Outstanding at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Ambrose College	26,700	-	-	-	-	-
St Anselm's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Edward's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Joseph's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-

**Related party relationships**

The four colleges named above are considered to represent related parties due to either the English Province itself or certain of its Trustees being members of the colleges, together with the English Province having the ability to appoint a number of college governors.

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS 102 as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provisions laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions.

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

During the year the Trustees, similar to the non-Trustee Christian Brothers, donated all of their earned income by perpetual gift aid to the Charity. In the year to 31 August 2023 this amounted to £76,446 (2022: £80,264). Similarly, as stated in Note 8, the Trustees have their living and personal expenses borne by the Charity and they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. No expenses relating to travel and other costs were reimbursed to Trustees in either 2023 or 2022.

The Charity has also had transactions in the year with CCB Northern Ireland Trust. During the year the Charity recharged the Northern Ireland Trust £18,527 representing expenses incurred on their behalf (2022: £8,296). At the year end the amount owed to the Charity was £13,656 (2022: £8,296). This is linked to the Charity as Br E Garvey is a Trustee of CCB Northern Ireland Trust as well as the English Trust.

The Charity also had transactions in the year with 'The Congregation of Christian Brothers European Province - Republic of Ireland' (CCBEP-ROI), a Charity registered in the Republic of Ireland. At 31 August 2023 the Charity is owed £29,415 (2022: owed to £4,543) by CCBEP-ROI representing expenses incurred & recharged.

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**26. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	30,033	-	30,033	12,008
Investment income	4	209,917	-	209,917	213,548
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,697,657	38,075	1,735,732	1,520,494
Other income	6	338,241	-	338,241	465,079
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,275,848</b>	<b>38,075</b>	<b>2,313,923</b>	<b>2,211,129</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		35,817	-	35,817	33,916
Charitable activities		2,867,663	38,122	2,905,785	3,077,063
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>2,903,480</b>	<b>38,122</b>	<b>2,941,602</b>	<b>3,110,979</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>		<b>(627,632)</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>
Transfers between funds	17/18	-	-	-	-
<b>Net expenditure after transfers</b>		<b>(627,632)</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	230,246	-	230,246	428,133
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	412,277
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	(329,200)	-	(329,200)	(321,200)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(726,586)</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(726,633)</b>	<b>(380,639)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		10,222,311	15,538	10,237,849	10,618,488
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>9,495,725</b>	<b>15,491</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

**TRUST PROPERTY HELD IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE  
ENGLISH PROVINCE OF  
THE CONGREGATION OF  
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**(THE ENGLISH PROVINCE  
OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
TRUSTEES)**

Registered Charity No. 254312

**THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
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**Legal and Administration details:**

Full Name	Trust Property Held in Connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers
Governing Document	Amended Trust deed dated 27 February 2015
Charity Registration	Number 254312
Trustees	D. Gibson (Chair of Trustees) P.G. Gordon E. O'Brien D. Sassi J. Donovan (appointed 30 June 2022) E. Garvey (resigned 30 June 2022)
Principal Address	"Woodeaves" Wicker Lane Hale Barns Altrincham Cheshire WA15 0HF
Financial Administrator	L&P Trustee Services Ltd
Auditors	Mazars LLP One St. Peter's Square Manchester M2 3DE
Solicitors	Hill Dickinson 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
Principal Banker	HSBC 11 Stamford New Road Altrincham Cheshire WA14 1BW
Investment Advisors	Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland 23 St. Stephens Green Dublin 2

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

The Trustees present their report, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. It was founded in Waterford, Ireland in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice. It is divided into 5 distinct Provinces across the world.

The financial statements accompanying this report are the financial statements of the charitable trust in which the assets of the Christian Brothers in England are held. The Christian Brothers in England, in canon law terms, forms part of the European Province.

**Background**

Edmund Rice was born at Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny on 1 June 1762. It was a time of political and religious oppression, when poverty and want affected the lives of the vast majority of the citizens of the land.

As there was no formal schooling available to Catholics at that time, Edmund was educated both at home and at the local 'pay school' in Moate Lane, where Catholics who could afford to pay sent their children to school. After his early schooling Edmund moved to Waterford in 1779. In Waterford, he worked for his uncle, Michael Rice, in the family business, provisioning ships calling at Waterford's busy dockside. Edmund was a good businessman, and in due course inherited the family business from his uncle. Under his careful management, it prospered greatly. He became a wealthy man.

In 1785, at the age of 23, Edmund married Mary Elliott. There is very little that history reveals about the marriage other than that it came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of his young wife in 1789. Edmund found himself the sole parent of a small child who was delicate in health, and possibly suffering from a disability. Being a strong family man, Edmund initially entrusted the care of young Mary Rice to his stepsister, Joan, in 3 Arundel Place in Waterford where he had set up house.

The next twelve years of Edmund's life were hidden years during which he coped with his sorrows, ran his business, and ensured the wellbeing of his little daughter, Mary.

In 1802, at the age of 40, Edmund took a very decisive step. He embarked on a spiritual journey that changed his life utterly. The inspiration for his decision probably came from the example of Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters. Like Nano, he decided to devote the remainder of his life, and all of his resources, to the education and care of the poor. He sold his victualler's business in Waterford and arranged for his step-sister, Joan Murphy, and his handicapped daughter to move to Callan. He himself moved to a large stable in New Street, which he opened as a free school for poor Catholic boys. To help him with his project, Edmund recruited some hired help.

Edmund's decision to educate the poor was seen by his friends as both foolhardy and unwise. Some advised against it, arguing that the poor were better off ignorant. Technically, Edmund's action was also illegal because, although the political scene had changed greatly and the Act of Union had been passed in 1800, many of the Penal Laws were still on the Statute Books, and educating poor Catholics could be interpreted as a seditious act. The beginning of Edmund's educational project was tentative and inauspicious. The hired help evaporated early on, demoralised by the enormity and difficulty of the task. On his own again, Edmund trusted in God, believing that if it was God's work it would surely prevail. His faith was rewarded when two young men from his own town of Callan, Patrick Finn and Thomas Grosvenor, volunteered to join ranks with him in his new venture. The nucleus of a new religious congregation was forming, and Edmund was inspired to take the next step.

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In June 1802, Edmund began to build a monastery to accommodate his small community. This was another seditious act that left him vulnerable before the Law. The monastery was soon completed, which he called Mount Sion. By this time, a fourth member, John Mulcahon, had joined the little group.

Word soon got around and, gradually, other volunteers came to Mount Sion offering their services freely for the realisation of Edmund's dream. This little group formed itself into a small, religious community following a well ordered way of life inspired by the Rule of the Presentation Sisters, a way of life with which Edmund was familiar through his contact with the Presentation Sisters in Waterford.

As the number of volunteers grew, so too did the capacity for service of the poor, and in due course a school was opened in Carrick-on-Suir in 1806, and another in Dungarvan towards the end of 1807. By 1808, the new movement had eight members, and Edmund believed that the time was right for formally establishing themselves as a religious congregation. He approached the Bishop of Waterford, Reverend Dr. John Power, to allow them to formalise their religious commitment by professing religious vows according to the Rule of the Presentation Sisters. Bishop Power agreed enthusiastically and on 15 August 1808, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edmund and his seven followers made simple profession of vows in the chapel of the Presentation Sisters in Hennessy's Road, Waterford. The Bishop, on behalf of the Church, formally received their professions.

The good news of Edmund's educational crusade on behalf of the poor soon spread beyond the boundaries of the diocese of Waterford. Other bishops got to hear about it, and because the social conditions of the poor were much the same in every diocese in the country, a number of bishops expressed the wish that Edmund would open a school for the poor in their diocese also. In 1811 the Brothers opened a school in Cork; In 1812, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Brothers opened another school in Hanover Street on the south quays. In quick succession the following schools were opened: Cappaquin (1813), Limerick (1816), Thurles (1816), Mill Street (Dublin, 1816), Francis St. (Dublin 1820), and eventually in Preston (England 1825). Preston was the first opening outside of Ireland, and constituted a major development in the missionary outreach of the new congregation.

The poverty and deprivation with which some of these early foundations had to contend shocked even Edmund himself, and grounded him even more solidly in his trust in Divine Providence. "May the will of God be done in it (Hanover Street)", he prayed.

The spread of the new fraternity into several dioceses created huge administrative difficulties for the early Brothers. Since each community was under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary of the diocese in which it was located, the transfer of Brothers from one community to another, issues of finance, formation matters, and community policy generally all became fraught with difficulties. Edmund felt that these difficulties amounted to a serious constraint on the development of his burgeoning congregation, and he looked around for an alternative model of administration to the diocesan model which was proving so cumbersome. Very quickly, he discovered that the solution to these difficulties lay in getting papal approval for his congregation as an Apostolic Institute, a status enjoyed by the congregation of De LaSalle Brothers for many decades.

To facilitate the move away from a diocesan structure, in 1817 Edmund and his Brothers with the approval of the Archbishop of Dublin, applied to the Holy See for an Apostolic Brief. In due course, and despite some opposition, His Holiness, Pope Pius VII granted Edmund's request, and issued the formal brief establishing the Congregation as an Apostolic Institute in 1820. The Brothers formally accepted the brief on 20 January 1822. Edmund Rice was elected Superior General of the new Apostolic Institute.

Nineteen of the thirty Brothers eligible to vote were present in Mount Sion on that historic day. Of those early Brothers who did not sign, some withdrew from the congregation at that point, while others wished to retain their diocesan affiliations and consequently refused the Brief. One of these, Br. Michael Riordan, became the nucleus around which the Presentation Brothers Congregation developed.

The spread of the Congregation from small beginnings in Waterford in 1802 to the worldwide organisation it is today, working in over thirty countries spread across the five continents, is a matter of history. What the story points to is the resilient nature of Edmund's founding charism, and its ability to incarnate itself in many countries, proclaiming its message of liberation through education in many languages and many cultures.

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**OBJECTIVES**

**Charitable Objects**

The principal object of the Charity, as set out in the amended Trust Deed, is to “advance the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on in Great Britain or abroad by or under the direction or with the support of the Province as the Trustees with the approval of the Provincial Leader shall from time to time think fit”.

**Aims**

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation and to care for those members throughout their lives within the Congregation. These Ministries of the Brothers of the Congregation, all of which benefit numerous members of the general public, fall into the following main areas:

- Education
- Faith development
- Social and pastoral work
- International missionary work
- Care and welfare of members

Each of these is considered in turn below:

**Education**

The Charity provides support and services for seven schools in direct or Academy Trusteeship and, without charge, to a further four associated schools in diocesan or independent Trusteeship.

**Criteria for Measuring Success in Edmund Rice Schools**

Measuring success for beneficiaries and the wider society in terms of numerical and scientific criteria is rather difficult for the English Region of the European Province but, being the Trustees of the two independent Preparatory schools in England and being an important part of the overall successful operations of the four Academy Colleges as well as involvement in the ethos of the four Associate schools, is important and is undertaken under two strands:

First Strand

Answering to outside Agencies to whom the schools are accountable and which have their own measurable standards as follows:

The **Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)** - as it applies to the Academy Schools:

- Pupil progress - the precise measure of students across three key stages (key stage 3, 4 and 5) is done through internal and external examinations.
- Pupil attendance - set at 95% > school attendance across each academic year.
- Pupil Premium - extra targeted funding allocated to schools who have eligible students (FSM) – schools have to account for their use of funding and its measured outcomes in terms of pupil progress compared to non-recipients.
- Provision for safeguarding of children in education.

Schools undergo regular inspections during which their statistics are analysed.

**Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)** - as it applies to Preparatory schools:

Use of inspections (every six years) to measure pupil progress; provision of a series of policies / procedures in a variety of areas e.g. Finance, measurement of pupil progress, safeguarding, safe recruitment, behaviour and discipline etc.

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Schools are rated according to their compliance against the standards as perceived by an inspectorate team.

Second Strand

Answering to the standards as laid out in the 'Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education' and on which many of our schools build their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). These plans use the SMART acronym; **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely**. Each target has a clear set of smart outcomes which allow the school to perform an accurate measure of its degree of success.

The Trustees meet annually face-to-face with the senior leadership and governors of the Academies and Preparatory schools and undertake an audit of success within the school which includes both external and internal judgements.

**Secondary schools**

All four of the secondary schools are now Academy Trusts and invite the Trustees to their annual AGMs in accordance with the Articles of Association:

- St Edward's College, Liverpool
- St Anslem's College, Birkenhead
- St Ambrose College, Hale Barns
- St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS102 section 9, "Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements", as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provision laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions as defined by FRS102 section 9.

**Primary schools**

There are two independent primary schools which continue in direct trusteeship, with the Congregation Trustees as registered proprietors:

- St. Ambrose Preparatory School, Hale Barns, Altrincham
- St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent

The results of these schools are included in these financial statements.

Runnymede St Edwards Catholic Primary became a Voluntary Aided School at the start of September 2020. The results of this school are not included in the financial statements

**Associated schools:**

There are five associated schools in other trusteeships and, as such, it is not appropriate to include their results in these financial statements.

- St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland (11-18) - diocesan trusteeship (Hexham and Newcastle)
- St. Boniface RC Academy, Plymouth (11-18) – diocesan trusteeship (Plymouth)
- St. Mary's College, Crosby (HMC independent secondary 11-18) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust
- St. Mary's College Preparatory School (independent primary) — St. Mary's College Crosby Trust

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These schools continue within the family of Edmund Rice schools. All five receive in-service and immersion opportunities and ethos support, co-ordinated and delivered by the Network Support Team employed by the Congregation Trustees.

The 'difference' the Charity seeks to make through its schools operation is the provision and support of outstanding Catholic faith-based education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The aim is to achieve outstanding educational outcomes for boys and girls from nursery entry to the age of 18+, through the realisation of eight core principles set out by the Trustees.

The 11 schools belong to the Edmund Rice family of schools by providing, and seeking continuously to improve, an educational programme grounded on the eight principles set out in a shared vision document, 'Reaching Out - The Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education'. These eight governing criteria define the identity and mission of the schools in England and provide a template for school development and mission evaluation. Through the implementation of these values the Charity seeks to promote individual educational, spiritual, physical, moral, social and cultural development within a Christian vision of the person and in the spirit of service established by the Founder, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Each school strives to be a Christian community where the fullest talents of each pupil are developed in a spirit of wider social awareness and with commitment to social justice and community responsibility.

The '**Essentials**' are:

1. **Evangelising the modern world** - Participating in the mission of the Catholic Church by bringing the Good News of Christ to all aspects of the life of the school community, and in dialogue with youth and contemporary culture, thus fulfilling the specific calling of the Congregation of Christian Brothers: The Evangelisation of youth through the Apostolate of Christian Education
2. **Promoting the spiritual** - Nurturing a living faith, fostering Christian spirituality, educating in Gospel-based values, living beyond the material dimension .
3. **Building a Christian community** - Growing as a school community in which the quality of care and relationships is Christ-inspired, based on mutual respect, self-sacrifice, and fully human dignity.
4. **Compassion for those in need** - Showing, in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, particular love and concern towards the weakest members of the school community and reaching out beyond the school in compassion and practical action for the poor and marginalised both locally and internationally.
5. **Concern for the whole person** - Centering the curriculum, opportunities, and challenges of the school on the balanced and integrated development of its students, and staff, across all the positive dimensions of personal growth- religious, moral, intellectual, cultural, physical, and social.
6. **Striving for excellence** - Encouraging each individual to use his or her talents to the full, whether academic, cultural, or physical, and pursuing the highest standards in all aspects of learning, teaching, and extracurricular endeavour.
7. **Education as a Christian calling** - Valuing and enabling the role and vocation of Christian teachers and support staff as a calling from God and a sharing in the Church's mission.
8. **Education for justice** - Inspiring the minds and hearts of the young to care for all God's creation and build a more just society, God's Kingdom on earth, and developing in them the talents for active citizenship and transformational leadership.

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The Trustees' expanded 'Charter' document, 'Reaching Out' continues to be the basis for in-school in-service training to further embed, apply, and develop the eight guiding principles of the charity and thereby continue to improve the learning experience and opportunities of all pupils. The Trustees ensure the implementation of the 'Eight Essentials' in the life of the schools through:

- Their role in selecting and appointing the Foundation Governors of the schools, and in the selection, appointment, and continuing formation of committed Headteachers and members of the school leadership teams. This applies both to the schools in direct trusteeship and to the newly formed Academies.
- Continuous liaison and meeting with and support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and school leadership teams
- The provision of in-service training for teachers and governors
- The active promotion of the 'Eight Essentials' as the template for school development planning, SEF (self-evaluation) and for state and diocesan inspection.

Each school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils, and fully adheres to statutory requirements and best practice in this respect and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Inspections of the state-funded schools by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education Children Services and Skills) and of the independent schools by ISIS (Independent Schools Inspectorate) report that the quality of pastoral care in our schools is outstanding, that safeguarding and anti-bullying practices are effectively in place, and that the quality of provision for social, moral, and spiritual development and for social engagement, is excellent.

Each school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds. Though the first obligation is to admit Roman Catholic pupils, the schools are open to pupils of all faiths or none and are committed, in relation to all pupils admitted, to complete inclusivity. The admissions and oversubscription criteria of the selective schools comply fully with the current statutory Admissions Code and with equal opportunity legislation.

As equal opportunity providers the schools are committed to a working environment free from any form of discrimination. The schools are committed to making reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are, or become, disabled.

In the financial year the Trustees' objectives in the educational sector included:

- Continued improvement to the delivery of the eight core values through ongoing formation and in-service training for Heads, teaching and support staff and governors.
- Continuing to expand the social outreach activities of the schools. The Schools' Team encourages each school to engage pupils in actions of charity, justice and advocacy towards the needy, especially those made poor and marginalised, in the local community and the wider world, in the spirit of Edmund Rice and engaging with the work of Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.
- The growth and further inspiration of the wider Edmund Rice Network in the spirit of the themes agreed at the last General Chapter of the Christian Brothers at Nairobi, Kenya in March 2014, the European Chapter in Emmaus in August 2014 and continuing Network gatherings and cluster meetings in Ireland and England on the theme of commitment to spiritual and social renewal: 'Drawn by mystery, destined for Life' within the eight calls of the General Chapter.

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The work of the Trustees in the schools is co-ordinated by a full-time Schools Officer, who provides guidance and support for Heads and Governing Bodies and:

- Organises in-service training for newly qualified and established staff.
- Organises inter-school conferences for Heads, Governors and for staff.
- Assists with school development planning.
- Advises on the recruitment and appointment of senior staff.
- Offers support for the spiritual life of senior staff and governors.
- Oversees best practice and compliance with safeguarding procedures

### **Faith development**

As a Religious Congregation, faith development is of prime importance to the Trustees. All aspects of the Trust's work involve the advancement of religion whether it is in the educational, pastoral or international missionary fields. The Trust continues to assess its work and to search for better ways of carrying out this ministry in today's world.

The work in this area is mainly carried out through the schools and the local parishes where members of the Province reside. In addition, members of the Province provide prayer guidance and spiritual direction.

From the early 1990s the Congregation of Christian Brothers, as a religious institute, has made a priority of sharing its mission with the laity, laicising the leadership and governance of the schools. Beyond that, as with other religious orders, there is an expanding emphasis on the growth of "spiritual families", groups of associated lay people offered opportunities to draw spiritual and apostolic fruitfulness from the original charism. Thus the Trustees' objectives include the development of an Edmund Rice Network of lay people who wish to associate themselves with the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Brothers.

The 'Edmund Rice Network' consists of local groups of interested adults gathering for spiritual sharing and reflection and who are encouraged to involve themselves in some form of social outreach. Although the majority of Network participants are drawn from staff and parents in the schools, meetings are open to all interested adults – indeed to anyone who wishes in some way, however informally, to connect with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. Opportunities for spiritual conversation and faith-based social action are provided. The Network Support Team, in addition to its work with schools, seeks to build new local groups of lay associates on this model.

The Trustees fund combined school and Network services delivered by a Network Support Team employed by the Trustees and based at the Edmund Rice Centre within the Christian Brother community at "Woodeaves", Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Altrincham. The Team of three consists of:

- A Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network
- A Network Facilitator who promotes and organises involvement in Network events and opportunities; these include spiritual and adult immersion opportunities across the European and global Edmund Rice Network for teachers and support staff from the 12 schools and for parents and friends and interested adults. The Facilitator also writes the English Network magazine and develops resources for schools and the Network.
- A Youth Development Facilitator with particular responsibility for the development and expansion of three specific programmes: Developing World Immersion programmes for students; Edmund Rice Camps for disadvantaged children; the Edmund Rice Awards Scheme (extending student voluntary service), links to the work of Edmund Rice International in advocacy and social justice within our schools including the promotion of the six Priorities identified by a new initiative within the schools named Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders which is a Congregation wide project.

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The Manchester-based Edmund Rice Network group acts as a hub for Network development involving both lay associates and Christian Brothers. Extensive use is made of the Network Centre, within the Brothers' residence in Hale Barns, which provides a base for Network meetings, for in-service sessions with teachers, support staff, governors, and pupils from the schools, and for gatherings with the wider community.

Since 2010 small spiritual conversation groups have developed in Manchester, Liverpool, the Wirral and Salford. These groups are focused on the three challenges, 'Love tenderly, walk humbly, and act justly.'

In addition, a series of sessions has been organised at the Network Centre, offering all comers the opportunity for spiritual conversation and prayerful reflection on life experience.

### **Social and pastoral work**

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by the Edmund Rice Network and individual Brothers:

- Working in parishes, visiting, helping in catechetical programs and helping parishioners develop their spiritual lives
- Community social work with the homeless
- Advocacy and support for asylum seekers and refugees
- Various justice and peace initiatives
- Guiding prayer groups
- Working as counsellors

The aims of the Trustees in this area include:

- Enabling members of the Province to carry out meaningful social and pastoral work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area; and
- Encouraging and motivating members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised.

### **International missionary work**

The charity supports the international religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation. Members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers are working in developing countries around the world. The Brothers work to help restore the education provision in those countries. They are involved in school education, special education for handicapped children and adult literacy programmes. In addition others are working with orphans and children displaced because of war. The tracing of families of displaced children and the former child combatants is another area of vital importance.

These young people are also offered literacy, numeracy and other skills-training programmes to help them re-integrate into society and to find ways of living economic and socially independent lives.

In addition, the Trust contributed to the establishment of Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust (ERBT), an English registered charity whose purpose is to support the mission of the Congregation worldwide but especially in the majority (developing) world.

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**Care and welfare of members**

Those members who earn salaries or receive pensions donate them to the Trust and therefore have no independent means of support. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Trust includes both the upkeep and up-skilling / retraining of the members so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public.

In addition, the Trust must also care for the elderly members who are now themselves in need of care. These members have no resources of their own and have devoted a significant part of their lives to the mission of the Congregation.

In this regard, the aims of the Trustees over the current and forthcoming years include:

- Providing the necessary training to ensure that the members of the Trust can continue to further the mission of the Congregation.
- Enabling members to continue with their individual ministries for as long as possible.
- Reviewing the properties used as Community houses and assessing their suitability for an ageing membership. Those identified as being unsuitable will be adapted or replaced with more appropriate properties.
- Ensuring members receive the level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly have.

**Public benefit**

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The four secondary schools supported and serviced by the Trustees and the Schools Office educate over 4,000 students, are state-funded and completely non-fee paying. They are open to all with places accessed according to the admissions and oversubscription policies determined by Governing Bodies in conformity with the statutory Admissions Code and appeals procedures currently in force. All of the senior schools deliver further public benefit through the social outreach activities described elsewhere in this report and through community use of their facilities.

The two primary schools are independent fee-paying schools. The Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given consideration to the supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee-charging. Each school has its own annual statement of objectives to fulfil its mission and excellence as an Edmund Rice school. This forms part of each school's development planning. The two fee-paying primary schools are committed to maximising access by keeping fees as low as possible. Fees are kept well below the average for the independent sector nationally, below average regionally, and within the reach of families where both parents work.

Each of the primary schools continues to develop its own bursary scheme to make a number of places available to children whose parents cannot pay fees. The number of advertised bursaries available remains limited because of the unusually low level of fees and the need for due regard for other families already struggling to fund their child's education. Considerable bursary assistance is given to families who become unemployed or fall on hard times. Bursaries are awarded, subject to meeting the standard entrance requirements of the school, solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship when a pupil's education or future prospects would be at risk (for example, in the case of redundancy or divorce). In addition, discounts are provided to families when they have more than one child attending the school.

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Each of the fee-paying primary schools seeks to provide wider public benefit by a range of means, for example:

- Providing facilities for Edmund Rice Camps (summer holiday weeks) for disadvantaged children from inner city primary schools.
- Participation in curricular and staff development partnership links with local state schools.
- Opening facilities to community groups free of charge out of school hours e.g. adult education classes, neighbouring state schools, and sports teams.

The Edmund Rice Network delivers public benefit through its outreach work with refugees and asylum seekers in Liverpool and Greater Manchester and with marginalised youth in Salford, as described elsewhere in this report.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Educational Programme / School Governance**

All four of the state-funded secondary schools are high performing Catholic schools in their authorities, oversubscribed, performing powerfully in national league tables, and highly valued regionally for the strength of their Christian-Catholic ethos. They are notable also for their contribution to local improvement partnerships and to community cohesion through outreach activities, collaboration with other schools in the maintained sector, and the community use of their facilities.

St. Joseph's College in Stoke on Trent has continued to play a substantial role in educational regeneration within a previously failing authority both as a Teaching School and running the SCITT (school centred initial teacher training) to provide new teachers for the Local Authority.

St. Edward's College, St. Ambrose College and St. Anselm's College provide collaborative partnerships within their areas.

The two independent Preparatory Schools are subject to inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

Some examples of the in-school support services and opportunities provided and funded across the 11 schools by the Trustees are:

- Joint inset with all staff from Prep schools
- Joint inset with senior schools
- Residential conference for heads and chairs
- Training with all year 7 students in each of our academies
- Induction for all new staff and Governors
- Heads' retreat
- Leadership training for senior leadership teams
- Advocacy work with both Junior and senior school pupils.

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Environmental advocacy work with schools

In spring 2022 YOUNGCO (the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) recognised the Edmund Rice England office for its work producing the Conference of Youth Climate Change statement which fed into the negotiations at COP 26. We coordinated the input from young people across our network including South Africa, North and South America, India, Ireland and England to produce our statement of youth prior to COY16 and COP26. As well as schools who actually had representatives at our series of meetings that went into preparing the report, many more schools from Africa, Australia and other locations supported our statement with over 2000 signatures. This certificate is welcome recognition for all those young people who are raising their voices in concern for our precious planet, its people and wildlife as well as their own sustainable futures.



We continue to encourage schools to strive to be the change they want to see in the world in terms of their commitment to the environment. This is becoming clear in many actions they are taking and events they take part in and share with their communities.

Throughout February our schools participated in the Climate Coalition's 'Show the Love' advocacy campaign, creating, displaying and sharing green hearts to 'show the love' that we have for nature and our common home and to put pressure on our government listen to our voices when we demand that they to make the essential policy changes required in order to tackle the effects of the climate crisis.

General Comment 26 and the Edmund Rice Schools

Many of our students both in the UK and globally have filled in the United Nations consultation of young people on child rights and climate change. It is called General Comment 26 and will become a UN global document that will be shared with all member states with UN recommendations on rights of the Child and Climate Change. We have been encouraging them all to do this and began this campaign to coincide with May 5th Feast day as a way for all the global community to take part.

**Child Rights** **Earth Rights**

**General Comment No. 26**

**The United Nations are calling on young people aged 17 & under to share their views & experiences on their rights, the environment & climate change.**

**Their inputs will help shape the first draft of 'General Comment No. 26', official United Nations guidelines on what governments must do to uphold children's rights and to protect our planet.**

**click on the title or scan the QR code to participate in the questionnaire**

1.7 million children lose their lives every year as a result of avoidable environmental impacts. Millions more are being forced to leave their homes, missing out on school and suffering from disease.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is listening to the calls of children and young people. They are taking a major step to hold governments accountable for ensuring children live in a clean, green, healthy and sustainable world.

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Asylum Link Merseyside

Our Edmund Rice Network Facilitator (Ms Ann Nichols) continues her involvement with Asylum Link, mainly working with the Women's Group. We got expertise input and testimonies whilst writing the latest UPR Statement.

We share the events and news of the lived experience of those seeking asylum with schools, the network and elicit support for campaigns to improve government policy where necessary. Ann was part of ALM's participation in Refugee Week in June 2022.



ALM visited by Duke and Duchess of Wessex earlier in the year.

Together with ALM, the office is involved in the planning of the Churches' Refugee Network (CRN) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's conference exploring the issue of 'borders' and how they impact the most vulnerable in society. This conference has been given the name 'Life Beyond Borders' and is slated to take place on 8 November 2022 at Liverpool Hope University in Liverpool, England.

Global Classroom Partners – EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders)

Building on the success of our pilot scheme to connect classrooms across the global Edmund Rice community, Edmund Rice England and Edmund Rice Education Australia launched phase 2 of Global Classroom Partners in April. Following a re-launch online event run by Brain Garrone and Ann Nichols, we have had a further 55 schools register to participate in this phase, including many of our English schools. All partnerships have been assigned and Ann is in the process of running Educator Zooms where the staff in the partner schools plan, with her, the content and timeframe of their connection. We are delighted with the success of our first phase, feedback has been very positive, from both staff and of course from students who have gained knowledge of other Edmund Rice schools and their communities. Although the programme is simple and quite short to carry out, the partners are very much encouraged to build on their initial contact and forge deep, sustainable links wherever they can.

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Edmund Rice Schools Sixth Form Leadership Conference

We were able to resume our annual conference for the newly elected student leadership teams in the Edmund Rice secondary schools in May 2022.

It was a great privilege to be able to work with the students for a whole day where we looked at servant leadership, we thought about what leadership is in an Edmund Rice context. Students had the chance to show leadership, to present ideas and to learn from the good practice on 'transformational education' in the other schools. Ann had a video made of many other global student leaders who sent greetings and insights into leadership in their own schools.

We had a range of presenters from former students to Dr Sylvia Likambi who is the CEO of Voice of Nations – she spoke to the children about vision of leadership.

We ended with a joint reflection that the students all contributed to and they received an anointing and blessing from the adults there and from Br Fergus Reilly.

We have had excellent feedback from both staff and students alike.



International Immersion

St Joseph's College and St Ambrose College will both be resuming International Immersion in 2022-23. St Joseph's will be sending 2 groups of students on staff on Immersion in October 2022 (Sierra Leone) and February 2023 (India). The groups have been recruited and have already begun fundraising. In addition, a small group of staff and students led by Caroline Cirino will be undertaking a Domestic Immersion in Belfast and Salford from 24th June 2022. They will be hosted by Cormac McArt in Belfast before basing themselves with SERV in Salford. This group had previously been selected to go to Sierra Leone in Feb 2022 before further Covid restrictions intervened. The Schools Officer (Ms Roisin Maguire) is working with St Edward's to get immersions started there and we are focussed on Zambia.

St Ambrose College have appointed a group of 15 students and 5 staff to travel to Sierra Leone in Feb 2023, led by Tom and Shelley McCrory, Head of Religious Education. They were selected from current Y11 and Y12 to minimise the numbers missing out due to Covid. A Parents' Orientation Meeting was held in school on 13th June and fundraising has begun. The students meet with Tom every Weds as part of their preparation.

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**Social and Pastoral work**

Throughout the year, the Edmund Rice Network and the Brothers continued to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual Ministries. This work enables the charity to reach out to those in need within society generally and benefit a significant number of people.

Within the Network 'religion' is understood as requiring committed social outreach as well as faith-sharing and prayer. The principal current expression of this commitment is outreach in the spirit of Edmund Rice, to the 'strangers in our midst'. Network members continue to provide weekly through-the-year support to:

- AsylumLink Merseyside, working with a Christian Brother at the St. Anne's Centre in Overbury Street, Liverpool. The focus here is on befriending, accompaniment, and the (free) provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.
- SERV – Edmund Rice volunteers working with asylum seekers and refugees as well as hosting a youth club and an Edmund Rice Camp.
- Homelessness organisations such as the Whitechapel Centre in Liverpool involving students in awareness raising and fundraising.

**International missionary work**

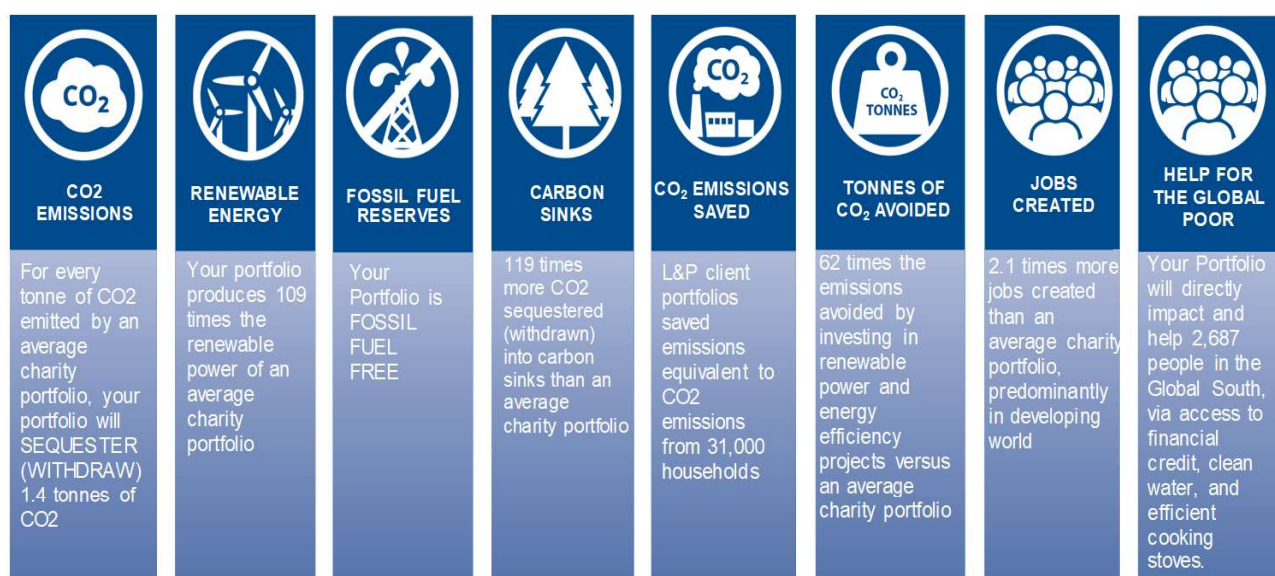
In past years, the Trust has made donations to an NGO group called Dailit. This group works in Bangladesh to improve the social economic condition and the social position of socially excluded individuals and groups through education, health and income generating activities. Due to Covid and other reasons no donation was made in the financial year. The Trustees hope to support this NGO in the future.

**Positive Impact Investing**

We view our investment portfolio as part of our Mission. Alongside our active Ministries, we also seek to bring about change through our investment portfolios. Some investments can be harmful; for example, investments in fossil fuel companies or armaments companies supports the production of goods that can be highly damaging to the environment or human wellbeing. Avoiding these types of investments is an important step in ensuring that our investment portfolio is not involved in harmful activities. But it is only the first step along the path of what can be achieved.

While avoiding harmful activities is important, we believe that it is also important to use our investments to bring about positive change in the world. We therefore seek to investment in activities that have beneficial impacts, for both individual wellbeing and for the environment.

We assess these positive impacts under a number of headings that we believe are important measures of how our investments are positively affecting the world around us. Below are some of the positive impacts achieved by the investment portfolio:



### The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

All of the investments within the Portfolio contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were developed and adopted by all member states of the United Nations to help achieve “a more sustainable future for all”. They represent a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and promote prosperity and people’s wellbeing by 2030. They integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Achieving the SDGs on a global basis requires collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society and citizens alike. The Portfolio plays a role in the realisation of the goals.



Source: UN (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

The Sustainable Development Goals are also closely aligned with the charitable objectives of religious organisations. Since the publication of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has made a strong commitment to sustainable development. His appeal to “...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet”, provides a firm ethical foundation for actions that need to be taken urgently at all levels. Pope Francis’ speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly’s formal adoption of the 17 SDGs gave further support to the ambitious and transformational vision of the goals.

A comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact policy ensures the Portfolio remains consistent with our ethos. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the production of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening as it improves the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio. In particular, climate risk is addressed through the exclusion of fossil fuel companies and a focus to reduce the carbon footprint of the Portfolio through investment in such areas as renewable energy and forestry.

We outline below some elements of a particularly important area in today’s world, that of Environmental Impact, and how the Portfolio addresses the SDGs in this regard.

**Environmental Impact**

**Overall Carbon Footprint**



Measurement of carbon emissions is crucial to help us understand the role our investment portfolio plays in the climate crisis, while taking measures to address it. As the SDG logos to the left show, limiting carbon emissions interacts with several SDGs, helping address Climate Action in particular. Climate justice is another aspect addressed in our portfolio, as climate change predominantly impacts those who've done the least to contribute to pollution and have less resources to deal with it. Therefore, control of carbon emissions in our portfolio also has positive implications for reducing poverty (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10) and preserving life on land (SDG15) and in the ocean (SDG14)

The Portfolio includes a number of carbon sink-type investments, which sequester or draw carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere. Forestry in particular is a very effective carbon sink, as trees absorb carbon dioxide as part of their growing process.

The Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) -695 tonnes of CO2e from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce 569 tonnes. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

**Fossil Fuel Reserves**

This section addresses the level of exposure to companies owning thermal coal, oil gas reserves and other unconventional sources of reserves such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas. Many of these reserves may not be useable if we are to keep the targeted temperature rise (as a result of global warming) below 2 degrees Celsius. This risk is referred to as stranded asset risks and it is addressed through avoidance of companies holding fossil fuel reserves. Hence, in addition to the impact, not holding these assets reduces the financial risk within the portfolio. **Our Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves, as shown in the chart below.**

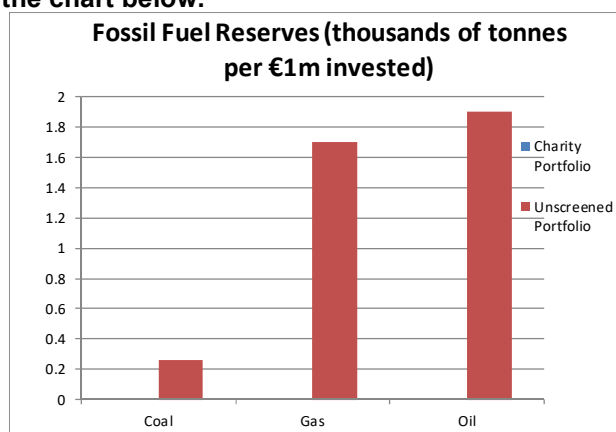


Chart showing our Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves (no blue bar)

**Renewable Energy**

The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO2 emissions) it replaces. In 2022, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 1066 tonnes of CO2e. This is equivalent to:

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- Removing 230 cars from the roads every year
- 2,453 barrels of oil saved.
- 888 acres of pine forest absorbing CO2 for one year
- 117 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 89 MWh in 2022, enough energy to power 207 homes.

### **Care and Welfare of Members**

Throughout the year the charity continued to assist members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work. A number of members were cared for in the Cowper Care nursing care home in Ireland whilst the charity enabled other members to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. In addition, the charity welcomes members from other Provinces to stay in England to allow them to study and acquire skills they can take back to their own Provinces.

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

#### **Results for the year**

During the year, total incoming resources amounted to £2.3m (2021: £2.2m) Of the incoming resources, a total of £1.7m (2021: £1.5m) related to the fees receivable and other income of the charity's independent schools, with other incoming resources accounting for £0.6m (2021: £0.7m). This included investment income and interest receivable totalling £210k (2021: £214k), while donations and gifts totalled £30k (2021: £12k).

Resources expended totalled £2.9m (2021: £3.1m), with 99% (2021: 99%) being expended on direct charitable activities. Expenditure in the charity's independent schools totalled £1.9m (2021: £2.1m). Expenditure incurred on maintaining the members of the Congregation and supporting them in their ministry and pastoral work amounted to £837k (2021: £936k). Mission support costs totalled £183k (2021: £56k) in the year. Expenditure on governance during the year was well controlled and amounted to £99k (2021: £145k).

Net outgoing resources for the year, therefore, were £628k. Investment gains of £230k offset by £329k actuarial losses on the defined benefit pension scheme resulted in a net expenditure of funds for the year of £727k.

#### **Investment policy**

The charity's investments are held in unitised funds, the purpose of which is to provide investment income to promote the charitable objectives of the Trust, and to provide capital growth in the reserves over the medium term. They are invested with a conservative investment strategy. The objectives for the investments are as follows:

- To provide an annual income for the charity
- To preserve the capital value of the portfolio in real terms
- To generate a real return, depending on conditions in financial markets, after the initial two objectives have been met
- To achieve the above targets while utilising the charity's stated ethical investment policy

The majority of the investment funds are under the management of Setanta Asset Management, and Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland Ltd. As noted above, all funds have an ethical investment screen; they exclude companies that fall foul of certain ethical criteria, and in most cases favour stocks that provide positive benefits to society; these funds only hold investments that are compatible with the Charity's religious ethos.

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**Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to £9.5m (2021: £10.2m). Of this, £2.9m (2021: £3.0m) is represented by properties and other tangible fixed assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees have designated another £4.6m to provide for school and education funding, mission and ministry works and the care and welfare of the members. Details are given in note 18 of these Financial Statements. The Trustees review and reassess these designations on an on-going basis.

Un-designated or general funds amount to £1.9m. This equates to approximately 8 months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work and its commitments, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to between 4 and 8 months' expenditure.

**FUTURE PLANS**

The charity intends to continue to review its spending plans and needs and to make every effort to manage its existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the charity aims.

The Trustees intend to meet the following objectives:

- Through the work of the Network Support Team to continuously improve the implementation of the 'Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education' through the provision of support services, including support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and leadership teams and in-service training for teachers and support staff.
- As regards future planning, the CCBT intends to become a founding member of the Gaudete Trust which is a collaborative venture involving five Religious Orders who are involved in education. This venture will enable the rich heritage of Religious Orders to affirm their commitment to Catholic education and to continue to enrich it. The CCBT intends to put all their seven schools into the Gaudete Trust, thus relieving the present trustees of the responsibility of trusteeship. The Gaudete Trust will be allied to a Multi Academy Trust, which will include the Congregation's present four stand-alone academies. The Gaudete Trust – will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation recognised by the Charities Commission and a Public Juridic Person recognised by the Hierarchy of England and Wales.
- To continue to extend the Developing World Immersion Programme. This will include the investigation of immersion opportunities in other Developing World Countries and the drawing in of schools yet to send groups on immersion.
- To continue to develop links with the work of 'Edmund Rice International', the Christian Brother non-governmental organisation based in Geneva and working within the United Nations on issues of global social justice, in particular the rights of the child.
- To continue to grow the wider Edmund Rice Network in England, using school communities as the core but establishing local groups open to the wider community and providing opportunities for faith-sharing, spiritual reflection, and action for social justice (in particular support for refugees and asylum seekers).
- To continue to grow the Edmund Rice Network specifically for the age group 18-25, continuing the connection with ex-students of the schools, providing them with further opportunities for immersion, service, social engagement, and reflection both in Britain and Ireland and in the Developing World.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by an Amended Trust Deed dated 27 February 2015. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (charity number 254312).

In accordance with the Amended Trust Deed “the number of Trustees shall not be less than four including any ex-officio Trustee and shall never be more than eight and on the occurrence of any vacancy reducing the Trustees to less than four a new Trustee or new Trustees shall be appointed as soon as possible in order to restore the number of Trustees to four at the least”

In terms of Canon Law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Congregation Leader and the Leadership Team in Rome. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter. The European Province is governed by the Province Leader and the Province Leadership Team, who are nominated by members of the European Province. Members of the Province Leadership Team are chosen for their personal qualities, their understanding and experience of the ministries of the Brothers and to secure a good skills mix among them. Each Community in the Province is governed by a local leader, who is appointed by the Province Leader. The Province Leadership Team visits each Community at least once a year and throughout the year there is a system of accountability operational throughout the Province to help to ensure that the Province Leadership Team are aware of the progress and development of the ministries carried out in the name of the Province.

### **Appointment and Training of Trustees**

The statutory power of appointing new or additional Trustees is vested in the Province Leader. Trustees are chosen for their personal qualities and their understanding and experience of the ministries throughout the Province. To date, the Trustees have been members of the European Province of the Congregation and as such they will already be well informed about the Mission, governing documents and strategic planning and history of the charity.

When a new Trustee is appointed they are given a copy of the Amended Trust Deed and the Charity Commission’s booklets for Trustees. In addition, they meet with the existing Trustees during which they are given an outline of their responsibilities and continuing obligations.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Charity and its activities. When necessary, they seek advice from the charity’s professional advisors.

The day to day running of the Academies is delegated to Governing Bodies appointed according to the statutory framework and instruments of government for state-funded schools. The day to day running of the Independent Preparatory Schools is delegated to Governing Bodies, in accordance with the instruments of government provided by the Trustees. The Trustees receive regular financial and educational reports from all the Boards of Governors and Headteachers of the schools.

The Independent School Governors and the Foundation Governors in the state-funded schools are appointed by the Trustees for a given term of years and may be re-appointed when their term ends.

## **Risk Management**

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment on an annual basis and monitor progress on an annual basis. This process is supported by the Finance Office, who works closely with the Trustees in this area. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

**Governance and management:** considers the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required, etc.

**Financial:** considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash-flow planning, the appointment of Stewardship advisors where necessary.

**Age Profile:** considers the ageing population of the members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers – English Province which is supported by the Charity. This incorporates the review of the training, skillsets and energy of the Brothers in a leadership, Ministry or Mission role. The risks are mitigated through training, Trustee visitation to each Community, regular Province meetings, healthcare reviews and rotating Brothers in different roles and the sharing of knowledge. The Trustees invest time, energy and allocate resources to ensure the continuing of the Charity both now and into the future. This can also include the involvement of lay people to support the Brothers and the involvement of professional advisors in relation to stewardship advice to the Trustees.

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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees of the Charity are required to prepare for each financial year accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the source and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements. The Trustees are conscious of their responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint Mazars LLP as auditors to the Charity will be proposed to the forthcoming Trustee Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 23 June 2023  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by:



D Sassi  
Trustee

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability

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to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the trustee's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustee's report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 24, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charity and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation and anti-money laundering regulation.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the charity is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax and pension legislation.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting

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estimates, in particular in relation to income recognition, depreciation, defined benefit pension scheme disclosures, historical provisions and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### **Use of the audit report**

We have been appointed under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and regulations made or having effect thereunder. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Mazars LLP**  
Mazars LLP (Jun 28, 2023 10:00 GMT+1)

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3 Wellington Place  
Leeds  
LS1 4AP

Date Jun 28, 2023

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
For the year ended 31 August 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	30,033	-	30,033	12,008
Investment income	4	209,917	-	209,917	213,548
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,697,657	38,075	1,735,732	1,520,494
Other income	6	338,241	-	338,241	465,079
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,275,848</b>	<b>38,075</b>	<b>2,313,923</b>	<b>2,211,129</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		35,817	-	35,817	33,916
Charitable activities		2,867,663	38,122	2,905,785	3,077,063
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>2,903,480</b>	<b>38,122</b>	<b>2,941,602</b>	<b>3,110,979</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(627,632)</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>
Transfers between funds	17/18	-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income after transfers</b>		<b>(627,632)</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(627,679)</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	230,246	-	230,246	428,133
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		-	-	-	412,277
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	22	(329,200)	-	(329,200)	(321,200)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(726,586)</b>	<b>(47)</b>	<b>(726,633)</b>	<b>(380,639)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		10,222,311	15,538	10,237,849	10,618,488
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>9,495,725</b>	<b>15,491</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	10	2,907,761	3,019,123
Investments	11	7,679,496	7,789,895
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>10,587,257</b>	<b>10,809,018</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors falling due within one year	12	161,920	157,598
Debtors falling due in more than one year	12	237,500	287,500
Cash at bank and in hand		699,052	1,378,699
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,098,472</b>	<b>1,823,797</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(870,595)	(1,073,840)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>227,877</b>	<b>749,957</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>10,815,134</b>	<b>11,558,975</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(835,918)	(711,626)
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES</b>	15	(468,000)	(609,500)
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>		<b>9,511,216</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	22	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>9,511,216</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Restricted funds	17	15,491	15,538
Unrestricted funds	18	9,495,725	10,222,311
Pension reserve	22	-	-
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>9,511,216</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>

Approved by the Trustees  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by



D Sassi  
Trustee  
23 June 2023

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the year ended 31 August 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	21	(1,403,886)	(1,679,647)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Investment income		209,917	213,548
Purchase of investments		(2,027,259)	(2,629,732)
Sale of investments		2,800,473	3,102,795
Cash movement on investments		(222,654)	295,495
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(36,238)	(13,220)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	700,000
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		724,239	1,668,886
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(679,647)	(10,761)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,378,699	1,389,460
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		699,052	1,378,699
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 August		699,052	1,378,699
Overdraft at 31 August		-	-
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		699,052	1,378,699

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", effective 1 January 2019 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements have been prepared in Pound Sterling as this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and 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 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice Charities SORP 2005" which has since been withdrawn.

**Going concern**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have carefully considered the impact of COVID-19, noting the widespread disruption to normal activities and the uncertainty over the duration of the disruption. They are satisfied that given the cash position of the charity and the recovery of the investment portfolio, that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis.

The current economic conditions present increased risks for all charities. In response to such conditions, the Trustees have carefully considered these risks, included an assessment of uncertainty on future forecasts for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, and to the extent to which they might affect the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and have not identified any material uncertainties within their review. They therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

**Fixed assets**

The original sites and buildings for the Charity's four schools and various other buildings are included on the balance sheet at an aggregate nominal value of £1. Building work completed more recently has been capitalised at cost. Consequently, the balance sheet does not reflect the full value of the freehold land and buildings used by the Charity and the charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for depreciation excludes any amount in respect of the assets in question.

Property used by the academy schools is classified as a programme related social investment as any financial return obtained is not a primary reason for making the investment in that the property is held specifically to enable the schools to undertake particular activities using the property that contribute to the charitable purposes.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided to write off assets over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**Social investments**

Social investments are stated at cost less depreciation. Social investments consist of premises relating to the four academy schools.

**Operating leases payable**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

**Operating leases receivable**

Assets leased out under operating leases are included within the freehold properties and are depreciated over their useful life. Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

**Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the year end. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Pension costs**

A multi-employer defined benefit scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010. Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS17, payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for as a defined benefit scheme as detailed in note 22.

Contributions payable to the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of the pensions over the remaining service lives of employees in the scheme. The pension charge is calculated on the basis of actuarial advice.

The Charity also contributes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary and advised to the Trustees by the Scheme Administrator. This scheme is treated as a multi-employer defined benefit scheme and contributions are accounted for as a defined contribution scheme.

**Educational income**

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

**Donations**

Donations receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, generally the earlier of notification or receipt.

**Legacies**

Legacies receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, when the relevant recognition criteria has been met.

**Investment income**

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt.

**Province Support Programme**

This consists substantially of pensions received by the Charity on behalf of the Christian Brothers. The corresponding living costs of Christian Brothers are included under Province Support.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Support costs have been allocated to the main charitable activities in accordance with the total direct costs of those activities. Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Expenditure on raising funds comprises investment management fees. Redundancy costs are recognised when incurred.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are income received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the Trustees.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2022**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

**Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

In applying the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions in determining the carrying amount of assets and liabilities. The Trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the outcomes may differ.

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, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Critical judgements in applying the charity's accounting policies**

The critical judgement that the Trustees' have made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is discussed below.

i) Assessing indicators of impairment for trade receivables

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the Trustees have considered both internal and external sources of information such as market conditions and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

i) Recoverability of receivables

The charity establishes a provision for receivables that are estimated to not be recoverable. When assessing recoverability the Trustees' consider factors such as the ageing of receivables, past experience of recoverability, and the credit profile of individuals.

ii) Determining residual values and useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations over future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation and maintenance programmes.

iii) Provisions

The charity provides for potential litigation payments in respect of historical abuse claims. This is done in conjunction with the charity's solicitor and is based on the individual claim facts and historical outcome of settled claims and therefore requires some judgement from management.

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**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (continued)**

(iv) Pensions

The charity operates a defined benefit pension fund. This means that the charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain former employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the associated obligation depend on a number of factors, including:

- life expectancy
- salary increases,
- assets valuations,
- discount rate as determined with reference to return on high quality corporate bonds.

The charity uses an independent actuary to help determine reasonable estimates for these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See note 22 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit pension scheme.

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and legacies	30,033	12,008
	<u>30,033</u>	<u>12,008</u>
	<u><u>30,033</u></u>	<u><u>12,008</u></u>

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment fund income	209,917	213,546
Bank interest	-	2
	<u>209,917</u>	<u>213,548</u>
	<u><u>209,917</u></u>	<u><u>213,548</u></u>

**5. INCOME FROM OPERATION OF THE SCHOOLS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fee income	1,561,405	1,412,514
Education related income	174,327	107,980
	<u>1,735,732</u>	<u>1,520,494</u>
	<u><u>1,735,732</u></u>	<u><u>1,520,494</u></u>

**6. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Province support programme	229,752	326,167
Sundry income	91,881	72,638
Furlough income	-	68,080
Rent receivable in respect of operating leases	16,608	(1,806)
	<u>338,241</u>	<u>465,079</u>
	<u><u>338,241</u></u>	<u><u>465,079</u></u>

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**7. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Operation of schools</b>	<b>Province support</b>	<b>Mission support</b>	<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>
		£	£	£	£
Raising funds	-	35,817	-	35,817	33,916
Staff costs (note 8)	1,323,169	175,563	-	1,498,732	1,514,959
Living allowances	-	304,896	-	304,896	361,608
Nursing homes	-	72,8221	-	72,821	88,329
Governance costs (note 9)	-	80,859	-	80,859	144,456
Donations	-	-	19,673	19,673	55,870
Administration	158,113	325,755	-	483,868	515,738
Premises	133,225	-	-	133,225	144,717
Teaching goods	79,241	-	-	79,241	40,326
Services	84,870	-	-	84,870	59,567
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-
Unpaid fees provision	-	-	-	-	2,118
Depreciation & impairment (note 10)	99,138	48,467	-	147,600	149,375
	<u>1,877,751</u>	<u>1,044,179</u>	<u>19,673</u>	<u>2,941,602</u>	<u>3,110,979</u>

**8. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Gross wages	1,220,019	1,200,975
Social security costs	103,753	102,869
Pension costs	174,960	189,326
Redundancy costs	-	21,789
	<u>1,498,732</u>	<u>1,514,959</u>

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Average number of employees	<u>53</u>	<u>49</u>

One employee (2021: one employee) received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year in the band £60,000 to £70,000.

During the year the charity incurred redundancy costs totalling £nil (2021: £21,789). Amounts outstanding in respect of redundancy costs as at 31 August 2022 total £nil (2021: £nil).

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

The Trustees consider that they and the Heads, Chairs and Governors of the two Independent Preparatory Schools along with the Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network comprise the key management of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The Trustees are members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers - English Province and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. Similarly the Boards of Governors receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Governors. Expenses relating to travel and other costs of £nil (2021: £nil) were reimbursed to no (2021: none) Trustees.

Remuneration of the Heads is reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors while the remuneration of the Schools Officer is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel in 2022 was £188,780 (2021: £210,989).

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<b>9. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditors' remuneration - audit	50,100	59,627
- non-audit	2,922	-
Other legal and professional advisory	27,837	84,829
	<u>80,859</u>	<u>144,456</u>

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>COST</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2021	5,737,134	978,365	135,381	6,850,880
Additions	-	36,238	-	36,238
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 August 2022	<u>5,737,134</u>	<u>1,014,603</u>	<u>135,381</u>	<u>6,887,118</u>

**ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION**

Balance as at 1 September 2021	2,815,899	888,658	127,200	3,831,757
Charge for year	116,927	26,026	4,647	147,600
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 August 2022	<u>2,932,826</u>	<u>914,684</u>	<u>131,847</u>	<u>3,979,357</u>

**NET BOOK VALUES**

As at 31 August 2022	<u>2,804,308</u>	<u>99,919</u>	<u>3,534</u>	<u>2,907,761</u>
As at 31 August 2021	<u>2,921,235</u>	<u>89,707</u>	<u>8,181</u>	<u>3,019,123</u>

The net book value at 31 August 2022 represents fixed assets used for:

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Direct charitable purposes:</b>				
Schools	1,641,306	81,193	-	1,722,499
Other support	1,163,002	18,726	3,534	1,185,262
	<u>2,804,308</u>	<u>99,919</u>	<u>3,534</u>	<u>2,907,761</u>

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**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (Continued)**

Of the assets noted above, the following represents fixed assets used for social investments:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Social investments:</b>		
Schools	812,903	845,663
	<u>812,903</u>	<u>845,663</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Market value at 31 August 2021	7,789,895	7,912,298
Less: disposals at opening book value	(2,800,473)	(3,102,795)
Add: purchases at cost	2,027,259	2,629,732
Foreign exchange movements	222,654	(295,495)
Cash movements	209,915	218,022
	<u>7,449,250</u>	<u>7,361,762</u>
Add: gains/(losses) on investment	230,246	428,133
	<u>7,679,496</u>	<u>7,789,895</u>
Market value at 31 August 2022	<u>7,679,496</u>	<u>7,789,895</u>

A summary of the investments held is shown below:

	<b>31 August 2022</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Market</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Value</b>
		<b>£</b>
Unit trusts	3,433,357	7,679,496
	<u>3,433,357</u>	<u>7,679,496</u>

At 31 August 2022 the charity held investments representing over 5% of the total portfolio in the following entities:

	<b>% holding</b>
iShares MSCI World Fund	18%
Setanta Ethical Global Equity	18%
ILIM Infrastructure Fund	11%
36 South Portfolio Insurance Fund	5%

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**12. DEBTORS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	49,734	42,910
Other debtors and prepayments	112,186	64,688
Other loan	-	50,000
	<u>161,920</u>	<u>157,598</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Other debtors	237,500	287,500
	<u>237,500</u>	<u>287,500</u>

**13. CREDITORS**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	15,635	27,263
Bank overdraft	-	-
Tax and social security	29,106	28,914
Sundry creditors and accruals	426,818	615,722
Deferred income (note 14)	399,036	401,941
	<u>870,595</u>	<u>1,073,840</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Deferred income (note 14)	835,918	711,626
	<u>835,918</u>	<u>711,626</u>

**14. DEFERRED INCOME**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Balance as at 1 September	1,113,567	918,162
Amount released to income	(434,091)	(356,758)
Amounts returned to parents	-	(19,334)
Amount deferred in the year	555,478	571,497
Balance as at 31 August	<u>1,234,954</u>	<u>1,113,567</u>

Deferred income comprises payments in advance for school fees and lease rentals received in advance.

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**15. PROVISIONS**

	<b>Total £</b>
At 1 September	609,500
New provisions in the year	365,000
Increase in provisions in the year	23,000
Utilised during the year	(447,500)
Provisions reversed in the year	(82,000)
	<u>468,000</u>
At 31 August	<u>468,000</u>

The above provisions related to ongoing legal cases.

**16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	350,265	384,512
Cash at bank and in hand	699,052	1,378,700
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	128,633	143,371

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other debtors.  
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other payables

**17. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 31.08.21 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31.08.22 £</b>
Education in Africa	10,500	-	-	-	10,500
Poor children in India	-	-	-	-	-
Support of retired Brothers	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance of graves	2,000	-	(1,000)	-	1,000
School trips	3,038	38,075	(37,122)	-	3,991
	<u>15,538</u>	<u>38,075</u>	<u>(38,122)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,491</u>

The Education in Africa fund represents funds received and thus to be expended for that purpose.  
The Poor children in India fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The Support of retired Brothers fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The Maintenance of graves fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The school trips reserve is used to cover costs of trips run as part of school operations.

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**18. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 31.08.21 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (losses) £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.08.22 £
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
CCB Designated Fund 1	3,019,123	-	(111,362)	-	-	2,907,761
CCB Designated Fund 2	771,442	41,983	-	-	-	813,425
CCB Designated Fund 3	879,661	39,583	(294,618)	-	-	624,626
CCB Designated Fund 4	3,189,440	374,710	(377,718)	-	-	3,186,432
St Joseph Designated Fund	36,357	-	-	-	-	36,357
St Ambrose Designated Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>7,896,023</b>	<b>456,276</b>	<b>(783,698)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,568,601</b>
General Funds	2,326,288	1,819,572	(2,119,782)	230,246	(329,200)	1,927,124
Pension Reserve	-	-	-	(329,200)	329,200	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>10,222,311</b>	<b>2,275,848</b>	<b>(2,903,480)</b>	<b>(98,954)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,495,725</b>

The Trustees have designated funds equating to the following:

Designated Fund 1 – total of the tangible fixed assets and work in progress costs of the Charity.

Designated Fund 2 – Mission and Ministry Funding. This fund exists to support the non-educational Mission and Ministry activities of the Trust over the next decade.

Designated Fund 3 – schools/educational funding. This represents working capital needed by the schools together with a provision for the shortfall in the non-teaching staff pension scheme over the next decade.

Designated Fund 4 – amount committed for the care and welfare of the Province's members over the next decade.

St Joseph's Designated Fund – relates to funds held by the school for specific extra-curricular activities.

St Ambrose' Designated Fund – relates to funds set aside for the future replacement of the boiler and school roof.

**19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	2,907,761	-	2,907,761
Investments	7,679,496	-	7,679,496
Current assets	1,082,981	15,491	1,098,472
Creditors	(1,706,513)	-	(1,706,513)
Provisions	(468,000)	-	(468,000)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<b>9,495,725</b>	<b>15,491</b>	<b>9,511,216</b>
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	3,019,123	-	3,019,123
Investments	7,789,895	-	7,789,895
Current assets	1,808,259	15,538	1,823,797
Creditors	(1,785,466)	-	(1,785,466)
Provisions	(609,500)	-	(609,500)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<b>10,222,311</b>	<b>15,538</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>

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**20. LEASING**

At 31 August 2022 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases. All operating leases relate to the rent of equipment.

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Payments due within:		
Within one year	1,872	27,919
Between two and five years	660	21,621
	<u>2,532</u>	<u>49,540</u>

The total operating lease payments recognised as an expense was £27,919 (2021: £28,734).

At 31 August 2022 the charity had entered into operating lease agreements acting as lessor. The following amounts are due to be received within the following time periods:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Within one year	117,600	117,600
Between two and five years	352,800	470,400
In over five years	678,000	795,600
	<u>1,148,400</u>	<u>1,383,600</u>

**21. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Net expenditure for the period	(726,633)	(380,639)
Adjustments in respect of:		
Depreciation charges	147,600	149,375
Impairment charges	-	-
Investment income	(209,917)	(213,548)
Investment gains	(230,246)	(428,133)
Net profit/(loss) on disposals of fixed assets	-	(329,226)
Decrease in stock	-	4,680
Decrease in debtors	45,678	71,818
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(78,953)	(320,952)
Pension adjustment	-	-
Foreign exchange movement on investments	(209,915)	(218,022)
(Decrease)/increase in provisions	(141,500)	15,000
	<u>(1,403,886)</u>	<u>(1,649,647)</u>

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

**Defined Benefit Pension Scheme**

The group operated a defined benefit scheme in the UK. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out at 5 April 2011 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010.

Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28 'Retirement and post-employment benefits', payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for under FRS102 Section 28 as a defined benefit scheme as detailed below.

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgement concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits, ('GMP'). The Government will need to consider this outcome in conjunction with the Government's recent consultation on GMP indexation in public sector schemes before concluding on any changes required to LGPS schemes.

**The major assumptions used by the actuary were:**

	<b>31 August 2022</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>
Rate of increase in salaries per annum	N/A	N/A
Rate of increase in inflation linked pensions in payment per annum	3.85%	3.7%
Expected rate of return on the plan assets	3.9%	3.85%
Discount rate per annum	4.0%	1.7%
Inflation assumption per annum	3.85%	3.7%
Mortality table pre-retirement	AM/F00	AM/F00
Mortality table post retirement	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)

**The assets in the scheme were:**

	<b>31 August 2022</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>
	<b>Value £'000</b>	<b>Value £'000</b>
Equities	4,468	4,207
Bonds	1,131	2,296
Cash	698	667
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fair value of assets	6,297	7,170
Present value of funded obligations	(4,660)	(6,577)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>593</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

As per section 28.22 of FRS 102 a defined benefit plan asset shall only be recognised to the extent that the Charity is able to recover the surplus. Given there is no expectation the surplus will be recovered, the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Analysis of gain included in Statement of Financial Activities:**

	<b>31 August 2022</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Gain/(loss) on scheme assets and obligations	618	182

**Reconciliation of change in defined benefit obligation:**

	<b>31 August 2022</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	6,577	6,592
Interest cost	110	104
Actuarial losses/(gains) on obligation	(1,787)	76
Benefits paid	(240)	(195)
Past service cost	-	-
	<u>4,660</u>	<u>6,577</u>

**Reconciliation of change in plan assets:**

	<b>31 August 2022</b>	<b>31 August 2021</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening fair value of plan assets	7,170	6,774
Expected return on plan assets	123	109
Actuarial gains on assets	(1,072)	166
Contributions paid by the employer	316	316
Benefits paid	(240)	(195)
	<u>6,297</u>	<u>7,170</u>

**Amounts for the current and previous four periods:**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Defined benefit obligation	(4,660)	(6,577)	(6,592)	(6,857)	(5,946)
Plan assets	6,297	7,170	6,774	6,457	5,780
Surplus/(deficit)	1,637	593	182	(400)	(166)

Based on the current Schedule of Contributions, the company/group expects to pay contributions in the region of £316k to the scheme during the next accounting period.

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**22. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

**Teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The School has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the School in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) in April 2019. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £198 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19). DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2019-20 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

**23. CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE HOLDINGS**

The Trustees hold certain investments and bank accounts as custodian Trustee holdings only. The assets, totalling £157,171 at 31 August 2022 (2021: £175,121) are held securely and separately from those of the Trustees who are responsible for their safe custody. They are not therefore included in the Trust's balance sheet.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**24. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no disclosable post balance sheet events.

**25. RELATED PARTIES**

During the year the Trustees were involved with the following related party transactions:

Related party	Lease payments received	Contributions by colleges to programmes	Reimbursement of costs incurred	Donations made to the college	Outstanding at 31 August 2022	Outstanding at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Ambrose College	26,700	-	-	-	-	-
St Anselm's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Edward's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Joseph's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-

**Related party relationships**

The four colleges named above are considered to represent related parties due to either the English Province itself or certain of its Trustees being members of the colleges, together with the English Province having the ability to appoint a number of college governors.

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS 102 as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provisions laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions.

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

During the year the Trustees, similar to the non-Trustee Christian Brothers, donated all of their earned income by perpetual gift aid to the Charity. In the year to 31 August 2022 this amounted to £80,264 (2021: £61,387). Similarly, as stated in Note 8, the Trustees have their living and personal expenses borne by the Charity and they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. No expenses relating to travel and other costs were reimbursed to Trustees in either 2022 or 2021.

The Charity has also had transactions in the year with CCB Northern Ireland Trust. During the year the Charity recharged the Northern Ireland Trust £8,296 representing expenses incurred on their behalf (2021: £8,506). At the year end the amount owed to the Charity was £8,296 (2021: £16,960). This is linked to the Charity as Br E Garvey is a Trustee of CCB Northern Ireland Trust as well as the English Trust.

The Charity also had transactions in the year with 'The Congregation of Christian Brothers European Province - Republic of Ireland' (CCBEP-ROI), a Charity registered in the Republic of Ireland. At 31 August 2022 the Charity is owed £4,543 (2021: owed to £10,707) by CCBEP-ROI representing expenses incurred & recharged.

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**26. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	4,008	8,000	12,008	45,566
Investment income	4	213,548	-	213,548	406,448
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,516,592	3,902	1,520,494	2,618,531
Other income	6	465,079	-	465,079	426,058
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,199,227</b>	<b>11,902</b>	<b>2,211,129</b>	<b>3,496,603</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		33,916	-	33,916	30,301
Charitable activities		3,068,370	8,693	3,077,063	5,525,957
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>3,102,286</b>	<b>8,693</b>	<b>3,110,979</b>	<b>5,556,258</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>		<b>(903,059)</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-	-
<b>Net expenditure after transfers</b>		<b>(903,059)</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	428,133	-	428,133	(157,597)
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		412,277	-	412,277	-
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	23	(321,200)	-	(321,200)	87,400
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(383,848)</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>(380,639)</b>	<b>(2,129,852)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		10,606,159	12,329	10,618,488	12,748,340
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>10,222,311</b>	<b>15,538</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

**TRUST PROPERTY HELD IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE  
ENGLISH PROVINCE OF  
THE CONGREGATION OF  
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**(THE ENGLISH PROVINCE  
OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
TRUSTEES)**

Registered Charity No. 254312

**THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
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**Legal and Administration details:**

Full Name	Trust Property Held in Connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers
Governing Document	Amended Trust deed dated 01 July 2011
Charity Registration	Number 254312
Trustees	E. Garvey (resigned 30 June 2022) P.G. Gordon E. O'Brien D Sassi D Gibson (Chair of Trustees) J Donovan (appointed 30 June 2022)
Principal Address	"Woodeaves" Wicker Lane Hale Barns Altrincham Cheshire WA15 0HF
Financial Administrator	L&P Trustee Services Ltd
Auditors	Mazars LLP One St. Peter's Square Manchester M2 3DE
Solicitors	Hill Dickinson 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
Principal Banker	HSBC 11 Stamford New Road Altrincham Cheshire WA14 1BW
Investment Advisors	Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland 23 St. Stephens Green Dublin 2

**THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**  
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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

The Trustees present their report, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. It was founded in Waterford, Ireland in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice. It is divided into 5 distinct Provinces across the world.

The financial statements accompanying this report are the financial statements of the charitable trust in which the assets of the Christian Brothers in England are held. The Christian Brothers in England, in canon law terms, forms part of the European Province.

**Background**

Edmund Rice was born at Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny on 1 June 1762. It was a time of political and religious oppression, when poverty and want affected the lives of the vast majority of the citizens of the land.

As there was no formal schooling available to Catholics at that time, Edmund was educated both at home and at the local 'pay school' in Moate Lane, where Catholics who could afford to pay sent their children to school. After his early schooling Edmund moved to Waterford in 1779. In Waterford, he worked for his uncle, Michael Rice, in the family business, provisioning ships calling at Waterford's busy dockside. Edmund was a good businessman, and in due course inherited the family business from his uncle. Under his careful management, it prospered greatly. He became a wealthy man.

In 1785, at the age of 23, Edmund married Mary Elliott. There is very little that history reveals about the marriage other than that it came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of his young wife in 1789. Edmund found himself the sole parent of a small child who was delicate in health, and possibly suffering from a disability. Being a strong family man, Edmund initially entrusted the care of young Mary Rice to his stepsister, Joan, in 3 Arundel Place in Waterford where he had set up house.

The next twelve years of Edmund's life were hidden years during which he coped with his sorrows, ran his business, and ensured the wellbeing of his little daughter, Mary.

In 1802, at the age of 40, Edmund took a very decisive step. He embarked on a spiritual journey that changed his life utterly. The inspiration for his decision probably came from the example of Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters. Like Nano, he decided to devote the remainder of his life, and all of his resources, to the education and care of the poor. He sold his victualler's business in Waterford and arranged for his step-sister, Joan Murphy, and his handicapped daughter to move to Callan. He himself moved to a large stable in New Street, which he opened as a free school for poor Catholic boys. To help him with his project, Edmund recruited some hired help.

Edmund's decision to educate the poor was seen by his friends as both foolhardy and unwise. Some advised against it, arguing that the poor were better off ignorant. Technically, Edmund's action was also illegal because, although the political scene had changed greatly and the Act of Union had been passed in 1800, many of the Penal Laws were still on the Statute Books, and educating poor Catholics could be interpreted as a seditious act. The beginning of Edmund's educational project was tentative and inauspicious. The hired help evaporated early on, demoralised by the enormity and difficulty of the task. On his own again, Edmund trusted in God, believing that if it was God's work it would surely prevail. His faith was rewarded when two young men from his own town of Callan, Patrick Finn and Thomas Grosvenor, volunteered to join ranks with him in his new venture. The nucleus of a new religious congregation was forming, and Edmund was inspired to take the next step.

In June 1802, Edmund began to build a monastery to accommodate his small community. This was another seditious act that left him vulnerable before the Law. The monastery was soon completed,

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which he called Mount Sion. By this time, a fourth member, John Mulcahon, had joined the little group.

Word soon got around and, gradually, other volunteers came to Mount Sion offering their services freely for the realisation of Edmund's dream. This little group formed itself into a small, religious community following a well ordered way of life inspired by the Rule of the Presentation Sisters, a way of life with which Edmund was familiar through his contact with the Presentation Sisters in Waterford.

As the number of volunteers grew, so too did the capacity for service of the poor, and in due course a school was opened in Carrick-on-Suir in 1806, and another in Dungarvan towards the end of 1807. By 1808, the new movement had eight members, and Edmund believed that the time was right for formally establishing themselves as a religious congregation. He approached the Bishop of Waterford, Reverend Dr. John Power, to allow them to formalise their religious commitment by professing religious vows according to the Rule of the Presentation Sisters. Bishop Power agreed enthusiastically and on 15 August 1808, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edmund and his seven followers made simple profession of vows in the chapel of the Presentation Sisters in Hennessy's Road, Waterford. The Bishop, on behalf of the Church, formally received their professions.

The good news of Edmund's educational crusade on behalf of the poor soon spread beyond the boundaries of the diocese of Waterford. Other bishops got to hear about it, and because the social conditions of the poor were much the same in every diocese in the country, a number of bishops expressed the wish that Edmund would open a school for the poor in their diocese also. In 1811 the Brothers opened a school in Cork; In 1812, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Brothers opened another school in Hanover Street on the south quays. In quick succession the following schools were opened: Cappaquin (1813), Limerick (1816), Thurles (1816), Mill Street (Dublin, 1816), Francis St. (Dublin 1820), and eventually in Preston (England 1825). Preston was the first opening outside of Ireland, and constituted a major development in the missionary outreach of the new congregation.

The poverty and deprivation with which some of these early foundations had to contend shocked even Edmund himself, and grounded him even more solidly in his trust in Divine Providence. "May the will of God be done in it (Hanover Street)", he prayed.

The spread of the new fraternity into several dioceses created huge administrative difficulties for the early Brothers. Since each community was under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary of the diocese in which it was located, the transfer of Brothers from one community to another, issues of finance, formation matters, and community policy generally all became fraught with difficulties. Edmund felt that these difficulties amounted to a serious constraint on the development of his burgeoning congregation, and he looked around for an alternative model of administration to the diocesan model which was proving so cumbersome. Very quickly, he discovered that the solution to these difficulties lay in getting papal approval for his congregation as an Apostolic Institute, a status enjoyed by the congregation of De LaSalle Brothers for many decades.

To facilitate the move away from a diocesan structure, in 1817 Edmund and his Brothers with the approval of the Archbishop of Dublin, applied to the Holy See for an Apostolic Brief. In due course, and despite some opposition, His Holiness, Pope Pius VII granted Edmund's request, and issued the formal brief establishing the Congregation as an Apostolic Institute in 1820. The Brothers formally accepted the brief on 20 January 1822. Edmund Rice was elected Superior General of the new Apostolic Institute.

Nineteen of the thirty Brothers eligible to vote were present in Mount Sion on that historic day. Of those early Brothers who did not sign, some withdrew from the congregation at that point, while others wished to retain their diocesan affiliations and consequently refused the Brief. One of these, Br. Michael Austin Riordan, became the nucleus around which the Presentation Brothers Congregation developed.

The spread of the Congregation from small beginnings in Waterford in 1802 to the worldwide organisation it is today, working in over thirty countries spread across the five continents, is a matter of history. What the story points to is the resilient nature of Edmund's founding charism, and its ability to incarnate itself in many countries, proclaiming its message of liberation through education in many languages and many cultures.

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## **OBJECTIVES**

### **Charitable Objects**

The principal object of the Charity, as set out in the amended Trust Deed, is to “advance the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on in Great Britain or abroad by or under the direction or with the support of the Province as the Trustees with the approval of the Provincial Leader shall from time to time think fit”.

### **Aims**

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation and to care for those members throughout their lives within the Congregation. These Ministries of the Brothers of the Congregation, all of which benefit numerous members of the general public, fall into the following main areas:

- Education
- Faith development
- Social and pastoral work
- International missionary work
- Care and welfare of members

Each of these is considered in turn below:

### **Education**

The Charity provides support and services for seven schools in direct or Academy Trusteeship and, without charge, to a further four associated schools in diocesan or independent Trusteeship.

#### **Criteria for Measuring Success in Edmund Rice Schools**

Measuring success for beneficiaries and the wider society in terms of numerical and scientific criteria is rather difficult for the English Region of the European Province but, being the Trustees of the three independent Preparatory schools in England and being an important part of the overall successful operations of the four Academy Colleges as well as involvement in the ethos of the four Associate schools, is important and is undertaken under two strands:

#### First Strand

Answering to outside Agencies to whom the schools are accountable and which have their own measurable standards as follows:

The **Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)** - as it applies to the Academy Schools:

- Pupil progress - the precise measure of students across three key stages (key stage 3, 4 and 5) is done through internal and external examinations.
- Pupil attendance - set at 95% > school attendance across each academic year.
- Pupil Premium - extra targeted funding allocated to schools who have eligible students (FSM) – schools have to account for their use of funding and its measured outcomes in terms of pupil progress compared to non-recipients.
- Provision for safeguarding of children in education.

Schools undergo regular inspections during which their statistics are analysed.

**Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)** - as it applies to Preparatory schools:

Use of inspections (every six years) to measure pupil progress; provision of a series of policies / procedures in a variety of areas e.g. Finance, measurement of pupil progress, safeguarding, safe recruitment, behaviour and discipline etc.

Schools are rated according to their compliance against the standards as perceived by an inspectorate team.

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Second Strand

Answering to the standards as laid out in the 'Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education' and on which many of our schools build their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). These plans use the SMART acronym; **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely**. Each target has a clear set of smart outcomes which allow the school to perform an accurate measure of its degree of success.

The Trustees meet annually face-to-face with the senior leadership and governors of the Academies and Preparatory schools and undertake an audit of success within the school which includes both external and internal judgements.

Secondary schools

*All four of the secondary schools are now Academy Trusts and invite the Trustees to their annual AGMs in accordance with the Articles of Association:*

- St Edward's College, Liverpool
- St Ansem's College, Birkenhead
- St Ambrose College, Hale Barns
- St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS102 section 9, "Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements", as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provision laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions as defined by FRS102 section 9.

Primary schools

One of the independent schools, Redcourt St Anselm's Preparatory School Birkenhead, was closed in December 2019 because of the falling numbers. Another of the independent schools, Runnymede St. Edward's Preparatory School Liverpool, became a Voluntary Aided School at the start of September 2020.

There are two independent primary schools which continue in direct trusteeship, with the Congregation Trustees as registered proprietors:

- St. Ambrose Preparatory School, Hale Barns, Altrincham
- St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent

The results of these schools are included in these financial statements.

Associated schools:

There are four associated schools in other trusteeships and, as such, it is not appropriate to include their results in these financial statements.

- St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland (11-18) - diocesan trusteeship (Hexham and Newcastle)
- St. Boniface RC Academy, Plymouth (11-18) – diocesan trusteeship (Plymouth)
- St. Mary's College, Crosby (HMC independent secondary 11-18) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust
- St. Mary's College Preparatory School (independent primary) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust

These schools continue within the family of Edmund Rice schools. All four receive in-service and immersion opportunities and ethos support, co-ordinated and delivered by the Network Support Team employed by the Congregation Trustees.

The 'difference' the Charity seeks to make through its schools operation is the provision and support of outstanding Catholic faith-based education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The aim is to achieve

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outstanding educational outcomes for boys and girls from nursery entry to the age of 18+, through the realisation of eight core principles set out by the Trustees.

The 11 schools belong to the Edmund Rice family of schools by providing, and seeking continuously to improve, an educational programme grounded on the eight principles set out in a shared vision document, *'Reaching Out - The Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education'*. These eight governing criteria define the identity and mission of the schools in England and provide a template for school development and mission evaluation. Through the implementation of these values the Charity seeks to promote individual educational, spiritual, physical, moral, social and cultural development within a Christian vision of the person and in the spirit of service established by the Founder, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Each school strives to be a Christian community where the fullest talents of each pupil are developed in a spirit of wider social awareness and with commitment to social justice and community responsibility.

The **'Essentials'** are:

1. **Evangelising the modern world** - Participating in the mission of the Catholic Church by bringing the Good News of Christ to all aspects of the life of the school community, and in dialogue with youth and contemporary culture, thus fulfilling the specific calling of the Congregation of Christian Brothers: The Evangelisation of youth through the Apostolate of Christian Education
2. **Promoting the spiritual** - Nurturing a living faith, fostering Christian spirituality, educating in Gospel-based values, living beyond the material dimension .
3. **Building a Christian community** - Growing as a school community in which the quality of care and relationships is Christ-inspired, based on mutual respect, self-sacrifice, and fully human dignity.
4. **Compassion for those in need** - Showing, in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, particular love and concern towards the weakest members of the school community and reaching out beyond the school in compassion and practical action for the poor and marginalised both locally and internationally.
5. **Concern for the whole person** - Centering the curriculum, opportunities, and challenges of the school on the balanced and integrated development of its students, and staff, across all the positive dimensions of personal growth- religious, moral, intellectual, cultural, physical, and social.
6. **Striving for excellence** - Encouraging each individual to use his or her talents to the full, whether academic, cultural, or physical, and pursuing the highest standards in all aspects of learning, teaching, and extracurricular endeavour.
7. **Education as a Christian calling** - Valuing and enabling the role and vocation of Christian teachers and support staff as a calling from God and a sharing in the Church's mission.
8. **Education for justice** - Inspiring the minds and hearts of the young to care for all God's creation and build a more just society, God's Kingdom on earth, and developing in them the talents for active citizenship and transformational leadership.

The Trustees' expanded 'Charter' document, *'Reaching Out'* continues to be the basis for in-school in-service training to further embed, apply, and develop the eight guiding principles of the charity and thereby continue to improve the learning experience and opportunities of all pupils. The Trustees ensure the implementation of the 'Eight Essentials' in the life of the schools through:

- Their role in selecting and appointing the Foundation Governors of seven of the schools, and in the selection, appointment, and continuing formation of committed Headteachers and members of the school leadership teams. This applies both to the schools in direct trusteeship and to the newly formed Academies.

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- Continuous liaison and meeting with and support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and school leadership teams
- The provision of in-service training for teachers and governors
- The active promotion of the 'Eight Essentials' as the template for school development planning, SEF (self-evaluation) and for state and diocesan inspection.

Each school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils, and fully adheres to statutory requirements and best practice in this respect and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Inspections of the state-funded schools by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education Children Services and Skills) and of the independent schools by ISIS (Independent Schools Inspectorate) report that the quality of pastoral care in our schools is outstanding, that safeguarding and anti-bullying practices are effectively in place, and that the quality of provision for social, moral, and spiritual development and for social engagement, is excellent.

Each school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds. Though the first obligation is to admit Roman Catholic pupils, the schools are open to pupils of all faiths or none and are committed, in relation to all pupils admitted, to complete inclusivity. The admissions and oversubscription criteria of the selective schools comply fully with the current statutory Admissions Code and with equal opportunity legislation.

As equal opportunity providers the schools are committed to a working environment free from any form of discrimination. The schools are committed to making reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are, or become, disabled.

In the financial year the Trustees' objectives in the educational sector included:

- Continued improvement to the delivery of the eight core values through ongoing formation and in-service training for Heads, teaching and support staff and governors.
- Continuing to expand the social outreach activities of the schools. The Schools' Team encourages each school to engage pupils in actions of charity, justice and advocacy towards the needy, especially those made poor and marginalised, in the local community and the wider world, in the spirit of Edmund Rice and engaging with the work of Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.
- The growth and further inspiration of the wider Edmund Rice Network in the spirit of the themes agreed at the last General Chapter of the Christian Brothers at Nairobi, Kenya in March 2014, the European Chapter in Emmaus in August 2014 and continuing Network gatherings and cluster meetings in Ireland and England on the theme of commitment to spiritual and social renewal: 'Drawn by mystery, destined for Life' within the eight calls of the General Chapter.

The work of the Trustees in the schools is co-ordinated by a full-time Schools Officer, who provides guidance and support for Heads and Governing Bodies and:

- Organises in-service training for newly qualified and established staff.
- Organises inter-school conferences for Heads, Governors and for staff.
- Assists with school development planning.
- Advises on the recruitment and appointment of senior staff.
- Offers support for the spiritual life of senior staff and governors.
- Oversees best practice and compliance with safeguarding procedures

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**Faith development**

As a Religious Congregation, faith development is of prime importance to the Trustees. All aspects of the Trust's work involve the advancement of religion whether it is in the educational, pastoral or international missionary fields. The Trust continues to assess its work and to search for better ways of carrying out this ministry in today's world.

The work in this area is mainly carried out through the schools and the local parishes where members of the Province reside. In addition, members of the Province provide prayer guidance and spiritual direction.

From the early 1990s the Congregation of Christian Brothers, as a religious institute, has made a priority of sharing its mission with the laity, laicising the leadership and governance of the schools. Beyond that, as with other religious orders, there is an expanding emphasis on the growth of "spiritual families", groups of associated lay people offered opportunities to draw spiritual and apostolic fruitfulness from the original charism. Thus the Trustees' objectives include the development of an Edmund Rice Network of lay people who wish to associate themselves with the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Brothers.

The 'Edmund Rice Network' consists of local groups of interested adults gathering for spiritual sharing and reflection and who are encouraged to involve themselves in some form of social outreach. Although the majority of Network participants are drawn from staff and parents in the schools, meetings are open to all interested adults – indeed to anyone who wishes in some way, however informally, to connect with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. Opportunities for spiritual conversation and faith-based social action are provided. The Network Support Team, in addition to its work with schools, seeks to build new local groups of lay associates on this model.

The Trustees fund combined school and Network services delivered by a Network Support Team employed by the Trustees and based at the Edmund Rice Centre within the Christian Brother community at "Woodeaves", Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Altrincham. The Team of three consists of:

- A Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network
- A Network Facilitator who promotes and organises involvement in Network events and opportunities; these include spiritual and adult immersion opportunities across the European and global Edmund Rice Network for teachers and support staff from the 12 schools and for parents and friends and interested adults. The Facilitator also writes the English Network magazine and develops resources for schools and the Network.
- A Youth Development Facilitator with particular responsibility for the development and expansion of three specific programmes: Developing World Immersion programmes for students; Edmund Rice Camps for disadvantaged children; the Edmund Rice Awards Scheme (extending student voluntary service), links to the work of Edmund Rice International in advocacy and social justice within our schools including the promotion of the six Priorities identified by a new initiative within the schools named *Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders* which is a Congregation wide project.

The Manchester-based Edmund Rice Network group acts as a hub for Network development involving both lay associates and Christian Brothers. Extensive use is made of the Network Centre, within the Brothers' residence in Hale Barns, which provides a base for Network meetings, for in-service sessions with teachers, support staff, governors, and pupils from the schools, and for gatherings with the wider community.

Since 2010 small spiritual conversation groups have developed in Manchester, Liverpool, the Wirral and Salford. These groups are focused on the three challenges, 'Love tenderly, walk humbly, and act justly.'

In addition, a series of sessions has been organised at the Network Centre, offering all comers the opportunity for spiritual conversation and prayerful reflection on life experience.

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**Social and pastoral work**

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by the Edmund Rice Network and individual Brothers:

- Working in parishes, visiting, helping in catechetical programs and helping parishioners develop their spiritual lives
- Community social work with the homeless
- Advocacy and support for asylum seekers and refugees
- Various justice and peace initiatives
- Guiding prayer groups
- Working as counsellors

The aims of the Trustees in this area include:

- Enabling members of the Province to carry out meaningful social and pastoral work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area; and
- Encouraging and motivating members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised.

**International missionary work**

The charity supports the international religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation. Members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers are working in developing countries around the world. The Brothers work to help restore the education provision in those countries. They are involved in school education, special education for handicapped children and adult literacy programmes. In addition others are working with orphans and children displaced because of war. The tracing of families of displaced children and the former child combatants is another area of vital importance.

These young people are also offered literacy, numeracy and other skills-training programmes to help them re-integrate into society and to find ways of living economic and socially independent lives.

In addition, the Trust contributed to the establishment of Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust (ERBT), an English registered charity whose purpose is to support the mission of the Congregation worldwide but especially in the majority (developing) world.

**Care and welfare of members**

Those members who earn salaries or receive pensions donate them to the Trust and therefore have no independent means of support. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Trust includes both the upkeep and up-skilling / retraining of the members so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public.

In addition, the Trust must also care for the elderly members who are now themselves in need of care. These members have no resources of their own and have devoted a significant part of their lives to the mission of the Congregation.

In this regard, the aims of the Trustees over the current and forthcoming years include:

- Providing the necessary training to ensure that the members of the Trust can continue to further the mission of the Congregation.
- Enabling members to continue with their individual ministries for as long as possible.
- Reviewing the properties used as Community houses and assessing their suitability for an ageing membership. Those identified as being unsuitable will be adapted or replaced with more appropriate properties.

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- Ensuring members receive the level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly have.

**Public benefit**

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The four secondary schools supported and serviced by the Trustees and the Schools Office educate over 4,000 students, are state-funded and completely non-fee paying. They are open to all with places accessed according to the admissions and oversubscription policies determined by Governing Bodies in conformity with the statutory Admissions Code and appeals procedures currently in force. All of the senior schools deliver further public benefit through the social outreach activities described elsewhere in this report and through community use of their facilities.

One of the independent preparatory schools, Redcourt St Anselm's, was closed in December 2019 because of the falling numbers. Another of the independent schools, Runnymede St. Edward's Preparatory School Liverpool, became a Voluntary Aided School at the start of September 2020.

The two primary schools are independent fee-paying schools. The Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given consideration to the supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee-charging. Each school has its own annual statement of objectives to fulfil its mission and excellence as an Edmund Rice school. This forms part of each school's development planning. The two fee-paying primary schools are committed to maximising access by keeping fees as low as possible. Fees are kept well below the average for the independent sector nationally, below average regionally, and within the reach of families where both parents work.

Each of the primary schools continues to develop its own bursary scheme to make a number of places available to children whose parents cannot pay fees. The number of advertised bursaries available remains limited because of the unusually low level of fees and the need for due regard for other families already struggling to fund their child's education. Considerable bursary assistance is given to families who become unemployed or fall on hard times. Bursaries are awarded, subject to meeting the standard entrance requirements of the school, solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship when a pupil's education or future prospects would be at risk (for example, in the case of redundancy or divorce). In addition, discounts are provided to families when they have more than one child attending the school.

Each of the fee-paying primary schools seeks to provide wider public benefit by a range of means, for example:

- Providing facilities for Edmund Rice Camps (summer holiday weeks) for disadvantaged children from inner city primary schools.
- Participation in curricular and staff development partnership links with local state schools.
- Opening facilities to community groups free of charge out of school hours e.g. adult education classes, neighbouring state schools, and sports teams.

The Edmund Rice Network delivers public benefit through its outreach work with refugees and asylum seekers in Liverpool and Greater Manchester and with marginalised youth in Salford, as described elsewhere in this report.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Educational Programme / School Governance**

All four of the state-funded secondary schools are high performing Catholic schools in their authorities, oversubscribed, performing powerfully in national league tables, and highly valued regionally for the strength of their Christian-Catholic ethos. They are notable also for their contribution to local improvement partnerships and to community cohesion through outreach activities, collaboration with other schools in the maintained sector, and the community use of their facilities.

St. Joseph's College in Stoke on Trent has continued to play a substantial role in educational regeneration within a previously failing authority both as a Teaching School and running the SCITT (school centred initial teacher training) to provide new teachers for the Local Authority.

St. Edward's College, St. Ambrose College and St. Anselm's College provide collaborative partnerships within their areas.

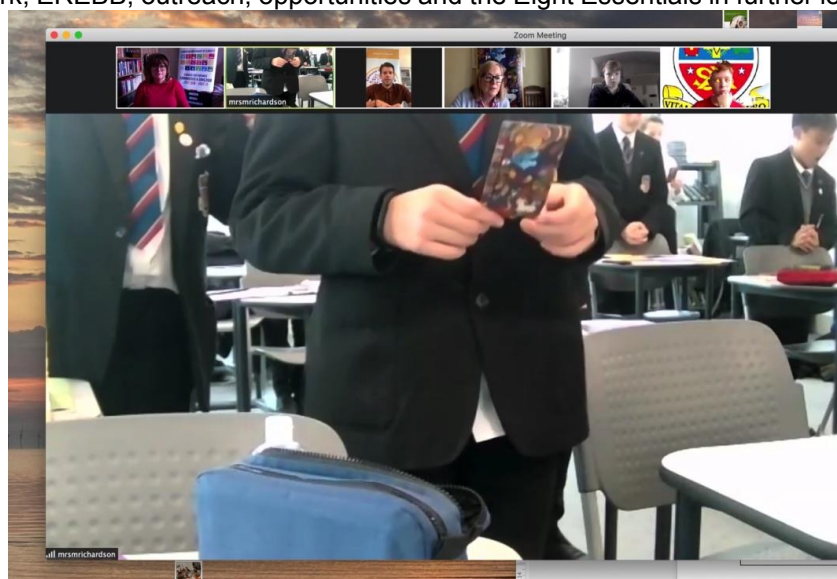
The two independent Preparatory Schools are subject to inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

Some examples of the in-school support services and opportunities provided and funded across the 11 schools by the Trustees are:

- Joint inset with all staff from Prep schools
- Joint inset with senior schools
- Residential conference for heads and chairs
- Training with all year 7 students in each of our academies
- Induction for all new staff and Governors
- Heads' retreat
- Leadership training for senior leadership teams
- Advocacy work with both Junior and senior school pupils.

### **Year 7 Edmund Rice Schools Induction Programme**

The office team ran our school's induction programme for students new into year 7 as online workshops. We saw every class in all the secondaries over the course of September and October. They all received their induction pack and the teachers have commented how much they like the materials and that the students enjoy the sessions. As the classes have to prepare in advance to know the life of Edmund Rice, we feel these sessions have really focused schools on delivering education about Edmund and the network early on and in some depth. All classes then carry on looking at further areas such as the schools' network, EREBB, outreach, opportunities and the Eight Essentials in further lessons with staff.



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**Edmund Rice Camps Nov- Dec 2020**

Camp Coordinators planned Christmas activities for ERC feeder schools. Given the lockdown situation, each Camp distributed Christmas activity packs.

St Edward's ERC delivered 40 packs to Holy Family Primary in Liverpool on 27th November so that the school could distribute them to pre-selected families.

The Coordinators and Mentors held their weekly meetings in November planning communications with schools and families over Christmas and start to look ahead at possibilities for ERC provision in Spring and Summer 2021.

**International Youth Ambassadors' Forum**

The global ERI Youth Ambassadors met each month in this year by Zoom to explore various social justice issues relevant to them. Two examples of these meetings were:

- 24th October (Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery and
- 21st November (Mental Health and Suicide Awareness).

The meetings were very well attended by Youth Ambassadors and young activists from within the Network.

At the meeting on 21st November, it was agreed that a Mental Health Focus Group would be formed to explore what student-led structures can be put in place in schools across the global Network.

**ERI Youth Ambassadors' Induction**

Due to the pandemic, Induction Training to new ERI Youth Ambassadors was delivered via Zoom in October, supported by the team from ERI who joined the call. The session covered most of what is normally delivered in the 'live' Induction Training, and gave students the chance to join breakout rooms to have their own conversations.

Part of the session was given over to Tom Murray (Youth Development Facilitator), Cormac McArt and Malcom Gertse from the Justice Desk South Africa so they could introduce the Youth Ambassadors to the concept of the International YA Forum mentioned above.

**Heads' Retreats via Zoom**

In order to offer care and spiritual support to our Headteachers during this very difficult time, we ran a Zoom Retreats in October, December and March.

Sessions included meditative breathing, guided reflections, contemplative prayer practice and spiritual conversation, guest facilitators such as Br David Ryan and Sue Hutchinson.

In advance of the Retreat, the Network Team sent out Wellbeing Boxes to every Head containing tea, chocolates, oils, prayers, and a symbolic Guardian Angel to encourage them to act as a guardian for another Head and pray for them every day.

Headteachers have really appreciated this special time for sharing and reflection and also the care shown by the team for them.

**Religious Orders in Education Charism Leadership Symposia Nov, March and June**

Ann Nicholls (Network Facilitator) continued her work with the Charism Group of Religious Orders In Education. That year we planned and delivered a series of 3 Leadership Symposia for Headteachers and SLT members in religious order schools focused around exploring and developing the Charism in their own schools.

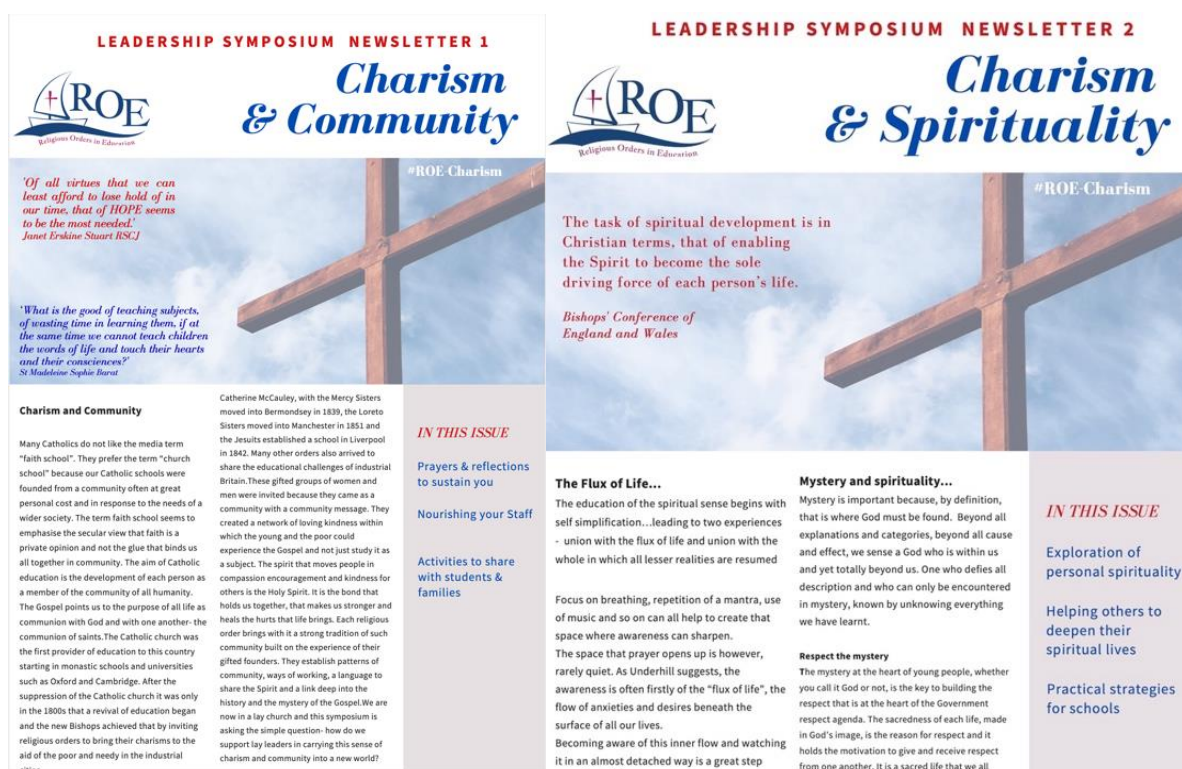
# THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TRUSTEES

## Financial Statements

We ran the first session on 9th November. Ann organised the Charism Leadership Symposium working party; setting up the meetings, writing minutes and action plans and together we devised the format and content of the course. All invitations, posters and PR material were designed and distributed by Ann. Ann collated resources for the participants including documentation from various religious order schools that explicitly shows the embedding of the order's mission into school life and policy. Ann also collected videos from Headteachers who spoke about their charisms. She selected key phrases from these and had a professional video created. This was much appreciated and referred to by participants on the day. Participation far exceeded expectation and we had 90+ participants. From the ER network we had newly appointed leaders including Kate Peaston from Runnymede and members of the North American Network. Ann created the PowerPoint and worked with Frank Barnhouse, a media developer, on the facilitation of the event, including briefing 12 breakout group facilitators.

All participants receive on-going support and resources throughout the year. Ann designed the Newsletters that they received. With Fr David O'Malley SDB, we selected content and ideas that can be used throughout the school community. Our first Newsletter went out just prior to the symposium. Feedback included: 'the best thing I've received all year, better than Dfe, diocesan and CES publications!'

You can read the newsletter and access all the resources from the symposium on our Padlet page: <https://padlet.com/annnicholsero/ltd64r5ysnym35y4>



### Connecting Classrooms British Council project. #ERSchools Against Waste

During this year we planned, launched and began our British Council Connecting Classrooms project. 3 UK schools: St Anselm's College, St Joseph's Prep and St Aidan's Catholic Academy joined with CBC St John's in South Africa and St Vincent's in Asansol, India to run this joint project that learns about the SDGs, global learning and running joint environmental projects.

We established Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for staff based around sustainability and many staff in the participating schools did 4 day courses through the online British Council CPD pages on global learning and the SDGs.

Much of the documentation and planning has been transferrable to EREBB as part of the future action

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plan included many more 'connecting classrooms' style school joint sharing opportunities.

A hurdle for schools was the inability to get groups of students together due to the 'bubble' system. They had to think creatively and used more virtual meetings, even within their own schools, to be able to join forces and plan events with overseas schools. The 'live launch' event took place in February 2021, attended by all schools, presentations were given by the students and ERI directors Br Kevin Cawley and Br Brain Bond. It was recorded and shared widely within the Network and beyond.

### **Climate Change**

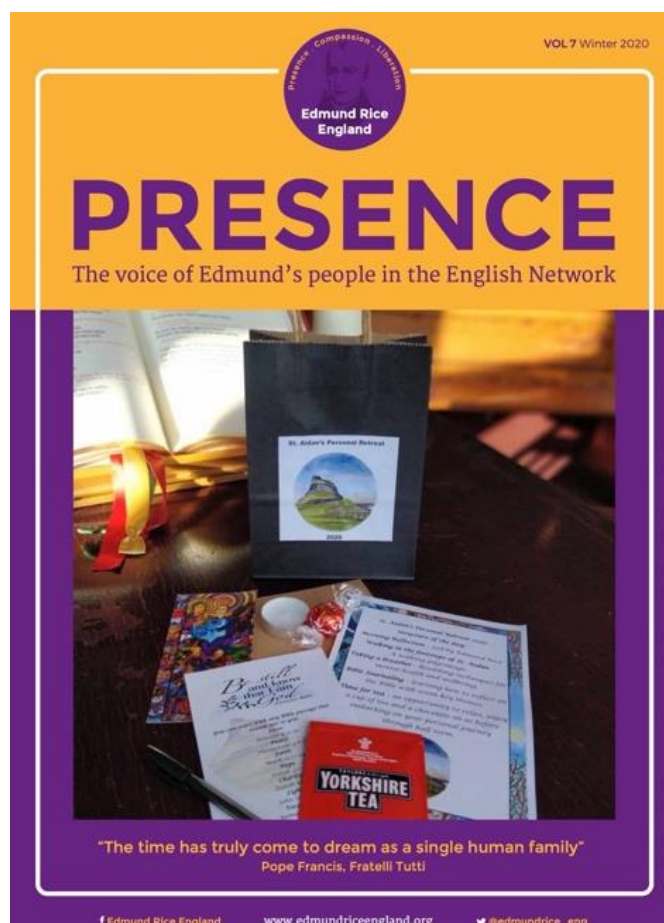
The Edmund Rice Network participated as a panel member at the Climate Change Conference for students on Dec 2nd 2020. She encouraged our schools to participate; a small group of 6 students participated in a UN-style debate using data given to them to represent different countries. They were encouraged to advocate on the environment crisis and to join in with local organisations to take action for change.

### **Brothers Today**

As part of the preparation of materials for the Student Leadership Certificate had a video put together that is a compilation of brothers from across the provinces who talk about their role and their vocation. The range is fascinating, and students are really responding well to having such insights into the Christian Brothers today. This is an excellent resource.

### **Presence Winter 2020**

This edition had a slightly different feel due to COVID restrictions. It reflected the work of the UK network in its more global feel to it as this is the way we have all been working since lockdown.



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**Climate Change and Care for the Earth**

In an on-going bid to raise the issue of Care for the Earth, reiterate the message of Laudato Si and highlight the Climate Crisis we worked on several projects across the international network.

Members of the Edmund Rice Office completed an online course called 'How to Talk to Anyone about Climate Change', run by a educational charity in the UK that provided many facts, educational materials and stimuli around education and the climate crisis.

With the ER Advocacy coordinator in New York, Sean D'Alfonso, on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> we ran a Climate Change debate for student leaders in our English schools together with five ER schools in the United States. Brothers came along to this discussion – Francis Hall, Fergus Reilly and teachers from the UK, North of Ireland and the US. Students were given some preparation questions and resources to work from to improve their knowledge before the discussion. Much good conversation was had around personal and global responsibilities, UN SDGs and COP26, actions being taken in our schools etc. the outcome was that more education is needed and wanted by students and staff about this global crisis we face.

As a result, a series of interactive workshops were coordinated by the Edmund Rice Office, involving Br Kevin Cawley and Br Brain Bond and Trocaire in the climate emergency and what actions can be taken by us all to help implement a more equal, sustainable future for all. We ran these in series of 3 dates in April. This was open to all staff across the international network and to senior students.

Here is a Padlet page of Climate Change resources for everyone in the network to use.  
<https://padlet.com/annnicholsero/t5shhklccimo5lxg>

It was called 'Why Francis Met Greta'

3 Climate Crisis workshops

# WHY FRANCIS MET GRETA

find out how to talk about, act upon and share your knowledge about  
the cry of the Earth  
April 19, 26 & May 3 at 8pm GMT

**Certificated  
course ideal  
for school  
staff &  
senior students**

enquiries to:  
[annnichols.ero@gmail.com](mailto:annnichols.ero@gmail.com)

with accompanying  
resources

facilitated by Edmund Rice International, Edmund Rice England, Edmund Rice Centre for  
Justice & Community Education, Australia & Trocaire, Ireland

Edmund Rice Centre  
Edmund Rice  
International  
Edmund Rice  
England  
trocaire

## **COP26**

The Edmund Rice Office submitted a proposal to the organisers of COP26 that took place in November 2021 in Glasgow requesting a stand in the Green Zone – an educational area where groups can run interactive, educational sessions about their work on climate change. The proposal involves a new collaboration with the Edmund Rice Centre, Sydney, where Phil Glendinning, the director, is working with the Edmund Rice Office on a collaborative, educational advocacy project for the UK schools and wider network on the Pacific Islands issues around climate change. Student activists will be invited to attend COP26 to run the stand where the Pacific Islands peoples and environment will be advocated on by our own student group.

Our schools were sent COP26 schools guides, encouraging them to engage with their local MPs on the run up to COP26. We did not get the stand we hoped for but campaigned to continue engaging schools, writing the COY Youth Statement and eventually taking students to the COP26 event.

## **Connecting Classrooms ‘ Live Launch’**

The Edmund Rice Schools and British Councils project ‘Connecting Classrooms ER-Schools-Against-Waste’ saw its official launch on February 26th. All 6 schools involved in the project presented on the day at our online launch event, outlining their environmental work to date and their hopes and plans for the joint sustainability project that will focus on waste reduction in their schools and communities. It was great to hear from our schools, connecting with each other and students showing leadership in this important collaboration.

We were kindly joined by Brothers Kevin Cawley and Brian Bond who addressed the participants about climate change and the urgency needed from us all to respond. The schools are planning very creative and interesting pupils’ projects that will get off the ground in the coming weeks now that schools can get back into their buildings. We had some good press coverage and praise from the management of the British Council for managing to get the project up and running despite the COVID restrictions.

Comment from our British Council mentor:

*“I just wanted to thank you for such a fantastic event on Friday afternoon. It was so lovely to see the young people sharing their ideas and working together. This collaborative approach across zoom must be the way things will go in the future. The input from the Brothers was also very inspiring.”*

*“It’s also a big thank you to you for all your passion and hard work as without you managing this partnership it would not be nearly so inspiring.”*

## **Wellness & Child Counselling**

The Edmund Rice Office began the Capacitar Wellness training – a course in body, mind and spirit practices. The course is designed that practitioners share the techniques immediately, passing on meditative and breathing exercises and knowledge. The course is on various Saturdays through the year.

The aim is to support schools; students and staff with their wellbeing, encouraging and sharing good practice across the schools in our network and many we work with outside of the ER network and providing sessions for students and staff that can teach strategies for self-care and on-going wellness. We have developed KS 2,3 and 4/5 materials for student groups with teachers guides to accompany. We have taught wellness sessions in St Josephs College to year 7 groups and are scheduled to work with St Ambrose College students soon.

A meeting was held for headteachers and staff in schools that are responsible for wellbeing where Ann Nicholls (network Facilitator) delivered a demonstration of the resources we have developed as well as leading a sharing session between all the participants about good practices they wanted to share around pupil and staff wellness. We had over 70 staff from many schools. From this we have a wellness email group where best practice, new developments etc can be shared.

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We have developed and launched a series of Wellness Practices for school staff. The 12-week series of Zoom meetings demonstrate a wide variety of wellbeing practices that staff in schools can participate in for their own well-being as well as having accompanying resource sheets so that they can use the techniques with others – students included. Ann and Tom are delivering some sessions and we have known practitioners in yoga and meditation as well as a life coach facilitating other sessions. The invite to participate has been shared with the regional and global network as well as with partner schools, ROE schools, Asylum Link teachers etc.

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS**

**FREE RESTORATIVE & HEALING PROGRAMME  
DESIGNED FOR STAFF IN SCHOOLS**

REHABILITATIVE PILATES | MEDITATION

JOURNALING | AFFIRMATIONS

BREATHING & MINDFULNESS | FOOD FOR HEALTH

**EVERY WEDS @ 8PM**

EMAIL ANN NICHOLS FOR THE ZOOM INVITE  
annichols.ero@gmail.com  
begins Weds 3 March

**WELLNESS WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS**

WELLBEING SESSION	DATE
Pilates - working from home	03.3.21
Deep Meditation	10.3.21
Journaling - Life-Coaching	17.3.21
Affirmations that work	24.3.21
Breathing & Switching	31.3.21
Holds	07.4.21
Methods of Mindfulness	14.4.21
EFT & Finger Holds	21.4.21
Wheel of Life - Life Coaching	28.4.21
Guided Meditation	05.5.21
Spiritual Conversations	12.5.21
Food as Medicine	19.5.21

All sessions will have accompanying written guides to facilitate further practice & sharing

WWW.EDMUNDRICEENGLAND.ORG  
#KPOOLECOACHING  
HTTPS://WWW.LOVEANDLIGHTSHALALA.COM

**ASIST Suicide intervention Training Skills. 2 Online courses March 3/4/5**

As we have had to cancel 3 dates to deliver the much requested 'ASIST' suicide intervention skills training due to COVID restrictions, we decided to run an online version.

It has proven so popular that we ran 2 courses back-to-back to accommodate those wanting to complete the course. We also now have a waiting list.

We condensed the 2-day course into a morning and afternoon session, covering all of the key elements and making the course interactive. We redesigned the course materials, sending a course booklet out to all participants.

The course went really well online. We had access to more staff than we would normally do, we offered it out to Roe schools and to partner schools. We had Loreto and Salesian staff there as well as our own schools and others from the Midlands. We certificated the course as an Edmund Rice England project with a view to offer the complete 'ASIST Livingworks' certificate to participants when we can get to see them face to face for an extra half-day.

Some of the feedback read:

*"I really enjoyed the sessions and found them interesting and easy to follow. The facilitators were really clear on what the key points were and what the purpose of the training was. I feel much more confident*

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*in having these discussions after this training session and I feel ready to have those conversations should the situation arise.”*

*“I think both Ann and Tom work really well together. The group didn’t feel too big, which was good as I think I would have felt intimidated to say anything.”*

*“After this course I feel that I would be able to recognise the signs better and be able to take action and not feel afraid to become involved.”*

*“Thought that this course was excellent. Really challenging and thought-provoking. Very much want to finish off this course not just to gain the accreditation but to engage more in the practical scenarios. Thanks again.”*

### **Edmund Rice Camps Homelessness Outreach**

Volunteers from the Liverpool Edmund Rice Camps continue to undertake homelessness outreach on Thursday evenings, distributing food, clothing and essential items to the city’s homeless community.

It is normal to distribute items to between 40 and 60 individuals each night.

On 17th December 2020 the group put together special Christmas packages including hats, scarves, gloves and Christmas cards.

### **Edmund Rice Chaplains’ Zooms**

Tom Murray (Youth Development Facilitator) began facilitating Monthly Zoom meetings for Chaplains from ER schools in England and Ireland. The first of these meetings was held on 10th February and offered Chaplains a reflective space for sharing with each other, as well as sharing resources and forthcoming initiatives.

The next meeting is on 10th March and will include Chaplains from English and Irish schools. This will be a great opportunity for them to feel supported by one another and the Network.

Tom is also facilitating regular Student Spiritual Conversations by Zoom. The first session, on 25th February, attracted 16 participants from England, Ireland, South Africa and USA which is a brilliant start. It is hoped that we can expand this group with the support of the Chaplaincy Network. The sessions offer students short stimulus pieces and then the space to open share on their spiritual search. Conversation is guided by the students as there is no ‘title’ as such. It is simply an open invitation to share around faith and spirituality.

### **Why (Pope) Francis Met Greta**

Ann invited Edmund Rice International and Trocaire to accompany her in delivering a 3 part Climate Emergency / Laudato Si course aimed at staff in Edmund Rice schools globally. It was also open to senior students. It took place on 3 consecutive Monday evenings, 8.00-9.30 UK time.

Many staff in the UK, US, Canada took part as well as representatives from Ireland, Australia, Zambia, South Africa. We also had staff there from other Religious Order schools.

The first, delivered by Br Kevin and Br Brian, focussed on the current distress the Earth is experiencing. The causes and some consequences of the climate emergency were presented as well as the measures being taken to try to manage the rise in Earth temperatures, work of activists and the global response via climate summits - starting in Paris and which will be followed up this November at COP26. With over 30 participants from the UK, US, Africa and Ireland a great discussion was had about the enormity of the situation, how best to engage in climate action and how to turn climate anxiety into hopeful action. The next session, delivered by Jane Mellet, Laudato Si officer from Trocaire in Ireland, explored in detail Laudato Si, the key messages being put forward by the Church in terms of our role as loving neighbours to those suffering this crisis, integral ecology, lines of approach and action and ecological education as part of our spirituality. We witnessed the human cost of this crisis through the

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story of Joanna Sustento, from the Philippines, who lost her family in typhoon Tyan and has gone on to fight for the basic human right of a safe, stable climate for the whole planet, especially for those most vulnerable communities. She concluded with Pope Francis's words 'Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope'. Laudato Si, 244,180.

The final session in the series built on this picture, again exploring the impact that the climate crisis is already having on another vulnerable community; those peoples who call the beautiful Pacific Islands their home. With us as facilitator we welcomed Corinne Fagueret from the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education who coordinates the 'Pacific Calling Partnership' advocating for and with the peoples of the Pacific Islands of Kiribati and Tuvalu in terms of the negative impact climate change is having on them. Corinne told us about the impact of rising sea levels as well as increased intensity and frequency of storm surges, all of which are having devastating effects on these island communities. Under serious threat of annihilation due to other countries' selfish consumption of fossil fuels, the plight of these nations need to be heeded and seen as a warning of what more is to come. Corinne and the Justice Centre are going to continue working with the UK schools on the run up to COP26. This last session was concluded with a summary of key information and some calls to personal and community action. 'There are no passengers on this journey to a sustainable future, we are all crew'.

Participants on the course declared the series to have been 'extremely useful in their role as educators' that they had gained 'accurate scientific information and genuine guidance on activism', they also said it 'reinforced their will power to make simple changes, to have faith for the future' and that they 'will be urging school leaders to take action and require climate conversations in our schools'.

You can find links to the recordings of each session, plus many resources on climate change, climate action and care for the earth on a Padlet resources page:

<https://padlet.com/annnicholsero/t5shhklccimo5lxg>

### **Global Classroom Partners**

<https://www.erebb.org/erebb-global-classroom-partners-program/>

The Global Classroom Partners Program is an initiative of *Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders* and coordinated through *Edmund Rice Education Australia* (EREA) and Edmund Rice England. This program offers a learning space for young people from around the world, where they will critically explore some of the world's most important issues and come up with a specific project to be applied in their community.

During the financial year the Edmund Rice Office has been working with Brian Garrone of EREA on a new linking scheme for Edmund Rice schools globally. We have recently formalised all the arrangements, Ann has written the lesson content and we launched our pilot scheme of 40 schools who came together for a launch on 10 June.

Schools can sign up to be part of the program that facilitates collaborative learning between 2 Edmund Rice schools from different parts of the globe. Global Classroom Partner classes are linked via video conference and undertake a shared lesson theme, going on to carry out a joint project over the academic year. The lesson topics that partners can choose to look at are:

- View from my Window
- Faith as a Force for Good
- Generation UN – SDG
- Black Lives Matter Globally
- Sport Moves the World

With a launch on June 10th of our initial 40 schools taking part in the pilot scheme we hope that our Global Classroom Partners grows from strength to strength!

### **Women in Leadership Social Justice / Gender Advocacy Campaign**

Ann worked with Defensoria Edmundo Rice and brought in the advocacy team in the US to gather statements and photos from many women and girls in leadership roles across the whole network. We have had over 40 contributions so far. These will be translated so that the campaign, that will run on social media across the network from September can be published in Spanish as well as English. It is to highlight SDG 5 gender equality.

#CampaignER Women Leaders in the Region & Edmund Rice Global Community

SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY  
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

”

**A WOMAN'S LEADERSHIP MAKES OTHERS BETTER AS A RESULT OF HER PRESENCE, AND THAT IMPACT LASTS EVEN IN HER ABSENCE.**

UYANDA TETYANA  
PREFECT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS  
CBC ST JOHN'S, CAPE TOWN,  
SOUTH AFRICA

DEFENSORIA  
EDMUNDO  
RICE

Edmund Rice Network

women leaders: for an equal future post COVID-19

### **Edmund Rice Camps**

In March, as restrictions began to ease, the decision was taken to look at how Edmund Rice Camps might be able to operate this summer. Coordinators and Mentors met with Tom Murray (Youth Development Facilitator) on 24th March, and then again on 14th April, to look at what was achievable with limited numbers of volunteers and the separate Camps have continued to meet since then.

Although the decision was taken by the Salford community not to host a Camp this summer, we are still working towards Camps in Stoke from 10th-12th July, Liverpool (Runnymede) from 2nd-5th August and Wirral on 2nd-6th August (2 Camps running simultaneously, at St Anselm's and St Joseph's, Seacombe). Funding will be allocated pro rata to reflect the shorter nature of some of the Camps. Clearly, recruitment and training have been major challenges this year so the make-up of Camps will reflect this, with training sessions conducted by Zoom and the usual 1-2-1 ratio of Leaders to children relaxed.

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**Edmund Rice International**

Tom Murray (Youth Development Facilitator) continues to represent the Edmund Rice Office at ERI's Monthly Hangouts as Regional Advocacy Coordinator for England and Ireland. Meetings were held on 27th April and 25th May.

In addition, Tom has been working on a proposal to be introduced in September with the support of the ERI Team. The premise is that we would establish a global network of 'ERI Partner Schools' who are committed to supporting the work of ERI and promoting advocacy, human rights and eco-justice in the daily life of their school or ministry.

As we reflect on the challenges of the last 15 months, with access to schools limited and their interaction with community and outreach projects significantly reduced, we are acutely aware of the impact the pandemic may have on our relationship with students, staff and volunteers.

Whilst we look forward to being able to engage more closely with schools in the coming months, it is more important than ever to offer people exciting, structured opportunities to work under the ERI banner as we compete with other activities similarly requiring 'catch-up' time for those involved with them. By presenting schools and ministries with a blueprint for their involvement with advocacy and human rights as soon as possible, we increase the likelihood of securing their commitment and contribution.

We have noticed a marked reduction in attendance at organised online events as students and staff are pulled in different directions. Whilst many of the events organised and delivered during lockdown have been of genuine merit, the true test will be whether we capture an audience when things return to 'normal'. On 7th May Tom presented the following as a 'checklist' of activities for any school wishing to be formally associated with ERI:

- Establishment of ERI Groups
- Appoint ERI Youth Ambassadors
- Attendance at ERI Youth Ambassadors 'Annual Induction
- Participation in Geneva Visit For Students
- Participation in Online Geneva Conference
- Attendance at International Youth Ambassadors 'Google Hangout
- Attendance at Annual Youth Ambassadors 'Conference
- Appoint ERI Staff Ambassadors
- Attend Annual Staff Advocacy Workshop
- Attend ERI Online Training Course
- Participation in Geneva Visit For Staff
- Adoption of Social Justice Action Plan
- Delivery of Advocacy & Human Rights Classroom Modules
- Adoption of ERI Approved Campaigns

An ERI Partner School would be expected to use official ERI logos on letterheads, signage, websites and social media. They would receive this from ERI with notification of their status as an ERI Partner School. They would be presented annually with a Mission Statement produced by ERI in consultation with Regional Coordinators which clearly explains the commitment required of an ERI Partner School.

These proposals were discussed with other Regional Advocacy Coordinators on 25th May following a second meeting with the ERI Team on 21st May. A meeting following the next Monthly Hangout at the end of June will seek to take these proposals forward in time for the start of the academic year.

Tom also submitted both written and oral statements through ERI for the 47th session of the Human Rights Council. The oral statement, focusing on the proposed new immigration laws in the UK, will be featured 'live' at the UN on 23rd June.

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### **Chaplaincy Gatherings**

Tom began organising monthly gatherings for the Edmund Rice Chaplains by Zoom. Although we only have Chaplains at St Aidan's, St Edward's and St Joseph's, the gatherings are available to Chaplaincy Team representatives from the other Edmund Rice schools, other Chaplains from associated schools, and Chaplains from within the ERST network.

The Edmund Rice Office led gatherings on 20th April and 19th May and will continue the gatherings after the summer. They offer opportunity for reflection as well as the sharing of key events, feasts and activities.

### **Social and Pastoral work**

Throughout the year, the Edmund Rice Network and the Brothers continued to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual Ministries. This work enables the charity to reach out to those in need within society generally and benefit a significant number of people.

Within the Network 'religion' is understood as requiring committed social outreach as well as faith-sharing and prayer. The principal current expression of this commitment is outreach in the spirit of Edmund Rice, to the 'strangers in our midst'. Network members continue to provide weekly through-the-year support to:

- AsylumLink Merseyside, working with a Christian Brother at the St. Anne's Centre in Overbury Street, Liverpool. The focus here is on befriending, accompaniment, and the (free) provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.
- SERV – Edmund Rice volunteers working with asylum seekers and refugees as well as hosting a youth club and an Edmund Rice Camp.
- Homelessness organisations such as the Whitechapel Centre in Liverpool involving students in awareness raising and fundraising.

### **International missionary work**

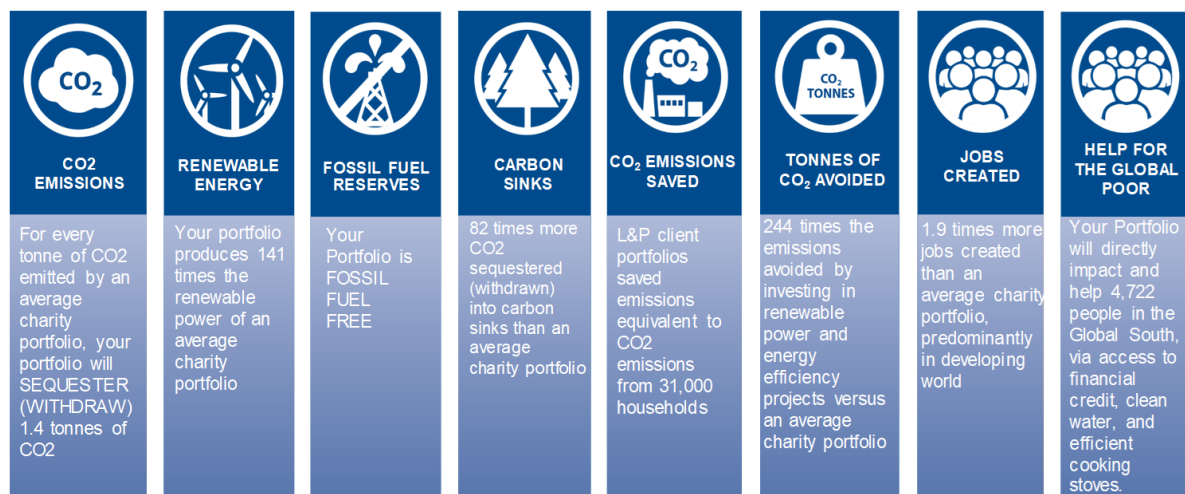
In past years, the Trust has made donations to an NGO group called Dailit. This group works in Bangladesh to improve the social economic condition and the social position of socially excluded individuals and groups through education, health and income generating activities. Due to Covid and other reasons no donation was made in the financial year. The Trustees hope to support this NGO in the future.

### **Positive Impact Investing**

We view our investment portfolio as part of our Mission. Alongside our active Ministries, we also seek to bring about change through our investment portfolios. Some investments can be harmful; for example, investments in fossil fuel companies or armaments companies supports the production of goods that can be highly damaging to the environment or human wellbeing. Avoiding these types of investments is an important step in ensuring that our investment portfolio is not involved in harmful activities. But it is only the first step along the path of what can be achieved.

While avoiding harmful activities is important, we believe that it is even more important to use our investments to bring about positive change in the world. We therefore seek to invest in activities that have beneficial impacts, for both individual wellbeing and for the environment.

We assess these positive impacts under a number of headings that we believe are important measures of how our investments are positively affecting the world around us. Below are some of the positive impacts achieved by the investment portfolio:



**The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

All of the investments within the Portfolio contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were developed and adopted by all member states of the United Nations to help achieve “a more sustainable future for all”. They represent a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and promote prosperity and people’s wellbeing by 2030. They integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Achieving the SDGs on a global basis requires collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society and citizens alike. The Portfolio plays a role in the realisation of the goals.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Source: UN (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

The Sustainable Development Goals are also closely aligned with the charitable objectives of religious organisations. Since the publication of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has made a strong commitment to sustainable development. His appeal to “...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet”, provides a firm ethical foundation for actions that need to be taken urgently at all levels. Pope Francis’ speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly’s formal adoption of the 17 SDGs gave further support to the ambitious and transformational vision of the goals.

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A comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact policy ensures the Portfolio remains consistent with the ethos of the charity. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the production of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening as it improves the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio. In particular, climate risk is addressed through the exclusion of fossil fuel companies and a focus to reduce the carbon footprint of the Portfolio through investment in such areas as renewable energy and forestry.

**Environmental Impact  
Overall Carbon Footprint**



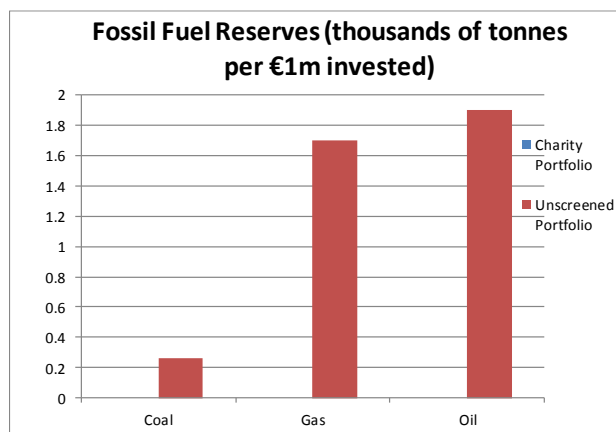
Measurement of carbon emissions is crucial to help us understand the role our investment portfolio plays in the climate crisis, while taking measures to address it. As the SDG logos to the left show, limiting carbon emissions interacts with several SDGs, helping address Climate Action in particular. Climate justice is another aspect addressed in our portfolio, as climate change predominantly impacts those who've done the least to contribute to pollution and have less resources to deal with it. Therefore, control of carbon emissions in our portfolio also has positive implications for reducing poverty (SDG1), reducing inequality (SDG10) and preserving life on land (SDG15) and in the ocean (SDG14)

The Portfolio includes a number of carbon sink-type investments, which sequester or draw carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Forestry in particular is a very effective carbon sink, as trees absorb carbon dioxide as part of their growing process. Therefore, the presence of two forestry funds means that any carbon emissions from the majority of the portfolio are effectively offset entirely by the forestry investments.

Put another way, this means that the Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) -497 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce c. 788 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio very much part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

**Fossil Fuel Reserves**

Following the Trustees decision to entirely divest from fossil fuels in early 2017, the Portfolio now holds no fossil fuel reserves. This section addresses the level of exposure that the portfolio has to companies owning thermal coal, oil gas reserves and other unconventional sources of reserves such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas. Many of these reserves may not be useable if we are to keep the targeted temperature rise (as a result of global warming) below 2 degrees Celsius. This risk is referred to as stranded asset risks and it is addressed through avoidance of companies holding fossil fuel reserves. Hence, in addition to the impact, not holding these assets reduces the financial risk within the portfolio. The chart below shows the fossil fuel reserves held by investments within the Portfolio across the major fossil fuels in comparison to an unscreened portfolio. As the chart shows, the Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves at all. This is a key metric to ensure that the Portfolio is not supporting fossil fuel activities that are diametrically opposed to the impact the Portfolio is trying to achieve elsewhere in the investments, namely promoting transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.





**Chart showing the Charity’s Investment Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves (no blue bar)**

**Renewable Energy**

Reducing our reliance on fossil fuels for our energy needs is vital for the transition to a low carbon future. The pandemic and resulting national lockdowns led to a drop of 5.5% in our primary energy consumption for the first time since 2009, with consumption of all fuel decreasing except for renewables and hydro. In fact, electricity generation from renewable sources expanded by more than 8% in 2021. Solar and wind are set to contribute two-thirds of renewables growth.

Given the importance of promoting renewable energy sources to address climate change, any investor interested in impact investing generally seeks a high level of renewable power output from their investment portfolio.

Within the Portfolio, renewable power is produced by a number of investments based in Ireland, Europe, the US and the developing world. We note some of the key impact metrics of these funds below:

<p><b>Renewable Energy Fund</b></p> <p>Renewable energy fund holding both onshore and offshore projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for 300,000 houses per annum</li> <li>• Avoids emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum</li> <li>• 1,000,000 MWh of renewable power per annum</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Solar Income Fund</b></p> <p>Fund holding approx. 40 solar plants in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy for 150,000 houses per annum</li> <li>• Avoids emissions of 162,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum</li> <li>• 480,000 MWh of renewable power per annum</li> </ul>	

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The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO2 emissions) it replaces. In 2021, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 6,641 tonnes of CO2e. This is equivalent to:

- Removing 1,434 cars from the roads every year
- 15,275 barrels of oil saved
- 5,532 acres of pine forest absorbing CO2 for one year
- 731 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 3,788 MWh in 2021, enough energy to power approx. 6,513 homes.

## **Environmental Protection and Carbon Sequestration**

Environmental protection is a critical aspect of sustainability addressed by the Portfolio. The forestry investments within the Portfolio have a mandate to:

- Produce sustainable timber;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere;
- Protect natural resources and biodiversity of the area, in order to minimise the effect on the biodiversity and general environmental welfare.



*The managers of the forestry investments in the portfolio review any new forest properties at the outset to record and maintain Biodiversity already present. They have also adopted an approach in their management to enhance biodiversity by planning linkage between features using corridors so that the biodiversity*

*features on site are conserved and new features being created are all joined and form part of a biodiversity unit within each property. These features are measured and captured on the managers' geographic information system (GIS). A detailed biodiversity classification and ranking system is in place and enhancement targets are being set to enrich diversification in fauna and flora throughout the portfolio.*

## **Social Impact**

### **Job Creation**



Providing employment is one of the best methods of reducing poverty, and therefore it has a number of positive beneficial effects across the SDGs, from poverty reduction (SDG1) to providing Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG8). As the majority of the jobs created by the impact investments are in the developing world, and tend to favour women as much (if not more) than men, then job creation in these areas improves Gender Equality (SDG5) and Reduces Inequalities (SDG10), both between sexes and between the developed and developing regions of the world.

The Portfolio has a number of funds which provide job creation through their economic activity. The equity funds provide capital to companies that employ anywhere between hundreds to hundreds of thousands, and therefore in theory the provision of additional capital by investors will enable these companies to create jobs. However, as these funds generally invest in well-established businesses in the developed world, the job creation impact from additional investment is low. However, other funds that operate in the developing world, tend to produce far higher job creation and comprise the majority

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of the additional jobs produced for the portfolio as a whole.

The new jobs created by an unscreened portfolio of the same size as the Portfolio would only create 8 new jobs, while the Portfolio helped create around 16 direct jobs in 2021.

**Vita Green Impact Investment**

The Vita Green Impact investment is committed to social impact and climate action, delivering sustainable water and energy services in rural African communities. It contributes to the delivery of the SDGs with a particular focus on SDGs 3, 5, 6 and 7 relating to improved health and gender equality as well as access to water and energy. Below is a summary of Vita positive impacts:

Impact Area	Impact
Livelihoods impacted (numbers of people)	219,000 impacted by access to clean water 91,000 impacted by improved cookstoves
Litres of clean water	602 million litres /annum
Hours saved collecting firewood & water	9.1 million hours
Money saved purchasing firewood	€178,000
Tonnes CO2 now being reduced /annum	808,000
Incidence of water borne disease	40% reduction

Source: Vita Annual Impact Report

**Care and Welfare of Members**

Throughout the year the charity continued to assist members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work. A number of members were cared for in the Cowper Care nursing care home in Ireland whilst the charity enabled other members to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. In addition, the charity welcomes members from other Provinces to stay in England to allow them to study and acquire skills they can take back to their own Provinces.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Results for the year**

During the year, total incoming resources amounted to £2.2m (2020: £3.5m). Of the incoming resources, a total of £1.5m (2020: £2.6m) related to the fees receivable and other income of the charity's independent schools, with other incoming resources accounting for £0.7m (2020: £0.9m). Investment income and interest receivable totalled £214k (2020: £406k), while donations and gifts totalled £12k (2020: £46k).

Resources expended totalled £3.1m (2020: £5.6m), with 99% (2020: 99%) being expended on direct charitable activities. Expenditure in the charity's independent schools totalled £2.1m (2020: £3.3m). Expenditure incurred on maintaining the members of the Congregation and supporting them in their ministry and pastoral work amounted to £936k (2020: £1.7m). Mission support costs totalled £56k (2020: £429k) in the year. Expenditure on governance during the year was well controlled and amounted to £145k (2020: £73k).

Net outgoing resources for the year, therefore, were £900k (2020: £2,060k). Investment gains of £428k (2020: losses of £158k) and gains on the disposal of fixed assets of £412k (2020: £nil) were offset by actuarial losses of £321k (2020: £87k actuarial gains) on the befined benefit pension scheme resulted in a net movement in funds for the year of £381k (2020: £2,130k).

### **Investment policy**

The charity's investments are held in unitised funds, the purpose of which is to provide investment income to promote the charitable objectives of the Trust, and to provide capital growth in the reserves over the medium term. They are invested with a conservative investment strategy. The objectives for the investments are as follows:

- To provide an annual income for the charity
- To preserve the capital value of the portfolio in real terms
- To generate a real return, depending on conditions in financial markets, after the initial two objectives have been met
- To achieve the above targets while utilising the charity's stated ethical investment policy

The majority of the investment funds are under the management of Setanta Asset Management, and Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland Ltd. As noted above, all funds have an ethical investment screen; they exclude companies that fall foul of certain ethical criteria, and in most cases favour stocks that provide positive benefits to society; these funds only hold investments that are compatible with the Charity's religious ethos.

### **Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to £10.2m (2020: £10.6m). Of this, £3.0m (2020: £3.5m) is represented by properties and other tangible fixed assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees have designated another £4.9m (2020: £5.1m) to provide for school and education funding, mission and ministry works and the care and welfare of the members. Details are given in note 19 of these Financial Statements. The Trustees review and reassess these designations on an on-going basis.

Un-designated or general funds amount to £2.3m (2020: £2.0m). This equates to approximately 7 months (2020: 5 months) of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work and its commitments, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to between 4 and 8 months' expenditure.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

The charity intends to continue to review its spending plans and needs and to make every effort to manage its existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the charity aims.

The Trustees intend to meet the following objectives:

- Through the work of the Network Support Team to continuously improve the implementation of the 'Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education' through the provision of support services, including support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and leadership teams and in-service training for teachers and support staff.
- As regards future planning, the CCBT intends to become a founding member of the Gaudete Trust which is a collaborative venture involving five Religious Orders who are involved in education. This venture will enable the rich heritage of Religious Orders to affirm their commitment to Catholic education and to continue to enrich it. The CCBT intends to put all their seven schools into the Gaudete Trust, thus relieving the present trustees of the responsibility of trusteeship. The Gaudete Trust will be allied to a Multi Academy Trust, which will include the Congregation's present four stand-alone academies. The Gaudete Trust – hopefully established by September 2022 – will be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation recognised by the Charities Commission and a Public Juridic Person recognised by the Hierarchy of England and Wales.
- To continue to extend the Developing World Immersion Programme. This will include the investigation of immersion opportunities in other Developing World Countries and the

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drawing in of schools yet to send groups on immersion.

- To continue to develop links with the work of 'Edmund Rice International', the Christian Brother non-governmental organisation based in Geneva and working within the United Nations on issues of global social justice, in particular the rights of the child.
- To continue to grow the wider Edmund Rice Network in England, using school communities as the core but establishing local groups open to the wider community and providing opportunities for faith-sharing, spiritual reflection, and action for social justice (in particular support for refugees and asylum seekers).
- To continue to grow the Edmund Rice Network specifically for the age group 18-25, continuing the connection with ex-students of the schools, providing them with further opportunities for immersion, service, social engagement, and reflection both in Britain and Ireland and in the Developing World.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by an Amended Trust Deed dated 27 February 2015. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (charity number 254312).

In accordance with the Amended Trust Deed "the number of Trustees shall not be less than four including any ex-officio Trustee and shall never be more than eight and on the occurrence of any vacancy reducing the Trustees to less than four a new Trustee or new Trustees shall be appointed as soon as possible in order to restore the number of Trustees to four at the least"

In terms of Canon Law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Congregation Leader and the Leadership Team in Rome. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter. The European Province is governed by the Province Leader and the Province Leadership Team, who are nominated by members of the European Province. Members of the Province Leadership Team are chosen for their personal qualities, their understanding and experience of the ministries of the Brothers and to secure a good skills mix among them. Each Community in the Province is governed by a local leader, who is appointed by the Province Leader. The Province Leadership Team visits each Community at least once a year and throughout the year there is a system of accountability operational throughout the Province to help to ensure that the Province Leadership Team are aware of the progress and development of the ministries carried out in the name of the Province.

### **Appointment and Training of Trustees**

The statutory power of appointing new or additional Trustees is vested in the Province Leader. Trustees are chosen for their personal qualities and their understanding and experience of the ministries throughout the Province. To date, the Trustees have been members of the European Province of the Congregation and as such they will already be well informed about the Mission, governing documents and strategic planning and history of the charity.

When a new Trustee is appointed they are given a copy of the Amended Trust Deed and the Charity Commission's booklets for Trustees. In addition, they meet with the existing Trustees during which they are given an outline of their responsibilities and continuing obligations.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Charity and its activities. When necessary, they seek advice from the charity's professional advisors.

The day to day running of the Academies is delegated to Governing Bodies appointed according to the statutory framework and instruments of government for state-funded schools. The day to day running of the Independent Preparatory Schools is delegated to Governing Bodies, in accordance with the instruments of government provided by the Trustees. The Trustees receive regular financial and educational reports from all the Boards of Governors and Headteachers of the schools.

The Independent School Governors and the Foundation Governors in the state-funded schools are

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appointed by the Trustees for a given term of years and may be re-appointed when their term ends.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment on an annual basis and monitor progress on an annual basis. This process is supported by the Finance Office, who works closely with the Trustees in this area. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

**Governance and management:** considers the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required, etc.

**Financial:** considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash-flow planning, the appointment of Stewardship advisors where necessary.

**Age Profile:** considers the ageing population of the members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers – English Province which is supported by the Charity. This incorporates the review of the training, skillsets and energy of the Brothers in a leadership, Ministry or Mission role. The risks are mitigated through training, Trustee visitation to each Community, regular Province meetings, healthcare reviews and rotating Brothers in different roles and the sharing of knowledge. The Trustees invest time, energy and allocate resources to ensure the continuing of the Charity both now and into the future. This can also include the involvement of lay people to support the Brothers and the involvement of professional advisors in relation to stewardship advice to the Trustees.

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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees of the Charity are required to prepare for each financial year accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the source and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements. The Trustees are conscious of their responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint Mazars LLP as auditors to the Charity will be proposed to the forthcoming Trustee Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on 11-Nov-2022  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by:

D. Gibson  
D. Gibson (Nov 11, 2022 16:11 GMT)

D Gibson  
Trustee

11-Nov-2022

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (continued)**

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 31, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (continued)**

Based on our understanding of the charity and its industry, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: employment regulation, health and safety regulation and non-compliance with implementation of government support schemes relating to COVID-19.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- Inquiring of management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance, as to whether the charity is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- Inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- Communicating identified laws and regulations to the engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- Considering the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as tax and pension legislation.

In addition, we evaluated the trustees' and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements, including the risk of management override of controls, and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to income recognition, depreciation, defined benefit pension scheme disclosures, historical provisions and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- Making enquiries of the trustees and management on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- Gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- Discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- Addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (continued)**

**Use of the audit report**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and regulations made or having effect thereunder. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

  
Mazars LLP (Nov 23, 2022 12:16 GMT)

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
One St. Peter's Square  
Manchester  
M2 3DE

Date: 23-Nov-2022

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	4,008	8,000	12,008	45,566
Investment income	4	213,548	-	213,548	406,448
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	1,516,592	3,902	1,520,494	2,618,531
Other income	6	465,079	-	465,079	426,058
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,199,227</b>	<b>11,902</b>	<b>2,211,129</b>	<b>3,496,603</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		33,916	-	33,916	30,301
Charitable activities		3,068,370	8,693	3,077,063	5,525,957
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>3,102,286</b>	<b>8,693</b>	<b>3,110,979</b>	<b>5,556,258</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>		<b>(903,059)</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income after transfers</b>		<b>(903,059)</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>(899,850)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	428,133	-	428,133	(157,597)
Net gain on disposal of fixed assets		412,278	-	412,277	-
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	23	(321,200)	-	(321,200)	87,400
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(383,848)</b>	<b>3,209</b>	<b>(380,639)</b>	<b>(2,129,852)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		10,606,159	12,329	10,618,488	12,748,340
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>10,222,311</b>	<b>15,538</b>	<b>10,237,849</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	10	3,019,123	3,526,052
Investments	11	7,789,895	7,912,298
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>10,809,018</b>	<b>11,438,350</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock	12	-	4,680
Debtors falling due within one year	13	157,598	229,416
Debtors falling due in more than one year	13	287,500	287,500
Cash at bank and in hand		1,378,699	1,391,411
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,823,797</b>	<b>1,913,007</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,073,840)	(1,513,224)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>749,957</b>	<b>399,783</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>11,558,975</b>	<b>11,838,133</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(711,626)	(595,145)
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES</b>	16	(609,500)	(624,500)
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>		<b>10,237,849</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	-	-
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>10,237,849</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Restricted funds	18	15,538	12,329
Unrestricted funds	19	10,222,311	10,606,159
Pension reserve	23	-	-
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>10,237,849</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>

Approved by the Trustees  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by

D. Gibson  
D. Gibson (Nov 11, 2022 16:11 GMT)

D Gibson  
Trustee

11-Nov-2022

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	22	(1,679,647)	(1,980,290)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Investment income		213,548	406,448
Purchase of investments		(2,629,732)	(794,912)
Sale of investments		3,102,795	2,121,889
Cash movement on investments		295,495	(363,078)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(13,220)	(50,015)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		700,000	115,000
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		1,668,886	1,435,332
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(10,761)	(544,958)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,389,460	1,934,418
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		1,378,699	1,389,460
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 August		1,378,699	1,391,411
Overdraft at 31 August		-	(1,951)
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		1,378,699	1,389,460

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2021**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2019) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", effective 1 January 2019 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements have been prepared in Pound Sterling as this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and 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 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice Charities SORP 2005" which has since been withdrawn.

**Going concern**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have carefully considered the impact of COVID-19, noting the widespread disruption to normal activities and the uncertainty over the duration of the disruption. They are satisfied that given the cash position of the charity and the recovery of the investment portfolio, that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis.

The current economic conditions present increased risks for all charities. In response to such conditions, the Trustees have carefully considered these risks, included an assessment of uncertainty on future forecasts for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, and to the extent to which they might affect the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and have not identified any material uncertainties within their review. They therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

**Fixed assets**

The original sites and buildings for the Charity's four schools and various other buildings are included on the balance sheet at an aggregate nominal value of £1. Building work completed more recently has been capitalised at cost. Consequently, the balance sheet does not reflect the full value of the freehold land and buildings used by the Charity and the charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for depreciation excludes any amount in respect of the assets in question.

Property used by the academy schools is classified as a programme related social investment as any financial return obtained is not a primary reason for making the investment in that the property is held specifically to enable the schools to undertake particular activities using the property that contribute to the charitable purposes.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided to write off assets over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**Social investments**

Social investments are stated at cost less depreciation. Social investments consist of premises relating to the four academy schools.

**Operating leases payable**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

**Operating leases receivable**

Assets leased out under operating leases are included within the freehold properties and are depreciated over their useful life. Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

**Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the year end. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Pension costs**

A multi-employer defined benefit scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010. Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS17, payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for as a defined benefit scheme as detailed in note 23.

Contributions payable to the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of the pensions over the remaining service lives of employees in the scheme. The pension charge is calculated on the basis of actuarial advice.

The Charity also contributes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary and advised to the Trustees by the Scheme Administrator. This scheme is treated as a multi-employer defined benefit scheme and contributions are accounted for a defined contribution scheme.

**Educational income**

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

**Donations**

Donations receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, generally the earlier of notification or receipt.

**Legacies**

Legacies receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, when the relevant recognition criteria has been met.

**Investment income**

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt.

**Province Support Programme**

This consists substantially of pensions received by the Charity on behalf of the Christian Brothers. The corresponding living costs of Christian Brothers are included under Province Support.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Support costs have been allocated to the main charitable activities in accordance with the total direct costs of those activities. Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Expenditure on raising funds comprises investment management fees. Redundancy costs are recognised when incurred.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are income received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the Trustees.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

**Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

In applying the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions in determining the carrying amount of assets and liabilities. The Trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the outcomes may differ.

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, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Critical judgements in applying the charity's accounting policies**

The critical judgement that the Trustees' have made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is discussed below.

i) Assessing indicators of impairment for trade receivables

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the Trustees have considered both internal and external sources of information such as market conditions and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

i) Recoverability of receivables

The charity establishes a provision for receivables that are estimated to not be recoverable. When assessing recoverability the Trustees' consider factors such as the ageing of receivables, past experience of recoverability, and the credit profile of individuals.

ii) Determining residual values and useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations over future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation and maintenance programmes.

iii) Provisions

The charity provides for potential litigation payments in respect of historical abuse claims. This is done in conjunction with the charity's solicitor and is based on the individual claim facts and historical outcome of settled claims and therefore requires some judgement from management.

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**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (continued)**

(iv) Pensions

The charity operates a defined benefit pension fund. This means that the charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain former employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the associated obligation depend on a number of factors, including:

- life expectancy
- salary increases,
- assets valuations,
- discount rate as determined with reference to return on high quality corporate bonds.

The charity uses an independent actuary to help determine reasonable estimates for these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See note 23 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit pension scheme.

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and legacies	12,008	45,566
	<u>12,008</u>	<u>45,566</u>
	<u><u>12,008</u></u>	<u><u>45,566</u></u>

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment fund income	213,546	404,528
Bank interest	2	1,920
	<u>213,548</u>	<u>406,448</u>
	<u><u>213,548</u></u>	<u><u>406,448</u></u>

**5. INCOME FROM OPERATION OF THE SCHOOLS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fee income	1,412,514	2,353,482
Education related income	107,980	265,049
	<u>1,520,494</u>	<u>2,618,531</u>
	<u><u>1,520,494</u></u>	<u><u>2,618,531</u></u>

**6. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Province support programme	326,167	281,937
Sundry income	72,638	125,253
Furlough income	68,080	-
Rent receivable in respect of operating leases	(1,806)	18,868
	<u>465,079</u>	<u>426,058</u>
	<u><u>465,079</u></u>	<u><u>426,058</u></u>

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**7. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Operation of schools</b>	<b>Province support £</b>	<b>Mission support £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>
Raising funds	-	33,916	-	33,916	30,301
Staff costs (note 8)	1,320,444	194,515	-	1,514,959	2,483,749
Living allowances	-	361,608	-	361,608	222,364
Nursing homes	-	88,329	-	88,329	113,327
Governance costs (note 9)	12,422	132,034	-	144,456	72,553
Donations	-	-	55,870	55,870	1,289,868
Administration	428,932	86,806	-	515,738	671,181
Premises	144,717	-	-	144,717	237,097
Teaching goods	40,326	-	-	40,326	73,203
Services	59,567	-	-	59,567	128,725
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	2,626
Unpaid fees provision	2,118	-	-	2,118	54,525
Depreciation & impairment (note 10)	99,159	50,216	-	149,375	176,739
	<u>2,107,685</u>	<u>936,424</u>	<u>55,870</u>	<u>3,110,979</u>	<u>5,556,258</u>

**8. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Gross wages	1,200,975	1,942,061
Social security costs	102,869	164,939
Pension costs	189,326	366,749
Redundancy costs	21,789	10,000
	<u>1,514,959</u>	<u>2,483,749</u>

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Average number of employees	<u>49</u>	<u>83</u>

One employee (2020: one employee) received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year in the band £60,000 to £70,000.

During the year the charity incurred redundancy costs totalling £21,789 (2020: £10,000). Amounts outstanding in respect of redundancy costs as at 31 August 2021 total £nil (2020: £nil).

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

The Trustees consider that they and the Heads, Chairs and Governors of the four Independent Preparatory Schools along with the Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network comprise the key management of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The Trustees are members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers - English Province and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. Similarly the Boards of Governors receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Governors. Expenses relating to travel and other costs of £nil (2020: £nil) were reimbursed to no (2020: none) Trustees.

Remuneration of the Heads is reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors while the remuneration of the Schools Officer is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel in 2021 was £210,989 (2020: £291,588).

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<b>9. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditors' remuneration - audit	59,627	43,866
- non-audit	-	3,000
Other legal and professional advisory	84,829	25,687
	<u>144,456</u>	<u>72,553</u>

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>COST</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2020	6,256,104	1,506,720	321,693	8,084,517
Additions	-	13,220	-	13,220
Disposals	(518,970)	(541,575)	(186,312)	(1,246,857)
Balance as at 31 August 2021	<u>5,737,134</u>	<u>978,365</u>	<u>135,381</u>	<u>6,850,880</u>

**ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION**

Balance as at 1 September 2020	2,930,947	1,355,995	271,523	4,558,465
Charge for year	117,588	25,592	6,195	149,375
Disposals	(232,636)	(492,929)	(150,518)	(876,083)
Balance as at 31 August 2021	<u>2,815,899</u>	<u>888,658</u>	<u>127,200</u>	<u>3,831,757</u>

**NET BOOK VALUES**

As at 31 August 2021	<u>2,921,235</u>	<u>89,707</u>	<u>8,181</u>	<u>3,019,123</u>
As at 31 August 2020	<u>3,325,157</u>	<u>150,725</u>	<u>50,170</u>	<u>3,526,052</u>

The net book value at 31 August 2021 represents fixed assets used for:

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Direct charitable purposes:</b>				
Schools	1,718,365	67,029	-	1,785,394
Other support	1,202,870	22,678	8,181	1,233,729
	<u>2,921,235</u>	<u>89,707</u>	<u>8,181</u>	<u>3,019,123</u>

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**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (Continued)**

Of the assets noted above, the following represents fixed assets used for social investments:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Social investments:</b>		
Schools	845,663	878,423
	<u>845,663</u>	<u>878,423</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Market value at 31 August 2020	7,912,298	9,076,370
Less: disposals at opening book value	(3,102,795)	(2,121,889)
Add: purchases at cost	2,629,732	794,912
Foreign exchange movements	218,022	(42,576)
Cash movements	(295,495)	363,078
	<u>7,361,762</u>	<u>8,069,895</u>
Add: gains/(losses) on investment	428,133	(157,957)
	<u>7,789,895</u>	<u>7,912,298</u>
Market value at 31 August 2021	<u>7,789,895</u>	<u>7,912,298</u>

A summary of the investments held is shown below:

	<b>31 August 2021</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Unit trusts	3,774,002	7,789,895
	<u>3,774,002</u>	<u>7,789,895</u>

At 31 August 2021 the charity held investments representing over 5% of the total portfolio in the following entities:

	<b>% holding</b>
iShares MSCI World Fund	23%
Reditus Income Fund	10%
Setanta Ethical Global Equity	10%
ILIM Infrastructure Fund	9%
Blufield Income Fund	5%
Dalmore infrastructure Fund (PIP)	7%

**12. STOCK**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Uniforms	-	4,680
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,680</u>

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**13. DEBTORS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	42,910	129,013
Other debtors and prepayments	64,688	100,403
Other loan	50,000	-
	<u>157,598</u>	<u>229,416</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Other debtors	287,500	287,500
	<u>287,500</u>	<u>287,500</u>

**14. CREDITORS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	27,263	21,763
Bank overdraft	-	1,951
Tax and social security	28,914	118,212
Sundry creditors and accruals	615,722	1,048,281
Deferred income (note 15)	401,941	323,017
	<u>1,073,840</u>	<u>1,513,224</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Deferred income (note 15)	711,626	595,145
	<u>711,626</u>	<u>595,145</u>

**15. DEFERRED INCOME**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	£	£
Balance as at 1 September	918,162	1,044,743
Amount released to income	(356,758)	(436,693)
Amounts returned to parents	(19,334)	(83,738)
Amount deferred in the year	571,497	393,850
	<u>1,113,567</u>	<u>918,162</u>

Deferred income comprises payments in advance for school fees and lease rentals received in advance.

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**16. PROVISIONS**

	<b>Total £</b>
At 1 September	624,500
New provisions in the year	395,000
Increase in provisions in the year	-
Utilised during the year	(127,000)
Provisions reversed in the year	(283,000)
	<u>609,500</u>
At 31 August	<u>609,500</u>

The above provisions related to ongoing legal cases.

**17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2021 £</b>	<b>2020 £</b>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>384,512</u>	<u>146,427</u>
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,378,700</u>	<u>1,391,411</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>143,371</u>	<u>120,316</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other debtors.  
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other payables

**18. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 31.08.20 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31.08.21 £</b>
Education in Africa	10,500	-	-	-	10,500
Poor children in India	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Support of retired Brothers	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Maintenance of graves	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
School trips	1,829	3,902	(2,693)	-	3,038
	<u>12,329</u>	<u>11,902</u>	<u>(8,693)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,538</u>

The Education in Africa fund represents funds received and thus to be expended for that purpose.  
The Poor children in India fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The Support of retired Brothers fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The Maintenance of graves fund represents a donation received specifically for that purpose.  
The school trips reserve is used to cover costs of trips run as part of school operations.

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**19. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 31.08.20	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31.08.21
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
CCB Designated Fund 1	3,526,052	-	(506,929)	-	-	3,019,123
CCB Designated Fund 2	728,732	42,710	-	-	-	771,442
CCB Designated Fund 3	1,111,758	49,225	(281,322)	-	-	879,661
CCB Designated Fund 4	3,174,988	464,389	(449,937)	-	-	3,189,440
St Joseph Designated Fund	36,043	314	-	-	-	36,357
St Ambrose Designated Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>8,577,573</b>	<b>556,638</b>	<b>(1,238,188)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,896,023</b>
General Funds	2,028,586	1,642,589	(1,864,098)	840,411	(321,200)	2,326,288
Pension Reserve	-	-	-	(321,200)	321,200	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>10,606,159</b>	<b>2,199,227</b>	<b>(3,102,286)</b>	<b>519,211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,222,311</b>

The Trustees have designated funds equating to the following:

Designated Fund 1 – total of the tangible fixed assets and work in progress costs of the Charity.

Designated Fund 2 – Mission and Ministry Funding. This fund exists to support the non-educational Mission and Ministry activities of the Trust over the next decade.

Designated Fund 3 – schools/educational funding. This represents working capital needed by the schools together with a provision for the shortfall in the non-teaching staff pension scheme over the next decade.

Designated Fund 4 – amount committed for the care and welfare of the Province's members over the next decade.

St Joseph's Designated Fund – relates to funds held by the school for specific extra-curricular activities.

St Ambrose' Designated Fund – relates to funds set aside for the future replacement of the boiler and school roof.

**20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	3,019,123	-	3,019,123
Investments	7,789,895	-	7,789,895
Current assets	1,808,259	15,538	1,823,797
Creditors	(1,785,466)	-	(1,785,466)
Provisions	(609,500)	-	(609,500)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<u>10,222,311</u>	<u>15,538</u>	<u>10,237,849</u>
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	3,526,052	-	3,526,052
Investments	7,912,298	-	7,912,298
Current assets	1,900,678	12,329	1,913,007
Creditors	(2,108,369)	-	(2,108,369)
Provisions	(624,500)	-	(624,500)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<u>10,606,159</u>	<u>12,329</u>	<u>10,618,488</u>

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**21. LEASING**

At 31 August 2021 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases. All operating leases relate to the rent of equipment.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Payments due within:		
Within one year	27,919	22,394
Between two and five years	21,621	34,749
	<u>49,540</u>	<u>57,143</u>

The total operating lease payments recognised as an expense was £28,734 (2020: £41,165).

At 31 August 2021 the charity had entered into operating lease agreements acting as lessor. The following amounts are due to be received within the following time periods:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Within one year	117,600	117,600
Between two and five years	470,400	470,400
In over five years	795,600	913,200
	<u>1,383,600</u>	<u>1,501,200</u>

**22. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net expenditure for the period	(380,639)	(2,129,852)
Adjustments in respect of:		
Depreciation charges	149,375	176,738
Impairment charges	-	-
Investment income	(213,548)	(406,448)
Investment gains	(428,133)	157,597
Net profit/(loss) on disposals of fixed assets	(329,226)	2,626
Decrease in stock	4,680	-
Decrease in debtors	71,818	163,274
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(320,952)	450,799
Pension adjustment	-	(399,600)
Foreign exchange movement on investments	(218,022)	42,576
Decrease in provisions	15,000	(38,000)
	<u>(1,649,647)</u>	<u>(1,980,290)</u>

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**23. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

**Defined Benefit Pension Scheme**

The group operated a defined benefit scheme in the UK. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out at 5 April 2011 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010.

Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28 'Retirement and post-employment benefits', payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for under FRS102 Section 28 as a defined benefit scheme as detailed below.

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgement concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits, ('GMP'). The Government will need to consider this outcome in conjunction with the Government's recent consultation on GMP indexation in public sector schemes before concluding on any changes required to LGPS schemes.

**The major assumptions used by the actuary were:**

	<b>31 August 2021</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>
Rate of increase in salaries per annum	N/A	N/A
Rate of increase in inflation linked pensions in payment per annum	3.7%	3.4%
Expected rate of return on the plan assets	3.85%	3.75%
Discount rate per annum	1.7%	1.6%
Inflation assumption per annum	3.7%	3.4%
Mortality table pre-retirement	AM/F00	AM/F00
Mortality table post retirement	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)

**The assets in the scheme were:**

	<b>31 August 2021</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>
	<b>Value £'000</b>	<b>Value £'000</b>
Equities	4,207	3,586
Bonds	2,296	2,292
Cash	667	896
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fair value of assets	7,170	6,774
Present value of funded obligations	(6,577)	(6,592)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>182</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

As per section 28.22 of FRS 102 a defined benefit plan asset shall only be recognised to the extent that the Charity is able to recover the surplus. Given there is no expectation the surplus will be recovered, the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

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**23. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Analysis of gain included in Statement of Financial Activities:**

	<b>31 August 2021</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Losses/(gains) on scheme assets and obligations	182	(400)
<b>Losses/(gains) shown in Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>(400)</b>

**Reconciliation of change in defined benefit obligation:**

	<b>31 August 2021</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	6,592	6,857
Interest cost	104	115
Actuarial losses/(gains) on obligation	76	(180)
Benefits paid	(195)	(200)
Past service cost	-	-
<b>Closing defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>6,577</b>	<b>6,592</b>

**Reconciliation of change in plan assets:**

	<b>31 August 2021</b>	<b>31 August 2020</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening fair value of plan assets	6,774	6,457
Expected return on plan assets	109	111
Actuarial gains on assets	166	90
Contributions paid by the employer	316	316
Benefits paid	(195)	(200)
	<b>7,170</b>	<b>6,774</b>

**Amounts for the current and previous four periods:**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Defined benefit obligation	(6,577)	(6,592)	(6,857)	(5,946)	(6,568)
Plan assets	7,170	6,774	6,457	5,780	5,475
Surplus/(deficit)	593	182	(400)	(166)	(1,093)

Based on the current Schedule of Contributions, the company/group expects to pay contributions in the region of £316k to the scheme during the next accounting period.

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**23. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

**Teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The Charity is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The School has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the School in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) in April 2019. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £198 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19). DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2019-20 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

**24. CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE HOLDINGS**

The Trustees hold certain investments and bank accounts as custodian Trustee holdings only. The assets, totalling £175,121 at 31 August 2021 (2020: £175,104) are held securely and separately from those of the Trustees who are responsible for their safe custody. They are not therefore included in the Trust's balance sheet.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**25. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no disclosable post balance sheet events.

**26. RELATED PARTIES**

During the year the Trustees were involved with the following related party transactions:

Related party	Lease payments received	Contributions by colleges to programmes	Reimbursement of costs incurred	Donations made to the college	Outstanding at 31 August 2021	Outstanding at 31 August 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Ambrose College	26,700	-	-	-	-	-
St Anselm's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Edward's College	48,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Joseph's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-

**Related party relationships**

The four colleges named above are considered to represent related parties due to either the English Province itself or certain of its Trustees being members of the colleges, together with the English Province having the ability to appoint a number of college governors.

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS 102 as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provisions laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions.

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

During the year the Trustees, similar to the non-Trustee Christian Brothers, donated all of their earned income by perpetual gift aid to the Charity. In the year to 31 August 2021 this amounted to £61,387 (2020: £60,396). Similarly, as stated in Note 8, the Trustees have their living and personal expenses borne by the Charity and they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. No expenses relating to travel and other costs were reimbursed to Trustees in either 2021 or 2020.

The Charity has also had transactions in the year with CCB Northern Ireland Trust. During the year the Charity recharged the Northern Ireland Trust £8,506 representing expenses incurred on their behalf (2020: £8,454). At the year end the amount owed to the Charity was £16,960 (2020: £8,454). This is linked to the Charity as Br E Garvey is a Trustee of CCB Northern Ireland Trust as well as the English Trust.

The Charity also had transactions in the year with 'The Congregation of Christian Brothers European Province - Republic of Ireland' (CCBEP-ROI), a Charity registered in the Republic of Ireland. At 31 August 2021 the Charity owed £10,707 (2020: £13,558) to the CCBEP-ROI representing expenses incurred.

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**27. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Donations and legacies	25,066	20,500	45,566	14,902
Investment income	406,448	-	406,448	171,838
<b><i>Income from charitable activities</i></b>				
Operation of the schools	2,614,612	3,919	2,618,531	3,722,673
Other income	426,058	-	426,058	328,944
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3,472,184</b>	<b>24,419</b>	<b>3,496,603</b>	<b>4,238,357</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
Raising funds	30,301	-	30,301	35,452
Charitable activities	5,133,198	392,759	5,525,957	5,961,405
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b>5,163,499</b>	<b>392,759</b>	<b>5,556,258</b>	<b>5,996,857</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>(1,691,315)</b>	<b>(368,340)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>	<b>(1,758,500)</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net expenditure after transfers</b>	<b>(1,691,315)</b>	<b>(368,340)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>	<b>(1,758,500)</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	(157,597)	-	(157,597)	492,691
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	87,400	-	87,400	(482,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(1,761,512)</b>	<b>(368,340)</b>	<b>(2,129,852)</b>	<b>(1,747,809)</b>
<b><i>Reconciliation of funds</i></b>				
Total funds brought forward	12,367,671	380,669	12,748,340	14,496,149
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>10,606,159</b>	<b>12,329</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>	<b>12,748,340</b>

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2020

**TRUST PROPERTY HELD IN  
CONNECTION WITH THE  
ENGLISH PROVINCE OF  
THE CONGREGATION OF  
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**(THE ENGLISH PROVINCE  
OF THE CONGREGATION  
OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS  
TRUSTEES)**

Registered Charity No. 254312

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**Legal and Administration details:**

Full Name	Trust Property Held in Connection with the English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers
Governing Document	Amended Trust deed dated 01 July 2011
Charity Registration	Number 254312
Trustees	E. Garvey (Chair of Trustees) P.G. Gordon E. O'Brien D Sassi D Gibson (appointed 02/07/2020)
Principal Address	"Woodeaves" Wicker Lane Hale Barns Altrincham Cheshire WA15 0HF
Financial Administrator	L&P Trustee Services Ltd
Auditors	Mazars LLP One St. Peter's Square Manchester M2 3DE
Solicitors	Hill Dickinson 1 St Paul's Square Liverpool L3 9SJ
Principal Banker	HSBC 11 Stamford New Road Altrincham Cheshire WA14 1BW
Investment Advisors	Cantor Fitzgerald Ireland 75 St. Stephens Green Dublin 2

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**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees present their report, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Congregation of Christian Brothers is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. It was founded in Waterford, Ireland in 1802 by Blessed Edmund Rice. It is divided into 5 distinct Provinces across the world.

The financial statements accompanying this report are the financial statements of the charitable trust in which the assets of the Christian Brothers in England are held. The Christian Brothers in England, in canon law terms, forms part of the European Province.

**Background**

Edmund Rice was born at Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny on 1 June 1762. It was a time of political and religious oppression, when poverty and want affected the lives of the vast majority of the citizens of the land.

As there was no formal schooling available to Catholics at that time, Edmund was educated both at home and at the local 'pay school' in Moate Lane, where Catholics who could afford to pay sent their children to school. After his early schooling Edmund moved to Waterford in 1779. In Waterford, he worked for his uncle, Michael Rice, in the family business, provisioning ships calling at Waterford's busy dockside. Edmund was a good businessman, and in due course inherited the family business from his uncle. Under his careful management, it prospered greatly. He became a wealthy man.

In 1785, at the age of 23, Edmund married Mary Elliott. There is very little that history reveals about the marriage other than that it came to an abrupt end with the tragic death of his young wife in 1789. Edmund found himself the sole parent of a small child who was delicate in health, and possibly suffering from a disability. Being a strong family man, Edmund initially entrusted the care of young Mary Rice to his stepsister, Joan, in 3 Arundel Place in Waterford where he had set up house.

The next twelve years of Edmund's life were hidden years during which he coped with his sorrows, ran his business, and ensured the wellbeing of his little daughter, Mary.

In 1802, at the age of 40, Edmund took a very decisive step. He embarked on a spiritual journey that changed his life utterly. The inspiration for his decision probably came from the example of Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Sisters. Like Nano, he decided to devote the remainder of his life, and all of his resources, to the education and care of the poor. He sold his victualler's business in Waterford and arranged for his step-sister, Joan Murphy, and his handicapped daughter to move to Callan. He himself moved to a large stable in New Street, which he opened as a free school for poor Catholic boys. To help him with his project, Edmund recruited some hired help.

Edmund's decision to educate the poor was seen by his friends as both foolhardy and unwise. Some advised against it, arguing that the poor were better off ignorant. Technically, Edmund's action was also illegal because, although the political scene had changed greatly and the Act of Union had been passed in 1800, many of the Penal Laws were still on the Statute Books, and educating poor Catholics could be interpreted as a seditious act. The beginning of Edmund's educational project was tentative and inauspicious. The hired help evaporated early on, demoralised by the enormity and difficulty of the task. On his own again, Edmund trusted in God, believing that if it was God's work it would surely prevail. His faith was rewarded when two young men from his own town of Callan, Patrick Finn and Thomas Grosvenor, volunteered to join ranks with him in his new venture. The nucleus of a new religious congregation was forming, and Edmund was inspired to take the next step.

In June 1802, Edmund began to build a monastery to accommodate his small community. This was another seditious act that left him vulnerable before the Law. The monastery was soon completed,

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which he called Mount Sion. By this time, a fourth member, John Mulcahon, had joined the little group.

Word soon got around and, gradually, other volunteers came to Mount Sion offering their services freely for the realisation of Edmund's dream. This little group formed itself into a small, religious community following a well ordered way of life inspired by the Rule of the Presentation Sisters, a way of life with which Edmund was familiar through his contact with the Presentation Sisters in Waterford.

As the number of volunteers grew, so too did the capacity for service of the poor, and in due course a school was opened in Carrick-on-Suir in 1806, and another in Dungarvan towards the end of 1807. By 1808, the new movement had eight members, and Edmund believed that the time was right for formally establishing themselves as a religious congregation. He approached the Bishop of Waterford, Reverend Dr. John Power, to allow them to formalise their religious commitment by professing religious vows according to the Rule of the Presentation Sisters. Bishop Power agreed enthusiastically and on 15 August 1808, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Edmund and his seven followers made simple profession of vows in the chapel of the Presentation Sisters in Hennessy's Road, Waterford. The Bishop, on behalf of the Church, formally received their professions.

The good news of Edmund's educational crusade on behalf of the poor soon spread beyond the boundaries of the diocese of Waterford. Other bishops got to hear about it, and because the social conditions of the poor were much the same in every diocese in the country, a number of bishops expressed the wish that Edmund would open a school for the poor in their diocese also. In 1811 the Brothers opened a school in Cork; In 1812, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Dublin, the Brothers opened another school in Hanover Street on the south quays. In quick succession the following schools were opened: Cappaquin (1813), Limerick (1816), Thurles (1816), Mill Street (Dublin, 1816), Francis St. (Dublin 1820), and eventually in Preston (England 1825). Preston was the first opening outside of Ireland, and constituted a major development in the missionary outreach of the new congregation.

The poverty and deprivation with which some of these early foundations had to contend shocked even Edmund himself, and grounded him even more solidly in his trust in Divine Providence. "May the will of God be done in it (Hanover Street)", he prayed.

The spread of the new fraternity into several dioceses created huge administrative difficulties for the early Brothers. Since each community was under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary of the diocese in which it was located, the transfer of Brothers from one community to another, issues of finance, formation matters, and community policy generally all became fraught with difficulties. Edmund felt that these difficulties amounted to a serious constraint on the development of his burgeoning congregation, and he looked around for an alternative model of administration to the diocesan model which was proving so cumbersome. Very quickly, he discovered that the solution to these difficulties lay in getting papal approval for his congregation as an Apostolic Institute, a status enjoyed by the congregation of De LaSalle Brothers for many decades.

To facilitate the move away from a diocesan structure, in 1817 Edmund and his Brothers with the approval of the Archbishop of Dublin, applied to the Holy See for an Apostolic Brief. In due course, and despite some opposition, His Holiness, Pope Pius VII granted Edmund's request, and issued the formal brief establishing the Congregation as an Apostolic Institute in 1820. The Brothers formally accepted the brief on 20 January 1822. Edmund Rice was elected Superior General of the new Apostolic Institute.

Nineteen of the thirty Brothers eligible to vote were present in Mount Sion on that historic day. Of those early Brothers who did not sign, some withdrew from the congregation at that point, while others wished to retain their diocesan affiliations and consequently refused the Brief. One of these, Br. Michael Austin Riordan, became the nucleus around which the Presentation Brothers Congregation developed.

The spread of the Congregation from small beginnings in Waterford in 1802 to the worldwide organisation it is today, working in over thirty countries spread across the five continents, is a matter of history. What the story points to is the resilient nature of Edmund's founding charism, and its ability to incarnate itself in many countries, proclaiming its message of liberation through education in many languages and many cultures.

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## **OBJECTIVES**

### **Charitable Objects**

The principal object of the Charity, as set out in the amended Trust Deed, is to “advance the religious and other charitable work for the time being carried on in Great Britain or abroad by or under the direction or with the support of the Province as the Trustees with the approval of the Provincial Leader shall from time to time think fit”.

### **Aims**

The Charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation and to care for those members throughout their lives within the Congregation. These Ministries of the Brothers of the Congregation, all of which benefit numerous members of the general public, fall into the following main areas:

- Education
- Faith development
- Social and pastoral work
- International missionary work
- Care and welfare of members

Each of these is considered in turn below:

### **Education**

The Charity provides support and services for seven schools in direct or Academy Trusteeship and, without charge, to a further four associated schools in diocesan or independent Trusteeship.

#### **Criteria for Measuring Success in Edmund Rice Schools**

Measuring success for beneficiaries and the wider society in terms of numerical and scientific criteria is rather difficult for the English Region of the European Province but, being the Trustees of the four independent Preparatory schools in England and being an important part of the overall successful operations of the four Academy Colleges as well as involvement in the ethos of the four Associate schools, is important and is undertaken under two strands:

#### First Strand

Answering to outside Agencies to whom the schools are accountable and which have their own measurable standards as follows:

The **Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted)** - as it applies to the Academy Schools:

- Pupil progress - the precise measure of students across three key stages (key stage 3, 4 and 5) is done through internal and external examinations.
- Pupil attendance - set at 95%> school attendance across each academic year.
- Pupil Premium - extra targeted funding allocated to schools who have eligible students (FSM) – schools have to account for their use of funding and its measured outcomes in terms of pupil progress compared to non-recipients.
- Provision for safeguarding of children in education.

Schools undergo regular inspections during which their statistics are analysed.

**Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)** - as it applies to Preparatory schools:

Use of inspections (every six years) to measure pupil progress; provision of a series of policies / procedures in a variety of areas e.g. Finance, measurement of pupil progress, safeguarding, safe recruitment, behaviour and discipline etc.

Schools are rated according to their compliance against the standards as perceived by an inspectorate team.

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Second Strand

Answering to the standards as laid out in the 'Eight Essentials of an Edmund Rice Education' and on which many of our schools build their annual School Improvement Plan (SIP). These plans use the SMART acronym; **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely**. Each target has a clear set of smart outcomes which allow the school to perform an accurate measure of its degree of success.

The Trustees meet annually face-to-face with the senior leadership and governors of the Academies and Preparatory schools and undertake an audit of success within the school which includes both external and internal judgements.

Secondary schools

*All four of the secondary schools are now Academy Trusts and invite the Trustees to their annual AGMs in accordance with the Articles of Association:*

- St Edward's College, Liverpool
- St Ansem's College, Birkenhead
- St Ambrose College, Hale Barns
- St Joseph's College, Stoke-on-Trent

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS102 section 9, "Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements", as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provision laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions as defined by FRS102 section 9.

Primary schools

One of the independent schools, Redcourt St Anselm's Preparatory School Birkenhead, was closed in December 2019 because of the falling numbers.

There are three independent primary schools which continue in direct trusteeship, with the Congregation Trustees as registered proprietors:

- Runnymede St. Edward's Preparatory School, Liverpool
- St. Ambrose Preparatory School, Hale Barns, Altrincham
- St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Stoke-on-Trent

The results of these schools are included in these financial statements.

Associated schools:

There are four associated schools in other trusteeships and, as such, it is not appropriate to include their results in these financial statements.

- St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland (11-18) - diocesan trusteeship (Hexham and Newcastle)
- St. Boniface *RC Academy*, Plymouth (11-18) – diocesan trusteeship (Plymouth)
- St. Mary's College, Crosby (HMC independent secondary 11-18) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust
- St. Mary's College Preparatory School (independent primary) – St. Mary's College Crosby Trust

These schools continue within the family of Edmund Rice schools. All four receive in-service and immersion opportunities and ethos support, co-ordinated and delivered by the Network Support Team employed by the Congregation Trustees.

The 'difference' the Charity seeks to make through its schools operation is the provision and support of outstanding Catholic faith-based education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The aim is to achieve

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outstanding educational outcomes for boys and girls from nursery entry to the age of 18+, through the realisation of eight core principles set out by the Trustees.

The 11 schools belong to the Edmund Rice family of schools by providing, and seeking continuously to improve, an educational programme grounded on the eight principles set out in a shared vision document, *'Reaching Out - The Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education'*. These eight governing criteria define the identity and mission of the schools in England and provide a template for school development and mission evaluation. Through the implementation of these values the Charity seeks to promote individual educational, spiritual, physical, moral, social and cultural development within a Christian vision of the person and in the spirit of service established by the Founder, Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice. Each school strives to be a Christian community where the fullest talents of each pupil are developed in a spirit of wider social awareness and with commitment to social justice and community responsibility.

The **'Essentials'** are:

1. **Evangelising the modern world** - Participating in the mission of the Catholic Church by bringing the Good News of Christ to all aspects of the life of the school community, and in dialogue with youth and contemporary culture, thus fulfilling the specific calling of the Congregation of Christian Brothers: The Evangelisation of youth through the Apostolate of Christian Education
2. **Promoting the spiritual** - Nurturing a living faith, fostering Christian spirituality, educating in Gospel-based values, living beyond the material dimension .
3. **Building a Christian community** - Growing as a school community in which the quality of care and relationships is Christ-inspired, based on mutual respect, self-sacrifice, and fully human dignity.
4. **Compassion for those in need** - Showing, in the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, particular love and concern towards the weakest members of the school community and reaching out beyond the school in compassion and practical action for the poor and marginalised both locally and internationally.
5. **Concern for the whole person** - Centering the curriculum, opportunities, and challenges of the school on the balanced and integrated development of its students, and staff, across all the positive dimensions of personal growth- religious, moral, intellectual, cultural, physical, and social.
6. **Striving for excellence** - Encouraging each individual to use his or her talents to the full, whether academic, cultural, or physical, and pursuing the highest standards in all aspects of learning, teaching, and extracurricular endeavour.
7. **Education as a Christian calling** - Valuing and enabling the role and vocation of Christian teachers and support staff as a calling from God and a sharing in the Church's mission.
8. **Education for justice** - Inspiring the minds and hearts of the young to care for all God's creation and build a more just society, God's Kingdom on earth, and developing in them the talents for active citizenship and transformational leadership.

The Trustees' expanded 'Charter' document, *'Reaching Out'* continues to be the basis for in-school in-service training to further embed, apply, and develop the eight guiding principles of the charity and thereby continue to improve the learning experience and opportunities of all pupils. The Trustees ensure the implementation of the 'Eight Essentials' in the life of the schools through:

- Their role in selecting and appointing the Foundation Governors of eight of the schools, and in the selection, appointment, and continuing formation of committed Headteachers and members of the school leadership teams. This applies both to the schools in direct trusteeship and to the newly formed Academies.

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- Continuous liaison and meeting with and support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and school leadership teams
- The provision of in-service training for teachers and governors
- The active promotion of the 'Eight Essentials' as the template for school development planning, SEF (self-evaluation) and for state and diocesan inspection.

Each school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils, and fully adheres to statutory requirements and best practice in this respect and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Inspections of the state-funded schools by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education Children Services and Skills) and of the independent schools by ISIS (Independent Schools Inspectorate) report that the quality of pastoral care in our schools is outstanding, that safeguarding and anti-bullying practices are effectively in place, and that the quality of provision for social, moral, and spiritual development and for social engagement, is excellent.

Each school welcomes pupils from all backgrounds. Though the first obligation is to admit Roman Catholic pupils, the schools are open to pupils of all faiths or none and are committed, in relation to all pupils admitted, to complete inclusivity. The admissions and oversubscription criteria of the selective schools comply fully with the current statutory Admissions Code and with equal opportunity legislation.

As equal opportunity providers the schools are committed to a working environment free from any form of discrimination. The schools are committed to making reasonable adjustments to meet the needs of staff or pupils who are, or become, disabled.

In the financial year the Trustees' objectives in the educational sector included:

- Continued improvement to the delivery of the eight core values through ongoing formation and in-service training for Heads, teaching and support staff and governors.
- Continuing to expand the social outreach activities of the schools. The Schools' Team encourages each school to engage pupils in actions of charity, justice and advocacy towards the needy, especially those made poor and marginalised, in the local community and the wider world, in the spirit of Edmund Rice and engaging with the work of Edmund Rice International and Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders.
- The growth and further inspiration of the wider Edmund Rice Network in the spirit of the themes agreed at the last General Chapter of the Christian Brothers at Nairobi, Kenya in March 2014, the European Chapter in Emmaus in August 2014 and continuing Network gatherings and cluster meetings in Ireland and England on the theme of commitment to spiritual and social renewal: 'Drawn by mystery, destined for Life' within the eight calls of the General Chapter.

The work of the Trustees in the schools is co-ordinated by a full-time Schools Officer, who provides guidance and support for Heads and Governing Bodies and:

- Organises in-service training for newly qualified and established staff.
- Organises inter-school conferences for Heads, Governors and for staff.
- Assists with school development planning.
- Advises on the recruitment and appointment of senior staff.
- Offers support for the spiritual life of senior staff and governors.
- Oversees best practice and compliance with safeguarding procedures

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**Faith development**

As a Religious Congregation, faith development is of prime importance to the Trustees. All aspects of the Trust's work involve the advancement of religion whether it is in the educational, pastoral or international missionary fields. The Trust continues to assess its work and to search for better ways of carrying out this ministry in today's world.

The work in this area is mainly carried out through the schools and the local parishes where members of the Province reside. In addition, members of the Province provide prayer guidance and spiritual direction.

From the early 1990s the Congregation of Christian Brothers, as a religious institute, has made a priority of sharing its mission with the laity, laicising the leadership and governance of the schools. Beyond that, as with other religious orders, there is an expanding emphasis on the growth of "spiritual families", groups of associated lay people offered opportunities to draw spiritual and apostolic fruitfulness from the original charism. Thus the Trustees' objectives include the development of an Edmund Rice Network of lay people who wish to associate themselves with the spirituality and apostolic mission of the Brothers.

The 'Edmund Rice Network' consists of local groups of interested adults gathering for spiritual sharing and reflection and who are encouraged to involve themselves in some form of social outreach. Although the majority of Network participants are drawn from staff and parents in the schools, meetings are open to all interested adults – indeed to anyone who wishes in some way, however informally, to connect with the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice. Opportunities for spiritual conversation and faith-based social action are provided. The Network Support Team, in addition to its work with schools, seeks to build new local groups of lay associates on this model.

The Trustees fund combined school and Network services delivered by a Network Support Team employed by the Trustees and based at the Edmund Rice Centre within the Christian Brother community at "Woodeaves", Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Altrincham. The Team of three consists of:

- A Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network
- A Network Facilitator who promotes and organises involvement in Network events and opportunities; these include spiritual and adult immersion opportunities across the European and global Edmund Rice Network for teachers and support staff from the 12 schools and for parents and friends and interested adults. The Facilitator also writes the English Network magazine and develops resources for schools and the Network.
- A Youth Development Facilitator with particular responsibility for the development and expansion of three specific programmes: Developing World Immersion programmes for students; Edmund Rice Camps for disadvantaged children; the Edmund Rice Awards Scheme (extending student voluntary service), links to the work of Edmund Rice International in advocacy and social justice within our schools including the promotion of the six Priorities identified by a new initiative within the schools named *Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders* which is a Congregation wide project.

The Manchester-based Edmund Rice Network group acts as a hub for Network development involving both lay associates and Christian Brothers. Extensive use is made of the Network Centre, within the Brothers' residence in Hale Barns, which provides a base for Network meetings, for in-service sessions with teachers, support staff, governors, and pupils from the schools, and for gatherings with the wider community.

Since 2010 small spiritual conversation groups have developed in Manchester, Liverpool, the Wirral and Salford. These groups are focused on the three challenges, 'Love tenderly, walk humbly, and act justly.'

In addition, a series of sessions has been organised at the Network Centre, offering all comers the opportunity for spiritual conversation and prayerful reflection on life experience.

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**Social and pastoral work**

The following are examples of the social and pastoral work undertaken by the Edmund Rice Network and individual Brothers:

- Working in parishes, visiting, helping in catechetical programs and helping parishioners develop their spiritual lives
- Community social work with the homeless
- Advocacy and support for asylum seekers and refugees
- Various justice and peace initiatives
- Guiding prayer groups
- Working as counsellors

The aims of the Trustees in this area include:

- Enabling members of the Province to carry out meaningful social and pastoral work within the community after assessing their skills and the needs of the local area; and
- Encouraging and motivating members to work with and assist the poor, elderly and marginalised.

**International missionary work**

The charity supports the international religious and other charitable works carried on in the name of the Congregation. Members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers are working in developing countries around the world. The Brothers work to help restore the education provision in those countries. They are involved in school education, special education for handicapped children and adult literacy programmes. In addition others are working with orphans and children displaced because of war. The tracing of families of displaced children and the former child combatants is another area of vital importance.

These young people are also offered literacy, numeracy and other skills-training programmes to help them re-integrate into society and to find ways of living economic and socially independent lives.

In addition, the Trust contributed to the establishment of Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust (ERBT), an English registered charity whose purpose is to support the mission of the Congregation worldwide but especially in the majority (developing) world.

**Care and welfare of members**

Those members who earn salaries or receive pensions donate them to the Trust and therefore have no independent means of support. Many also give their services free in their various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age. Hence the work of the Trust includes both the upkeep and up-skilling / retraining of the members so that they will be able to continue in their service to the public.

In addition, the Trust must also care for the elderly members who are now themselves in need of care. These members have no resources of their own and have devoted a significant part of their lives to the mission of the Congregation.

In this regard, the aims of the Trustees over the current and forthcoming years include:

- Providing the necessary training to ensure that the members of the Trust can continue to further the mission of the Congregation.
- Enabling members to continue with their individual ministries for as long as possible.
- Reviewing the properties used as Community houses and assessing their suitability for an ageing membership. Those identified as being unsuitable will be adapted or replaced with more appropriate properties.

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- Ensuring members receive the level of care they require to provide them with the quality of life they should rightly have.

**Public benefit**

In setting objectives and planning activities, the Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The four secondary schools supported and serviced by the Trustees and the Schools Office educate over 4,000 students, are state-funded and completely non-fee paying. They are open to all with places accessed according to the admissions and oversubscription policies determined by Governing Bodies in conformity with the statutory Admissions Code and appeals procedures currently in force. All of the senior schools deliver further public benefit through the social outreach activities described elsewhere in this report and through community use of their facilities.

One of the independent preparatory schools, Redcourt St Anselm's, was closed in December 2019 because of the falling numbers.

The three primary schools are independent fee-paying schools. The Trustees and the Governing Bodies of the schools have given consideration to the supplementary public benefit guidance on advancing education and on fee-charging. Each school has its own annual statement of objectives to fulfil its mission and excellence as an Edmund Rice school. This forms part of each school's development planning. The three fee-paying primary schools are committed to maximising access by keeping fees as low as possible. Fees are kept well below the average for the independent sector nationally, below average regionally, and within the reach of families where both parents work.

Each of the primary schools continues to develop its own bursary scheme to make a number of places available to children whose parents cannot pay fees. The number of advertised bursaries available remains limited because of the unusually low level of fees and the need for due regard for other families already struggling to fund their child's education. Considerable bursary assistance is given to families who become unemployed or fall on hard times. Bursaries are awarded, subject to meeting the standard entrance requirements of the school, solely on the basis of parental means or to relieve hardship when a pupil's education or future prospects would be at risk (for example, in the case of redundancy or divorce). In addition, discounts are provided to families when they have more than one child attending the school.

Each of the fee-paying primary schools seeks to provide wider public benefit by a range of means, for example:

- Providing facilities for Edmund Rice Camps (summer holiday weeks) for disadvantaged children from inner city primary schools.
- Participation in curricular and staff development partnership links with local state schools.
- Opening facilities to community groups free of charge out of school hours e.g. adult education classes, neighbouring state schools, and sports teams.

The Edmund Rice Network delivers public benefit through its outreach work with refugees and asylum seekers in Liverpool and Greater Manchester and with marginalised youth in Salford, as described elsewhere in this report.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

### **Educational Programme / School Governance**

All four of the state-funded secondary schools are high performing Catholic schools in their authorities, oversubscribed, performing powerfully in national league tables, and highly valued regionally for the strength of their Christian-Catholic ethos. They are notable also for their contribution to local improvement partnerships and to community cohesion through outreach activities, collaboration with other schools in the maintained sector, and the community use of their facilities.

St. Joseph's College in Stoke on Trent has continued to play a substantial role in educational regeneration within a previously failing authority both as a Teaching School and running the SCITT (school centred initial teacher training) to provide new teachers for the Local Authority.

St. Edward's College, St. Ambrose College and St. Anselm's College provide collaborative partnerships within their areas.

The three independent Preparatory Schools are subject to inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

Some examples of the in-school support services and opportunities provided and funded across the 12 schools by the Trustees are:

- Joint inset with all staff from Prep schools
- Joint inset with senior schools
- Residential conference for heads and chairs
- Training with all year 7 students in each of our academies
- Induction for all new staff and Governors
- Heads' retreat
- Leadership training for senior leadership teams
- Advocacy work with both Junior and senior school pupils.

### **Year 7 induction days with the ER team – September 2019**

For the second year in a row, we delivered induction sessions for all Year 7 pupils in the Colleges, meeting our new 'Edmund's People'. We were delighted with the enthusiastic responses from schools wanting us to come back and repeat this experience.

Most students are unaware of Edmund Rice or his legacy in their school, so this is where we begin. We use quiz-style interactive sessions so that children engage with the information. We explore the global network, EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders), the essentials and social justice campaigns for this year. Students are left with welcome to the network cards and a badge with the new logo.

They also make a 'pocket pledge' to promise to 'change the world for the better'. Year Heads and RE departments are left with a pack they can continue work on should they so wish. This year, thanks to the contacts made in Peru, 14 CB schools across the globe sent 'welcome' videos for our year 7s which you can see at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=5&v=UEiO1\\_-MLVE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=UEiO1_-MLVE)

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**New Staff / Governors Induction - 25 September 2019**

We welcomed a good number to Woodeaves for our induction day. We have challenged the participants to find out some information prior to attending this time. We have also created new activities and were inspired by sharing the resources that the team from EREA have kindly shared with us.



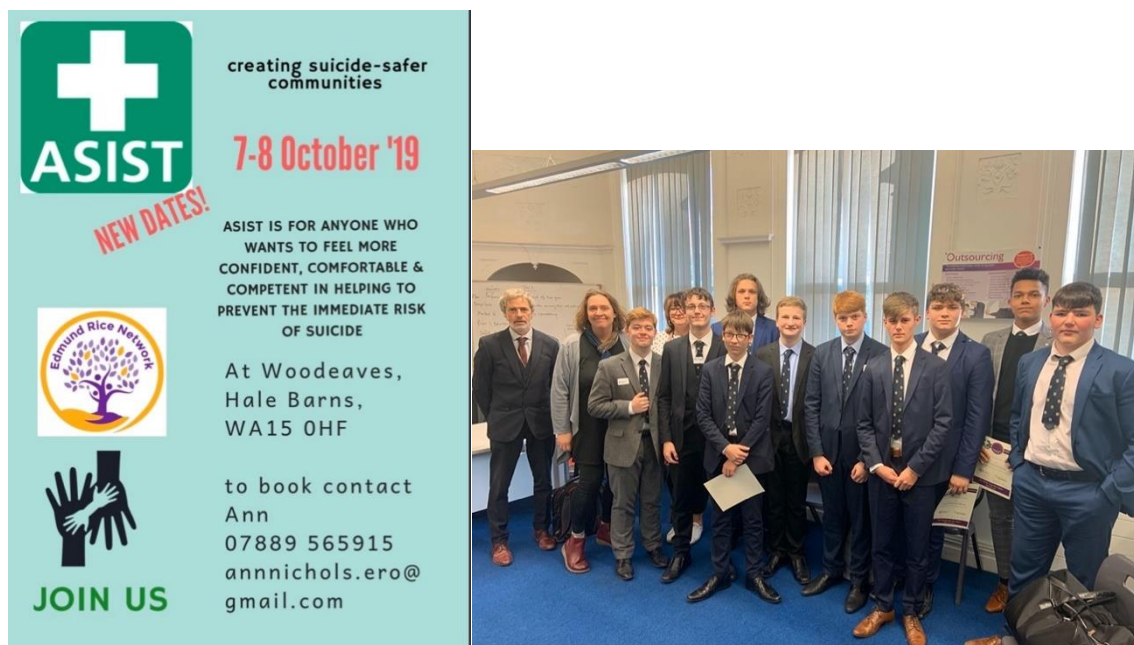
**ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)**

The Edmund Rice Office delivered an ASIST Workshop at Woodeaves on 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October. This was attended by staff from the schools as well as a significant cohort of 7 Edmund Rice Camps volunteers. It is great to see the commitment of the schools to ensuring they have trained members of staff in place to deal with the issue of suicide, and we have now had 20 English and 13 Irish ER Camps volunteers receive the training.

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St Anselm's College have been particular proactive in sending at least two staff members to each ASIST workshop. They have developed this focus into a dedicated mental health and wellbeing program in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. As part of this, the Edmund Rice Office delivered an adapted and condensed version of ASIST to 10 students and 2 staff at St Anselm's on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The success of this workshop provides an excellent basis for running similar sessions across the colleges in the future.



The image contains a promotional poster for the ASIST workshop on the left and a group photograph on the right. The poster is light blue and features a green cross logo with 'ASIST' written below it. Text on the poster includes 'creating suicide-safer communities', '7-8 October '19', 'NEW DATES!', 'ASIST IS FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FEEL MORE CONFIDENT, COMFORTABLE & COMPETENT IN HELPING TO PREVENT THE IMMEDIATE RISK OF SUICIDE', 'At Woodeaves, Hale Barns, WA15 0HF', and contact information for Ann: 'to book contact Ann 07889 565915 annnichols.ero@gmail.com'. It also features the Edmund Rice Network logo and a 'JOIN US' button. The photograph shows a group of approximately 12 people, including several young men in school uniforms and two adults, standing in a room with blue carpeting.

**ERI (Edmund Rice International) Youth Ambassadors**

2019-20 ERI Youth Ambassadors met in Liverpool on 16<sup>th</sup> October for their annual Induction Workshop. They visited the John Lennon and Yoko Ono exhibition at the Museum of Liverpool before gathering at Parr St for the workshop. They were joined by Hettie Miles from the Whitechapel Centre, to discuss plans for a youth forum around homelessness in Merseyside.

Youth Ambassadors from St Ambrose, St Mary's, St Anselm's and St Edward's attended the meeting. Those in attendance looked in detail at the setting up of the youth forum and committed to attending the introductory meeting at the Whitechapel Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> November. It was decided that this forum would coordinate campaigns and activities across all the ER schools around homelessness. Representatives of all ages from each school can attend the regular meetings, with committees formed in school to share the work between students across each year group.

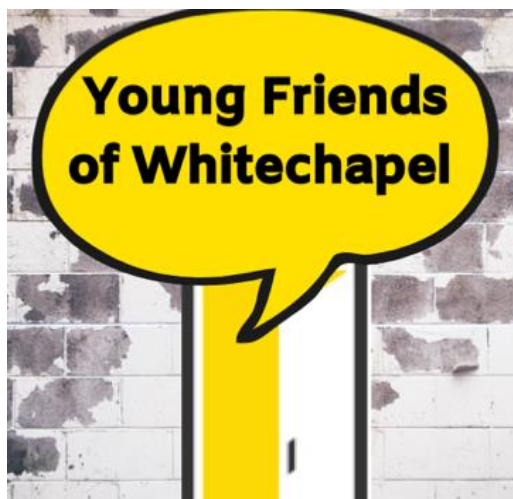
The Edmund Rice Office organised a video message from Brian Bond to the group and a message from Ciara Church, outgoing ERI Intern in Geneva and former youth Ambassador from St Joseph's.



### **Youth Homelessness Forum**

The first meeting of the youth forum for homelessness (Young Friends of Whitechapel) was held at the Whitechapel Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Facilitators from the Edmund Rice Office attended along with Hettie Miles, but the emphasis is on this forum being peer-led. Despite horrendous weather, students from St Anselm's, St Mary's and St Edward's attended. Joe Lynam attended on behalf of the Argentina Immersion Group.

A number of decisions were made at the meeting. Primarily, future meetings are planned at Parr St on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and 9<sup>th</sup> January. Thereafter, meeting will be every half term. Initial projects include forming a group to take part in the Santa Dash 5k in Liverpool on 1<sup>st</sup> December and working on a calendar of key items to be collected each month to properly meet the needs of homeless people in Liverpool. Alongside the calendar we will produce resources and a short Powerpoint to help schools raise awareness and promote the collections.



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**Belfast Domestic Immersion**

Edmund Rice Office Facilitators took 10 students from St Joseph's, St Anselm's and St Mary's to Belfast for a Domestic Immersion on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December. These annual visits, during Belfast's Homeless Awareness Week, have proven to be very successful in introducing Y12 students to some aspects of campaigning around social justice. The target group are students who would like to become ERI Youth Ambassadors in Y13.



**ER (Edmund Rice) Network Day, Dublin**

Six young people from England will attend the ER Network Day in Dublin on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Br Chris Glavey has organised accommodation for the group at Edmund Rice House through Br Colm Griffey. Focusing on the post-school youth Network, the gathering seeks to form connections between like-minded young people from across the European Province and explore ways of sharing best practice across ministries such as advocacy, Edmund Rice Camps and Immersion.

It is wonderful that these young people, all of who have shown tangible commitment to the Network, are able to take part in what will surely be an enriching experience for them. They come from a wide range of backgrounds, schools, ministries and activities so will no doubt have plenty to contribute to conversations with their peers from Ireland. The English group includes Didier Muller (former ERI Intern), Martin McGovern (ER Camps), Aimee Rothwell (Advocacy Week and ER Camps), Sam Quayle (ER Camps and Argentina Immersion), Joe Lynam (ER Camps, Argentina Immersion and Project Carrick), and Emphany McLaughlin (Advocacy Week).

**Salford Edmund Rice Volunteers (S.E.R.V.)**

Based in Salford (one of the 3% most deprived localities in the UK), the project consists of a community of Christian Brothers, a Youth Work coordinator (funded by the Christian Brothers) and a number of Edmund Rice volunteers. The Network Team, based at Woodeaves, provide support throughout the Year.

We see our centre a place of hospitality and welcome in the community and we certainly make full use of it!

On Mondays, we run a drop-in and advice centre for those seeking asylum and refugees, managed by a team of wonderful volunteers some of which are able to translate Arabic and Farsi. Here we help in our clients to engage with the Home Office, the Job Centre, accessing medical services, housing associations, etc.

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On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, English classes are held, attended by about 30 students, and a clinic for writing and understanding travel documents. Our students and clients come from Iran, Iraq, Pakistan Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kuwait. Many of them, especially the Iranians, are highly educated. Presently, in our classes we have a University lecturer, a lawyer, a journalist, a PE teacher, and many other University graduates. On the other hand, we also have some students who have had never the opportunity of receiving a formal education. This means that our lessons have to be very flexible, practical and highly differentiated. Recently, it has been wonderful to see a big influx of female students who enjoy the safe environment and company at the centre.

Apart from the classes and drop-in, our centre is also used for a variety of social and religious events. On Sunday, the Eritrean community hold their worship here, we have had events for the bereaved, the newlyweds, celebrations to mark the birth of children, family reunions and international cultural celebrations.

For us, it a truly special, sacred and privileged place to work; where people care, respect and trust one another irrespective of nationality, religion or status, we are often referred to as their 'second home'. On a daily basis we encounter a range of emotions; from great sadness - when someone gets overcome by loneliness or gets bad news from home or when someone is refused refugee status through to great joy when refugee status is granted or if a client is reunited with their family.

SERV has a close connection with our Colleges, especially St Ambrose (Manchester) and St. Joseph's (Stoke -on -Trent) and also with the local Catholic school, All Hallows. St Joseph's College annually organises a Christmas party for the refugees and their families. Recently, we had a very worthwhile visit from St Joseph's College rugby team when some of our clients shared their stories and the students were able to get to know more about the refugees and ask them questions.

Current and former pupils from Loreto Grammar School, St. Ambrose College and St Joseph's College together with local volunteers organise a wonderful Edmund Rice camp for the young people of Salford every year in July.

Our Christian Brother's community is a place of welcome and hospitality for those who wish to call to see us. Many of our refugee friends do just that and love to bring us their traditional dishes to share, we have enjoyed the most delicious fare from all over the globe. The resilience, kindness and generosity that these people are able to show, even when they are experiencing the most traumatic and desperate times never ceases to amaze us. Some of our Muslim friends, keen to become an integral part of the local community and to be with us spiritually, have also started to attend our Sunday mass at St. Sebastian's.

#### SERV and the ER Office

Following a call for help SERV assisted a woman who attends their services. She was an asylum seeker who had been homeless for some time and whose story we had been aware of, was given accommodation but it was completely empty.

With help from Warrington Churches we arranged to get all the essentials for her flat - furniture, bedding, kitchen equipment etc. The Facilitators from the Edmund Rice Office hired a van and helped move all the items into her flat in Salford just 2 days later. Her life is transformed now she has the safety and security of her own home. It was great to be able to help out and amazing to get the help from Warrington Churches.

Both centres continue to be supported by our schools and they write updates for the network magazine.



### **The Eight Essentials Review**

Along with the help of Mark Davis from Shoreline Consultancy, we have been looking at the Eight Essentials as used in all our schools.

It was felt that the time was right to examine the structure and wording and to research their use in our schools.

We had an initial meeting, just the office team, to brainstorm ideas on wording. We looked at the 'essentials' as they are used as fundamental elements across the world network where they are 'charters', 'touchstones' etc. We also used a document created at the Leadership Symposium in Peru that overlaid all of our global wording around charism and mission to enlighten further our new examination.

It was universally felt that we needed to consult a wider audience from our schools and to ensure any changes are worthwhile and future-proof.

We then held a consultative meeting with key staff from both Colleges and Preps and Network members. Again, people were shown the global wording around the 'essentials' and consulted about the day to day use in schools. We split into groups to look at; the essentials for primary schools, the teachings of Edmund Rice, updated versions, rewording.

This was all shared and as a result we have sent a further consultative document out to schools. We will be looking at all our feedback before any decisions around change happen. The general feeling seems to be that slightly fewer statements would be better and that wording may need to be updated / clarified.

### **EREBB Update (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders)**

Since meeting Network leaders from across the globe in Peru, The Edmund Rice Office has been working on closer international links becoming available to our students and staff.

There is a very active What's App group where ideas are shared. At an on-line follow up meeting 'post Peru' in October, many members of the group highlighted the English office's promotion and sharing of projects as being the best outcome from the symposium.

For example, many areas of the global Network have joined our #ERplasticfree campaign; Peru, South Africa, Ireland, Zimbabwe, India.

Our social justice action plan has been adopted by the South African schools. Classes have been

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linked up, a student exchange between St Aiden's and Uruguay, with more possibilities for student exchanges in Australia and one for staff to Argentina.



Our Sixth Form Students are working closely with the Ard Scoil na Mara (Tramore) Peace and Justice / ERI group on the environmental campaign around getting rid of single use plastics and creating a more sustainable approach to life.



Head and Chairs (Schools) Conference

We gathered at the Hayes Centre for our annual conference.

'Love one another as I have loved you' was the title of this year's Schools Conference.

Our opening session was inspired by the Leadership Symposium in Peru where Ann was lucky enough to meet and hear from Fr Gustavo Gutierrez, one of the founders of Liberation Theology; we examined the preferential option for the poor and how we, in our privileged catholic schools can fulfil our call to mission to be a church of and for the poor. An inspiring video message created just for our conference by Dr Wayne Tinsey, Director of Edmund Rice Education Australia further provoked discussion about our roles in Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition and our responsibilities to the poor and marginalised. We were blessed to have throughout the conference and as our closing speaker, Br Julian

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McDonald from the Congregation Leadership Team whose presence was greatly appreciated.

Other guests included alumni and students from the Cork Life Centre who had travelled to Argentina this summer on the new immersion programme. This new venture, organised by Guillermo Bullrich, ERI regional advocacy coordinator for South America of Defensorio Edmundo Rice concluded with a house building project with the NGO 'Techo' (us.techo.org) whose mission is to bring together volunteers and families living in poverty across South America; transforming slums into thriving communities. It is true to say that the experience transformed not only the lives of the families whose house was built that week but also of our volunteers who contributed to the build and got to know the community they were helping.

We were delighted that 4 senior pupils (in-coming and outgoing ERI Youth Ambassadors) from Ard Scoil na Mara in Tramore also joined us to present their work to date on curbing plastic pollution. Their campaign 'SOS Save our Seas' was begun last year, working with local schools and the wider community to reduce plastic pollution and raise awareness of environmental degradation. The quality of their presentation and the passion with which they spoke were outstanding. The girls have joined with our Colleges to lead on the social justice action campaign #ERplasticfree in a bid to have all our schools be free of single use plastics by the end of this year. Promotion of the Social Justice Action plan amongst all our schools was well received and we had up the exhibition that we have shared from the Westcourt Centre in Belfast 'Still Somebody' highlighting the situation faced by homeless people. Schools will be showing this exhibition throughout the year as part of their commitment to social justice. We challenged our school leaders to go back to school with the message: 'Dare to Love them All.'



Edmund Rice Senior Schools Debating Competition

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November sees the second year of the Debating Competition between schools.

St Anselm's have been great at taking on the host role this year. Very interesting motions are in place such as:

- 'We should impose severe penalties to deter crime'
- 'Voting in a General Election should be compulsory for all adults'
- 'The sale of single use plastics should be banned'
- 'Proper regulation of social media is essential to a healthy society'.

We have St Ambrose, St Josephs and St Anselm's competing.

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**Network Gathering – Poetry day with Br Brian Monaghan**

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 20 friends of the Network gathered at Woodeaves for our highly-valued Poetry day. This has become an annual event enjoyed by Brothers and friends. The theme this year was New Beginnings with Brian offering input with some carefully chosen poems. Some people had brought poems to contribute. Much deep conversation was shared and feelings evoked by the thoughtfully put together day. We enjoyed a full day together sharing lunch too.

**EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders) European Region**

Our aims continue to be collaboration, co-ordination of activities and promoting a unified model of Edmund rice education.

To this end we are working on:

- A European school pledge to incorporate the ideas of all three regions; process to be started in England and then shared with Ireland.
- Continued promotion of the Social Justice Action Plan
- Jointly the 3 areas have produced the Immersion handbook for schools and an accompanying student version
- Ideas around student leadership opportunities / certificates to be shared
- A showcase of social justice work in schools to be organised
- School clusters to be formed across the 3 areas. First one launched – Ardscoil na Mara, CBGS St Mary's Belfast and St Anselm's College, Birkenhead.
- Shared 'street retreat' opportunity – Liverpool and Manchester 27-28 Feb. Staff to be invited from 3 regions.
- Sharing of Feast day activities via the hashtag #ERFeastDay
- Another European EREBB Congress at Emmaus, Oct 15 2020.

**Charism Committee – ROE (Religious Orders in Education)**

Members of the ROE charism group met at Woodeaves. A member of the Edmund Rice Office sits on this committee. We share ideas on how Charism can be promoted across our Network and in schools via:

- Induction sessions/ weekends
- Awards systems (in house or across the network)
- Celebrations
- Leadership training
- Conferences at different levels including refresher sessions

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- Resources to use in school from youngest years up
- Accountability for mission processes (e.g: Loreto 2 day visit every 4 years, emphasis on affirmation)
- How do you know people are living the mission? Framework for Evaluation
- Setting up a trust: a framework for living the mission
- Embedding mission in all policies etc (whether this be the Values of ER or Goals of SH education etc)
- Involvement of associates and friends (De La Mennais)
- Presence of mission at Open Evenings and events (leaflets/banners, magazines)
- International Links: such as (Edmund Rice Beyond Borders) <http://www.erebb.org/>

We agreed to share resources such as programmes, presentations etc. – this is done and is successfully used.

It was also agreed to plan a Charism Conference for Headteachers / senior leaders from across our networks of schools. The exact aims/format/date are to be decided at a future meeting.

**ASIST Workshop – Stoke-on-Trent schools**

Facilitators from the Edmund Rice Office delivered an ASIST Suicide Intervention Skills training workshop to 3 schools from Stoke on 17 – 18 January at St Joseph’s College. The course continues to be extremely popular with schools as it is so necessary in their drive to increase awareness and support for students struggling with mental health issues. Teachers are reporting to us that they use the skills learned regularly and that it is really beneficial. ‘safe area’ posters were produced and given out at the schools’ request. We had staff from St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, Birches Head Academy and St Joseph’s College.

**ERI Youth Ambassadors – Geneva**

This visit to ERI and the United Nations slightly differed as we met and worked with the schools from the North of Ireland and the South. It was a great and powerful experience for them to share.



**Project Carrick**

“Joe”, our first Carrick intern had the most amazing experience in Oceania. We are so grateful to Br Damien Price, ERMO and the wider Australian Network including ministries and schools for the excellent preparation they did in setting this up.

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In Joe's words..

*“Project Carrick has been an incredibly fulfilling experience so far. Edmund Rice Camps in Tasmania showed that there are like-minded people on the other side of the world trying to make a difference. The leadership conference with the house captains from EREA schools captivated the cultural divisions and the need to recognise the importance of aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. I'm currently in Brisbane, working at Gregory terrace in the campus ministry team. The school has put social justice programmes at the forefront and working on some of them has inspired me to try and implement some of their ideas into the network back in England and Ireland. Finally, I would just like to say that the brothers have taken care of me so well and finally meeting Damien Price and hearing the amazing words spoke about him was amazing. I am looking forward to the next 2 months in Oceania and hopefully I will be able to continue learning and working in Edmund Rice ministries.”*

We have shared Joe's experiences via social media to raise the profile of this opportunity.



Communities Meetings

The Edmund Rice Office continue to meet with Brothers communities and invited friends and past staff members every 2 – 3 months. We have been using the generative listening process to share experiences and offer mutual support.



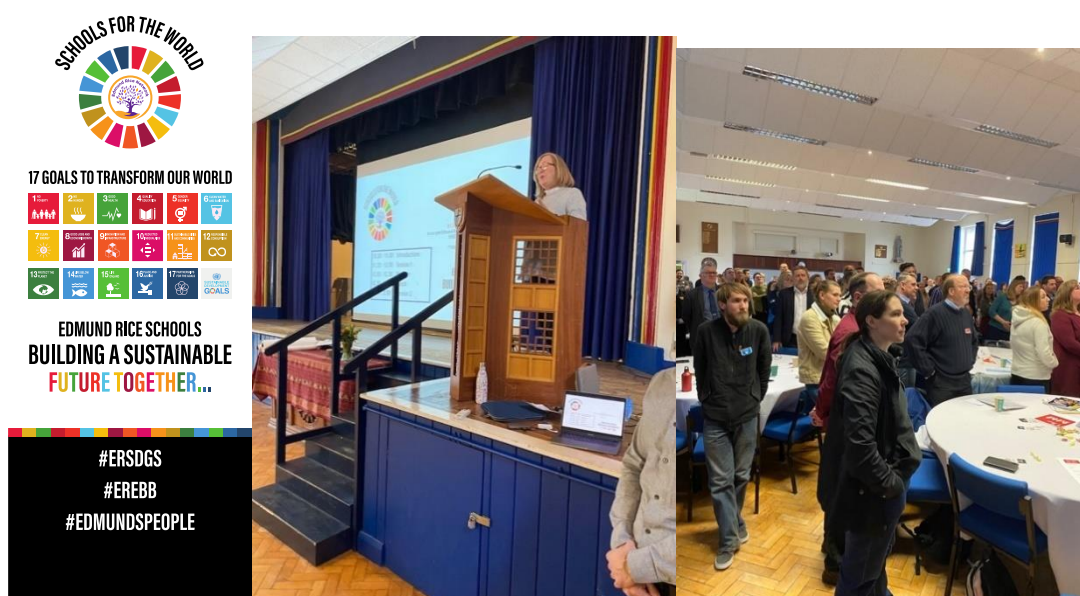
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## Joint Secondary Schools INSET Day ‘Schools for the World’

On February 7<sup>th</sup> we held our joint INSET day for College staff. It was themed to pre-empt the EREBB Congress in May ‘Schools for the World’ understanding and implementing the sustainable development goals. Following our opening reflection, Edmund Rice Office Facilitators urged schools to ‘leave no-one behind’ and be brave in their approach to sustainability. There was an overview of what the goals are and the staff divided into 17 goals, all working on how to teach and implement that goal in their communities. We were joined by 2 members of the Liverpool World Centre who delivered a session on the best ways to achieve the goals. All feedback has been sent out to schools as a ‘sustainability plan’. We will revisit their plans when we have planned INSET time with staff in schools. It is hoped to establish a member of the governing body as a ‘sustainability’ governor and to invite those, along with a senior staff member to further training with us at Woodeaves.

3 Leaders who have been involved with EREBB gave an overview of what they hope to bring back from the Congress in South Africa. We commissioned Headteachers to lead on sustainability, making it a lived reality in Edmund Rice schools. After lunch we began the process of the Edmund Rice school pledge. Good progress was made. We will follow this up with a guided session on the summer term to finalise the pledge. On the following Friday we delivered a separate session to St Edward’s staff who could not join us.

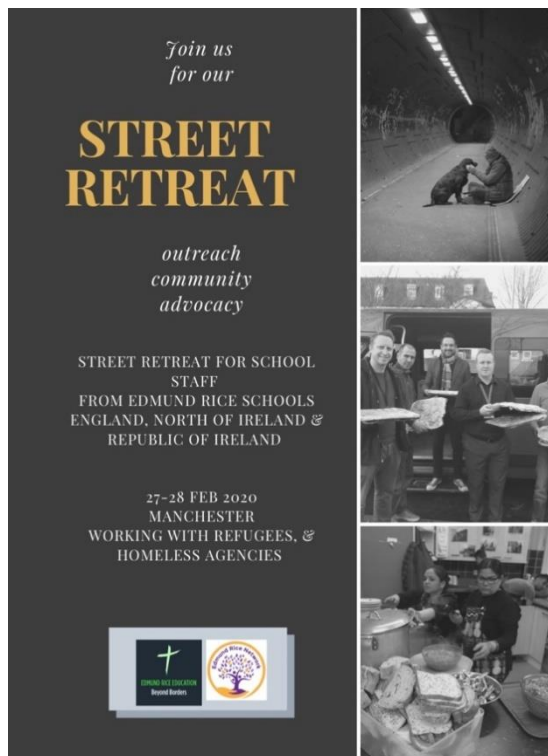


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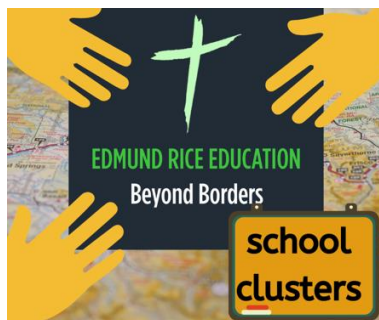
Street Retreat

On 27-28 February, 10 staff from Irish and English Edmund Rice schools came together in Liverpool and Manchester on our first Street Retreat. Inspired by experiences like the domestic immersion to Belfast, we wanted to offer real hands-on work with the outreach agencies and ministries in our Network. Some of the staff were familiar with the locations of ALM, Whitechapel centre and SERV (Salford Edmund Rice Volunteers) through our presentations or fundraising but they won't have spent any time helping and visiting these places. The evenings consisted of reflection followed by baking cakes and creating some ESOL activities in preparation for visiting SERV on Friday. As well as the Brothers, Wilf Hammond gave the participants a handle on case work for processing asylum claims. This was a very worthwhile 2 days of shared experience across the Network.



School Clusters

This has been set up in the European Province with one cluster. Students worked together in Geneva, 2 of the 3 are at the Street Retreat. We will encourage further collaboration. The Edmund Rice Office will be creating clusters following a process of engagement with school leaders in South Africa.

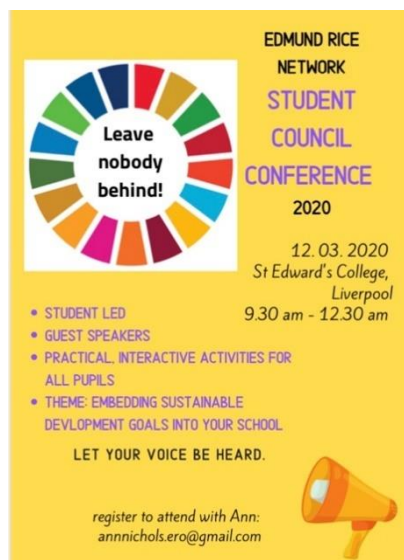


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### School Council Conferences

March saw our Senior School Council year a separate Conference is being organised for secondaries and prep schools. School Councils already had tasks sent out to them in preparation.



### Charism and being an Edmund Rice School: New Headteacher

An Edmund Rice Office Facilitator visited the new Headteacher at St Joseph's Prep school to explore all the ways that the Edmund Rice office can and does support schools to truly be the living, breathing spirit of Blessed Edmund in all they do. As St Joseph's Prep has been such a flagship school in terms of its commitment to the charism and to the Network, time was taken to explore all the possibilities of embedding the charism into school life for both pupils and staff. Also, to get to know him better and explain opportunities, annual events etc.

### UN75 Conversation

'From January 2020, the UN75 campaign will initiate dialogues in all settings – from classrooms to boardrooms, parliaments to village halls. The aim is to reach as many people as possible: to listen to their hopes and fears; and learn from their ideas and experiences. Anybody can join the global conversation - physically or online, individually or as a group, in every region of the world.'

The Edmund Rice Office will be facilitating some of these conversations – e.g. with the communities group, with ERI groups, with the Street Retreat participants. We also hope to organise one with our senior students, the Director of the Whitechapel centre and Asylum Link. As the findings go straight to the UN, it is a great way for our contributions for creating a better world for everyone to be heard. We have begun the process by having all St Edward's staff complete the online survey style conversation. We will facilitate a more formal discussion under the UN75 banner with staff from across the international Network at Congress in South Africa.

### COVID19 – Virtual Events following Lockdown

#### **EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders)**

Since lock-down began it seems that the international network began to flourish more than it had before; many leaders from across schools, ethos development coordinators and others communicated more often and more deeply – reaching out in a time of global need. The Edmund Rice Office became a member of an EREBB Leadership Taskforce that met every three weeks in a Covid-19 global response. They planned a series of webinars, discussed the situations in our schools and countries as well as planned the restructuring of the EREBB website. The series of webinars have been very successful and

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very important to many people in the network through this time of strain and uncertainty. There were on average 150 people online during these. They looked at the state of our educational world, spirituality in times of Covid, using on-line learning platforms, sport during Covid. We encouraged and promoted the webinars in our region via social media and messages. We enlisted some of our English school staff to present at these international settings. These sessions are recorded and available on the resource pages of the EREBB website. <https://www.erebb.org/our-initiatives/>

The Edmund Rice Office has contributed many global initiatives, courses and resources for both students and teachers that have been uploaded onto the EREBB main site.

We also translated the Edmund Rice celebration event resources, that we held on-line, into Spanish.

Along with Alberto Olivero, Principal of Cardinal Newman College in Buenos Aires we produced a video for Easter so that the Network would receive it on Easter Sunday, keeping us connected and making this Easter <https://youtu.be/TSdoILK2mIM>

Sunday, one like no other, a little more special. We got as many people from the Network to send an Easter greeting and put together as a video.



### **Connecting Classrooms and the British Council**

Through our connections with Liverpool world Centre and Global education, We learned about the Connecting Classrooms project run by the British Council. This project encourages engagement with the SDGs, global connections and international collaboration between schools. We approached our English schools; engaged 3 of them and via the international network reached out to global schools. The result is we have 5 schools engaged in a year-long mutual collaboration based on the theme of zero waste. St Vincent's in Asinsol was not accepted by the British Council but will still collaborate. We are overseeing the various projects and helping the staff and pupils to work together. We have 2 more panning meetings this term and will begin actual collaborative working after Christmas. The application process was very complex and time consuming, and it wonderful to report that in July that we received news that our application was successful. We have received the full grant (lead school St Anselm's holds the money) to be able to fund projects with a view to teacher exchange visits in the summer.

### **Social Media / website**

It was vital to be able to keep up with schools via social media during lock down. We shared good ideas and stories of hope across the UI, Ireland and international network from all our schools. We now have a very large following who share our posts on twitter, Instagram and Facebook. News items continue to be shared via our website.

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**ROE (Religious Orders in Education) Charism group**

The Edmund Rice Office continues to be involved with the Charism group of ROE. Since lockdown there have been many the Zoom meetings for the group. The Edmund Rice Office manages the documentation and the minutes and she is currently working on the production of the ROE website with a working group of 4. [www.roe-uk.co.uk](http://www.roe-uk.co.uk)

With the Charism group we are organising a Leadership Symposium around Charism. It is aimed at new Headteachers and SLT members in our schools and will explore Charism in schools in a series of webinars and a 1-day conference.

We produced the materials for the conference and has been planning the structure. An Edmund Rice Office Facilitator also presented at ROE's AGM on the Charism group's work to date.

**Communities**

We have continued to meet during lockdown via Zoom. All involved are glad to be able to connect; ER office staff, friends and brothers have continued to share current situations and challenges as well as some reflective resources via these meetings. It has been so good to continue to talk with one another.

**New Staff Induction**

In July we ran a two-session online induction into the ER network for new staff and governors. We had 28 participants and excellent feedback. We covered; Edmund's life and legacy, held discussions on the Eight Essentials, network opportunities and had Br Ger O'Connell as a live guest. Staff also heard, via pre-recorded 'talking heads' videos from a diverse range of network members from around the world who spoke to them about their role and the Charism. We interspersed the two sessions with an evening wellness workshop that was kindly hosted by Aiveen Mulally from Marino. The feedback was excellent – staff felt 'inspired' and said it was 'a brilliant insight into the Network'. We were pleased with how smoothly it ran and how great the response was. We are running a similar session for new staff and governors in late September.

**Year 7 Induction**

We have developed the Year 7 induction sessions into an on-line session accompanied by resources that can be used in class. Each class will be 'visited' online by the team where we will ensure they are familiar with Edmund's story and legacy, that they feel welcomed into the global network and that now they have a responsibility, as 'Edmund's people' to look outside their windows and make a change for the better, in the world. We have dates on-going this term to see all year 7 pupils in all our schools.

**SERV / Asylum Link**

We have been doing what we can to help with asylum seekers and refugee, it is so difficult during lockdown. The Edmund Rice Office has sourced lots of baby paraphernalia for a client who has recently had a baby and met, with a member of SERV, with a female asylum seeker who is living in a refuge due to domestic violence. The Edmund Rice Office has worked with the schools, her children attend, to ensure they are supported and have sourced free uniform and school equipment for them. She continues to support this woman.

**ER Camps**

The Network of ER Camps Leaders continued to meet at least on a weekly basis via Zoom over the summer. The efforts of many of the senior leaders to retain some sense of the ER Camps during lockdown was rewarded with their nomination of ER Charism Awards.

Through our regular meetings, the group were collaboratively able to:

- send t-shirts and cards to children who would have attended Camp this summer
- distribute activity and resource packs to families
- send written personal letters to children from previous Camps

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- send communications to parents explaining the current situation as regards Camp
- launch an online forum, ClassDojo, for sharing resources, activities, messages, reflections and songs with families

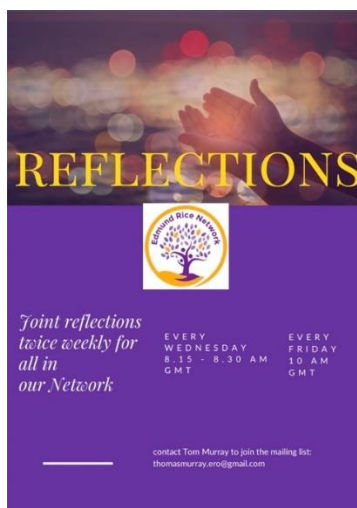
In addition, we were able to offer some training to volunteers in the form of weekly workshops around wellbeing, behaviour management etc, and weekly reflections to stimulate the leaders during lockdown.



**Network Reflections**

A Facilitator from the Edmund Rice Office has delivered weekly Network Reflection every Friday morning throughout the lockdown period. These are to continue as people return to work and school. The reflections have been very well-received and have attracted participants from across the global Network.

In addition, we are running an extra session every week on Wednesday mornings at 08.15 so that school staff for whom the Friday morning sessions don't suit are able to attend. The reflections can also be used as a useful resource and are available in Powerpoint form.



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**Student Leadership Certificate**

Following a series of planning meetings during the lockdown period, the materials for the Student Leadership Certificate are complete. This is a collaborative project with ERST (Edmund Rice Schools Trust, an Irish Charity), the Westcourt Centre (part of the Christian Brothers in Northern Ireland) and ERSTNI (a Northern Ireland Charity). The course has been outlined in previous reports, and includes for Themes, each containing 3 Topics, which groups or individuals can work through. Each Theme offers Assessment requirements.

The Edmund Rice Office have put the materials into Powerpoint and plan to offer the course to schools. Each Topic can be facilitated by Facilitators remotely by Zoom or can be delivered by staff using the Powerpoints and instructions.

**Social and Pastoral work**

Throughout the year, the Edmund Rice Network and the Brothers continued to carry out various forms of social and pastoral work in order to fulfil their individual Ministries. This work enables the charity to reach out to those in need within society generally and benefit a significant number of people.

Within the Network 'religion' is understood as requiring committed social outreach as well as faith-sharing and prayer. The principal current expression of this commitment is outreach in the spirit of Edmund Rice, to the 'strangers in our midst'. Network members continue to provide weekly through-the-year support to:

- AsylumLink Merseyside, working with a Christian Brother at the St. Anne's Centre in Overbury Street, Liverpool. The focus here is on befriending, accompaniment, and the (free) provision of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.
- SERV – Edmund Rice volunteers working with asylum seekers and refugees as well as hosting a youth club and an Edmund Rice Camp.
- Homelessness organisations such as the Whitechapel Centre in Liverpool involving students in awareness raising and fundraising.

**International missionary work**

The Trust donated £27,700 to an NGO group called Dalit. This group works in Bangladesh to improve the social economic condition and the social position of socially excluded individuals and groups through education, health and income generating activities. This funding helped facilitate the education of 5,000 young people, from pre-primary to higher education level. This project has been visited by a member of the Congregation. In addition, ongoing reports of the work undertaken were received during the year and a full financial report with supporting documents was received at year end.

**Positive Impact Investing**

We view our investment portfolio as part of our Mission. Alongside our active Ministries, we also seek to bring about change through our investment portfolios.

**The Portfolio and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

All of the investments within the Portfolio contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were developed and adopted by all member states of the United Nations to help achieve "...a more sustainable future for all". They represent a call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and promote prosperity and people's wellbeing by 2030. They integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Achieving the SDGs on a global basis requires collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society and citizens alike. The Portfolio plays a role in the realisation of the goals.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Source: UN (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>)

The Sustainable Development Goals are also closely aligned with the charitable objectives of religious organisations. Since the publication of *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis has made a strong commitment to sustainable development. His appeal to “...every person living on this planet for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet”, provides a firm ethical foundation for actions that need to be taken urgently at all levels. Pope Francis’ speech ahead of the United Nations General Assembly’s formal adoption of the 17 SDGs gave further support to the ambitious and transformational vision of the goals.

A comprehensive Ethical and Positive Impact policy ensures the Portfolio remains consistent with the ethos of the charity. The Portfolio currently excludes companies involved in the production of weapons, tobacco, alcohol, pornography, and activities such as gambling and embryonic stem cell research. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria complements the screening as it improves the overall ESG risk exposure of the Portfolio. In particular, climate risk is addressed through the exclusion of fossil fuel companies and a focus to reduce the carbon footprint of the Portfolio through investment in such areas as renewable energy and forestry.

### Environmental Impact

#### **Overall Carbon Footprint**

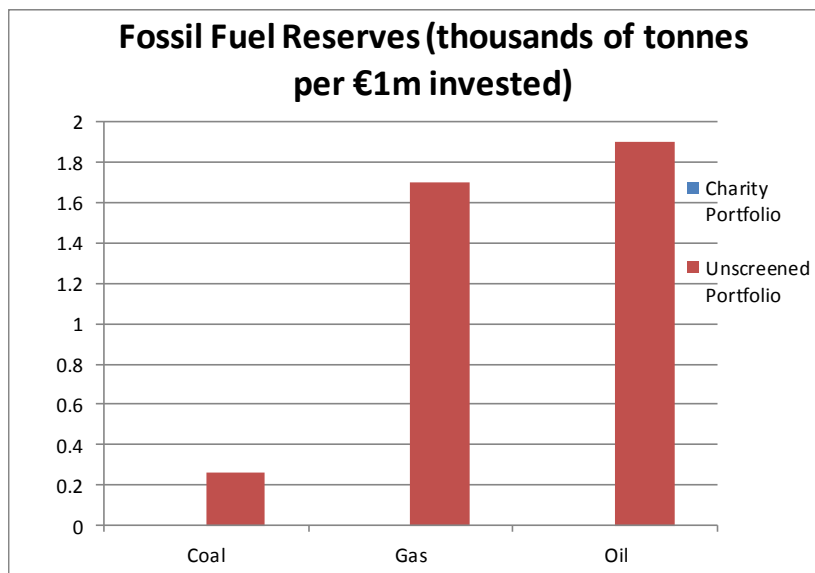
The Portfolio includes a number of carbon sink-type investments, which sequester or draw carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere. Forestry in particular is a very effective carbon sink, as trees absorb carbon dioxide as part of their growing process. Therefore, the presence of two forestry funds means that any carbon emissions from the majority of the portfolio are effectively offset entirely by the forestry investments.

Put another way, this means that the Portfolio in aggregate will sequester (withdraw) -415 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e from the atmosphere per annum while an unscreened portfolio of the same size would produce c. 1,039 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. We believe that these extremely strong carbon emission statistics makes the Portfolio very much part of the solution to climate change, rather than part of the problem.

#### **Fossil Fuel Reserves**

Following the Trustees decision to entirely divest from fossil fuels in early 2017, the Portfolio now holds no fossil fuel reserves. This section addresses the level of exposure that the portfolio has to companies owning thermal coal, oil gas reserves and other unconventional sources of reserves such as oil sands, shale oil, and shale gas. Many of these reserves may not be useable if we are to keep the targeted temperature rise (as a result of global warming) below 2 degrees Celsius. This risk is referred to as stranded asset risks and it is addressed through avoidance of companies holding fossil fuel reserves.

Hence, in addition to the impact, not holding these assets reduces the financial risk within the portfolio. The chart below shows the fossil fuel reserves held by investments within the Portfolio across the major fossil fuels in comparison to an unscreened portfolio. As the chart shows, the Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves at all. This is a key metric to ensure that the Portfolio is not supporting fossil fuel activities that are diametrically opposed to the impact the Portfolio is trying to achieve elsewhere in the investments, namely promoting transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy.



**Chart showing the Charity's Investment Portfolio holds no fossil fuel reserves (no blue bar)**

### **Renewable Energy**

Increasing the proportion of renewable energy in the world is a critical aspect of achieving sustainable development. The world remains highly dependent on fossil fuels for energy. Roughly 72% of energy demand is currently met by fossil fuels, a quarter by renewable sources and the remainder by nuclear generation. Given the importance of promoting renewable energy sources to address climate change, any investor interested in impact investing generally seeks a high level of renewable power output from their investment portfolio.

Within the Portfolio, renewable power is produced by a number of investments based in Ireland, Europe and the developing world. We note some of the key impact metrics of these funds below:

#### **Solar Income Fund**

Fund holding approximately 40 solar plants in Europe

- Energy for 150,000 houses per annum
- Avoids emissions of 162,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum
- 480,000 MWh of renewable power per annum



Source: Fund Annual Report 2019

### Renewable Energy Fund

Renewable energy fund holding both onshore and offshore projects

- Energy for 300,000 houses per annum
- Avoids emissions of 400,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum
- 1,000,000 MWh of renewable power per annum



Source: Fund Annual Report 2019

The benefit of generating renewable power can be measured by how much fossil fuel power (and resulting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) it replaces. In 2020, the Portfolio avoided the release of almost 7,812 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e. This is equivalent to:

- Removing 1,687 cars from the roads every year
- 17,967 barrels of oil saved
- 6,507 acres of pine forest absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> for one year
- 859 round trips around the world by one typical passenger car (travelling at the equator).

In terms of renewable energy produced, the Portfolio produced 7,213 MWh in 2020, enough energy to power approx. 2,243 homes.

### **Environmental Protection and Carbon Sequestration**

Environmental protection is a critical aspect of sustainability addressed by the Portfolio. The forestry investments within the Portfolio have a mandate to:

- Produce sustainable timber;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere;
- Protect natural resources and biodiversity of the area, in order to minimise the effect on the biodiversity and general environmental welfare.



The managers of the forestry investments in the portfolio keep a register of sightings of protected species to ensure the conservation of biodiversity. Some examples of the species in the register include red squirrels, harriers, badgers, hawks, pine martins and hares. This process allows them to track the impact of forestry operations on the biodiversity and animal life within their forests, and ensures that negative effects on wildlife are kept to a minimum

## Social Impact

### **Job Creation**

The Portfolio has a number of funds which provide job creation through their economic activity. The equity funds provide capital to companies that employ anywhere between hundreds to hundreds of thousands, and therefore in theory the provision of additional capital by investors will enable these companies to create jobs. However, as these funds generally invest in well-established businesses in the developed world, the job creation impact from additional investment is low. The new jobs created by an unscreened portfolio of the same size as the Portfolio would only create 8 new jobs, while the Portfolio helped create around 63 direct jobs in 2020.

One of the Venture Capital Funds in the Portfolio, which invests in small technology companies in Ireland, has strong job creation statistics, as small growing companies tend to have larger requirements for new recruits. However, funds that operate in the developing world, such as the Microfinance Fund in the Portfolio, tend to produce far higher job creation, and comprise the majority of the additional jobs produced for the portfolio as a whole.

### **Financial Inclusion**

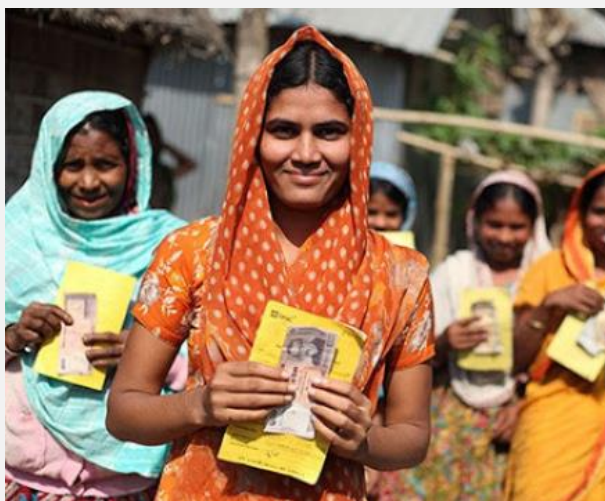
Closely allied to job creation, the provision of financial services has been proven to be one of the most successful methods of reducing poverty. Financial inclusion is crucial for sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs. However, according to the latest available data, 1.7 billion adults across the globe have no access to a bank account, 56% of them are women, and 59% of these women do not participate in their country's labour force. Globally, unbanked adults of both genders are generally among the poorer and younger sectors of the population.

Within the Portfolio, the Microfinance Fund has a clear mandate to address financial inclusion as it lends money to communities that are underserved by mainstream financial institutions in the developing world. Moreover, it has a strong focus on lending to women, particular single mothers. Below are a number of key impacts from the Fund:

#### **Microfinance Fund**

Provides lending to small credit unions in the developing world, who lend to micro-entrepreneurs

- 25,700,000 entrepreneurs served by microcredit institutions that have received fund lending
- 1,333,000 entrepreneurs served directly by the fund
- 77% of borrowers are female
- Excellent source of poverty alleviation and economic development



Source: Fund Annual Report 2019

### **Vita Green Impact Investment**

The Vita Green Impact investment is committed to social impact and climate action, delivering sustainable water and energy services in rural African communities. It contributes to the delivery of the SDGs with a particular focus on SDGs 3, 5, 6 and 7 relating to improved health and gender equality as well as access to water and energy. Below is a summary of Vita positive impacts:

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**Vita Green Impact Investment**

<b>Impact Area</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Livelihoods impacted (number of people)	219,000 impacted by access to clean water 91,000 impacted by improved cookstoves
Litres of clean water	602 million litres / annum
Hours saved collecting firewood & water	9.1 million hours / annum
Money saved purchasing firewood	€178,000 / annum
Tonnes of CO2 being reduced	808,000 / annum
Incidence of water borne disease	40% reduction

Source: Vita Impact Report 2019

**Care and Welfare of Members**

Throughout the year the charity continued to assist members of the Congregation in their charitable and religious work. A number of members were cared for in the Cowper Care nursing care home in Ireland whilst the charity enabled other members to work and volunteer in their chosen ministry. In addition, the charity welcomes members from other Provinces to stay in England to allow them to study and acquire skills they can take back to their own Provinces.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Results for the year**

During the year, total incoming resources amounted to £3.5m (2019: £4.2m). Of the incoming resources, a total of £2.6m (2019: £3.7m) related to the fees receivable and other income of the charity's independent schools, with other incoming resources accounting for £0.9m (2019: £0.5m). Investment income and interest receivable totalled £406k (2019: £172k), while donations and gifts totalled £46k (2019: £15k).

Resources expended totalled £5.6m (2019: £6.0m), with 99% (2019: 99%) being expended on direct charitable activities. Expenditure in the charity's independent schools totalled £3.3m (2019: £3.8m). Expenditure incurred on maintaining the members of the Congregation and supporting them in their ministry and pastoral work amounted to £1.7m (2019: £1.5m). Mission support costs totalled £429k (2019: £309k) in the year. Expenditure on governance during the year was well controlled and amounted to £122k (2019: £639k).

Net outgoing resources for the year, therefore, were £2,060k (2019: £1,758k). Investment losses of £158k (2019: gains of £493k) offset by £87k actuarial gains (2019: £482k actuarial losses) on the defined benefit pension scheme resulted in a net movement in funds for the year of £2,130k (2019: £1,747k).

**Investment policy**

The charity's investments are held in unitised funds, the purpose of which is to provide investment income to promote the charitable objectives of the Trust, and to provide capital growth in the reserves over the medium term. They are invested with a conservative investment strategy. The objectives for the investments are as follows:

- To provide an annual income for the charity
- To preserve the capital value of the portfolio in real terms
- To generate a real return, depending on conditions in financial markets, after the initial two objectives have been met
- To achieve the above targets while utilising the charity's stated ethical investment policy

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The majority of the investment funds are under the management of Setanta Asset Management, and Unigestion. The Charity also has a holding of Alternative Investments which are held via the Ethical Investment Initiative Ltd and the Alternative Investments Ltd. As noted above, all funds have an ethical investment screen; they exclude companies that fall foul of certain ethical criteria, and in most cases favour stocks that provide positive benefits to society; these funds only hold investments that are compatible with the Charity's religious ethos.

**Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the total funds of the charity amounted to £10.6m (2019: £12.7m). Of this, £3.5m (2019: £3.8m) is represented by properties and other tangible fixed assets essential for the running of the charity. The Trustees have designated another £5.1m to provide for school and education funding, mission and ministry works and the care and welfare of the members. Details are given in note 19 of these Financial Statements. The Trustees review and reassess these designations on an on-going basis.

Un-designated or general funds amount to £2.0m (2019: £3.3m). This equates to approximately 5 months (2019: 7 months) of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that, given the nature of the charity's work and its commitments, the level of free reserves should be approximately equal to between 4 and 8 months' expenditure.

**FUTURE PLANS**

The charity intends to continue to review its spending plans and needs and to make every effort to manage its existing assets as efficiently as possible in order to generate the income necessary to achieve the charity aims.

The Trustees intend to meet the following objectives:

- Through the work of the Network Support Team to continuously improve the implementation of the 'Essential Elements of Edmund Rice Education' through the provision of support services, including support for Governing Bodies, Heads, and leadership teams and in-service training for teachers and support staff.
- To continue to investigate the options around the transition to a lay trust or trusts for Edmund Rice Schools to continue to develop links with Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders, the International network of Catholic schools educating young people from many different faiths and cultures.
- To continue to extend the Developing World Immersion Programme. This will include the investigation of immersion opportunities in other Developing World Countries and the drawing in of schools yet to send groups on immersion.
- To continue to develop links with the work of 'Edmund Rice International', the Christian Brother non-governmental organisation based in Geneva and working within the United Nations on issues of global social justice, in particular the rights of the child.
- To continue to grow the wider Edmund Rice Network in England, using school communities as the core but establishing local groups open to the wider community and providing opportunities for faith-sharing, spiritual reflection, and action for social justice (in particular support for refugees and asylum seekers).
- To continue to grow the Edmund Rice Network specifically for the age group 18-25, continuing the connection with ex-students of the schools, providing them with further opportunities for immersion, service, social engagement, and reflection both in Britain and Ireland and in the Developing World.

## **COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

On the 11th March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. While this is a constantly changing situation, the Trustees are monitoring and following the advice from the Government and the National Health Service. This would include, for example, the need for social distancing and so the Communities in England and the Edmund Rice Office in Woodeaves is temporarily closed. In addition, meetings are taking place by conference or video calls. However, the largest financial impact to date has been to the Charity's investment portfolio. Financial markets, and stock markets in particular, have fallen significantly since the announcement however, they did begin to recover by the financial year end. The Trustees and the Investment Advisors continue to monitor the situation.

The Trustees note that of the total income received by the Charity for the financial year 2020, Covid has impacted the income from the operation of schools however, there are sources of income that continue to be received by the charity despite the effects of Covid19. These sources of income that continue to be received after year end are Teaching and Old Aged Pensions and investment income from the Charities investments which are continuing to pay investment income.

The Trustees are satisfied that they can continue to operate as a going concern despite the current challenges facing the Charity sector, the country and the world.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

In terms of Civil Law, the charity is governed by an Amended Trust Deed dated 27 February 2015. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (charity number 254312).

In accordance with the Amended Trust Deed "the number of Trustees shall not be less than four including any ex-officio Trustee and shall never be more than eight and on the occurrence of any vacancy reducing the Trustees to less than four a new Trustee or new Trustees shall be appointed as soon as possible in order to restore the number of Trustees to four at the least"

In terms of Canon Law, the Congregation is governed at an international level by the Congregation Leader and the Leadership Team in Rome. They are elected every six years at a General Chapter. The European Province is governed by the Province Leader and the Province Leadership Team, who are nominated by members of the European Province. Members of the Province Leadership Team are chosen for their personal qualities, their understanding and experience of the ministries of the Brothers and to secure a good skills mix among them. Each Community in the Province is governed by a local leader, who is appointed by the Province Leader. The Province Leadership Team visits each Community at least once a year and throughout the year there is a system of accountability operational throughout the Province to help to ensure that the Province Leadership Team are aware of the progress and development of the ministries carried out in the name of the Province.

### **Appointment and Training of Trustees**

The statutory power of appointing new or additional Trustees is vested in the Province Leader. Trustees are chosen for their personal qualities and their understanding and experience of the ministries throughout the Province. To date, the Trustees have been members of the European Province of the Congregation and as such they will already be well informed about the Mission, governing documents and strategic planning and history of the charity.

When a new Trustee is appointed they are given a copy of the Amended Trust Deed and the Charity Commission's booklets for Trustees. In addition, they meet with the existing Trustees during which they are given an outline of their responsibilities and continuing obligations.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Charity and its activities. When necessary, they seek advice from the charity's professional advisors.

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The day to day running of the Academies is delegated to Governing Bodies appointed according to the statutory framework and instruments of government for state-funded schools. The day to day running of the Independent Preparatory Schools is delegated to Governing Bodies, in accordance with the instruments of government provided by the Trustees. The Trustees receive regular financial and educational reports from all the Boards of Governors and Headteachers of the schools.

The Independent School Governors and the Foundation Governors in the state-funded schools are appointed by the Trustees for a given term of years and may be re-appointed when their term ends.

**Risk Management**

The Trustees undertake a full risk assessment on an annual basis and monitor progress on a annual basis. This process is supported by the Finance Office, who works closely with the Trustees in this area. The Trustees identified the following as being the principal risks to which the Charity is exposed:

**Governance and management:** considers the efficiency of the Trustee body. Risks considered include a lack of planning, a Trustee body which lacked sufficient skills or appropriate decision making procedures. Such risks could include a lack of training / induction or poor stewardship of resources – human, financial and property. The Trustees have addressed these risks by operating both annual and longer term plans, holding regular Trustee meetings which include the monitoring of actual performance against these plans, having meaningful induction / handover for incoming Trustees, attending Trustee training days, seeking third party advice as required, etc.

**Financial:** considers the financial capacity of the Charity and ensuring it has the available financial resources to continue to carry out its activities both now and in the years ahead. This incorporates the management of the operating (day-to-day) position, capital or building requirements and the returns earned on the Charity's investment portfolios. These risks are mitigated in a variety of ways, including budgeting, the setting of an investment strategy / investment objectives that consider diversity, prudence and liquidity criteria, regular financial and investment reporting against budget, cash-flow planning, the appointment of Stewardship advisors where necessary.

**Age Profile:** considers the ageing population of the members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers – English Province which is supported by the Charity. This incorporates the review of the training, skillsets and energy of the Brothers in a leadership, Ministry or Mission role. The risks are mitigated through training, Trustee visitation to each Community, regular Province meetings, healthcare reviews and rotating Brothers in different roles and the sharing of knowledge. The Trustees invest time, energy and allocate resources to ensure the continuing of the Charity both now and into the future. This can also include the involvement of lay people to support the Brothers and the involvement of professional advisors in relation to stewardship advice to the Trustees.

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**Statement of Trustees' responsibilities**

The Trustees of the Charity are required to prepare for each financial year accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the source and application of resources of the Charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity, and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the statutory requirements. The Trustees are conscious of their responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and each Trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a Trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

**Auditors**

A resolution to re-appoint Mazars LLP as auditors to the Charity will be proposed to the forthcoming Trustee Meeting.

Approved by the Trustees on Dec 13, 2021  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by:

  
E I garvey (Dec 13, 2021 15:59 GMT)

E Garvey  
Trustee

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (continued)**

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 38, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF THE CONGREGATION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS (continued)**

**Use of the audit report**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and regulations made or having effect thereunder. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mazars LLP  
Mazars LLP (Dec 17, 2021 17:33 GMT)

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3 Wellington Place  
Leeds  
LS1 4AP  
Date: Dec 17, 2021

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
For the year ended 31 August 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>INCOME:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	25,066	20,500	45,566	14,902
Investment income	4	406,448	-	406,448	171,838
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>					
Operation of the schools	5	2,614,612	3,919	2,618,531	3,722,673
Other income	6	426,058	-	426,058	328,944
<b>Total income</b>		<b>3,472,184</b>	<b>24,419</b>	<b>3,496,603</b>	<b>4,238,357</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
	7				
Raising funds		30,301	-	30,301	35,452
Charitable activities		5,133,198	392,759	5,525,957	5,961,405
<b>Total expenditure:</b>		<b>5,163,499</b>	<b>392,759</b>	<b>5,556,258</b>	<b>5,996,857</b>
<b>Net expenditure</b>		<b>(1,691,315)</b>	<b>(368,340)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>	<b>(1,758,500)</b>
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-	-
<b>Net expenditure after transfers</b>		<b>(1,691,315)</b>	<b>(368,340)</b>	<b>(2,059,655)</b>	<b>(1,758,500)</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	11	(157,597)	-	(157,597)	492,691
<b>Other recognised (losses)/gains</b>					
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	23	87,400	-	87,400	(482,000)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(1,761,512)</b>	<b>(368,340)</b>	<b>(2,129,852)</b>	<b>(1,747,809)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		12,367,671	380,669	12,748,340	14,496,149
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>10,606,159</b>	<b>12,329</b>	<b>10,618,488</b>	<b>12,748,340</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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**BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	10	3,526,052	3,770,401
Investments	11	7,912,298	9,076,370
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>11,438,350</b>	<b>12,846,771</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock	12	4,680	4,680
Debtors falling due within one year	13	229,416	367,690
Debtors falling due in more than one year	13	287,500	312,500
Cash at bank and in hand		1,391,411	1,934,418
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,913,007</b>	<b>2,619,288</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(1,513,224)	(1,051,978)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>399,783</b>	<b>1,567,310</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>11,838,133</b>	<b>14,414,081</b>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(595,145)	(603,641)
<b>PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES</b>	16	(624,500)	(662,500)
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>		<b>10,618,488</b>	<b>13,147,940</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	23	-	(399,600)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>10,618,488</b>	<b>12,748,340</b>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Restricted funds	18	12,329	380,669
Unrestricted funds	19	10,606,159	12,767,271
Pension reserve	23	-	(399,600)
<b>TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS</b>		<b>10,618,488</b>	<b>12,748,340</b>

Approved by the Trustees Dec 13, 2021  
and signed as authorised on their behalf by

  
E I garvey (Dec 13, 2021 15:59 GMT)

E Garvey  
Trustee

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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	22	(2,261,372)	(1,530,105)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Investment income		406,528	171,838
Purchase of investments		(794,912)	(32,835)
Sale of investments		2,121,889	15,854
Cash movement on investments		32,918	708,378
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(50,009)	(45,243)
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>		1,716,414	817,992
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(544,958)	(712,113)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,934,418	2,646,531
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		1,389,460	1,934,418
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 August		1,391,411	1,934,418
Overdraft at 31 August		(1,951)	-
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		1,389,460	1,934,418

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 31 August 2020**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", effective 1 January 2015 and applicable Accounting Standards in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The English Province of the Congregation of Christian Brothers Trustees meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements have been prepared in Pound Sterling as this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and 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 Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice Charities SORP 2005" which has since been withdrawn.

**Going concern**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have carefully considered the impact of COVID-19, noting the widespread disruption to normal activities and the uncertainty over the duration of the disruption. They are satisfied that given the cash position of the charity and the recovery of the investment portfolio, that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on a going concern basis.

The current economic conditions present increased risks for all charities. In response to such conditions, the Trustees have carefully considered these risks, included an assessment of uncertainty on future forecasts for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing the financial statements, and to the extent to which they might affect the preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and have not identified any material uncertainties within their review. They therefore continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

**Fixed assets**

The original sites and buildings for the Charity's four schools and various other buildings are included on the balance sheet at an aggregate nominal value of £1. Building work completed more recently has been capitalised at cost. Consequently, the balance sheet does not reflect the full value of the freehold land and buildings used by the Charity and the charge to the Statement of Financial Activities for depreciation excludes any amount in respect of the assets in question.

Property used by the academy schools is classified as a programme related social investment as any financial return obtained is not a primary reason for making the investment in that the property is held specifically to enable the schools to undertake particular activities using the property that contribute to the charitable purposes.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided to write off assets over their useful economic lives at the following rates:

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Fixtures, fittings and office equipment	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

**Social investments**

Social investments are stated at cost less depreciation. Social investments consist of premises relating to the four academy schools.

**Operating leases payable**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

**Operating leases receivable**

Assets leased out under operating leases are included within the freehold properties and are depreciated over their useful life. Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

**Investments**

Investments are included at market value at the year end. Gains and losses on disposal and revaluation of investments are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Stocks**

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**Foreign currency**

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

**Pension costs**

A multi-employer defined benefit scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010. Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS17, payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for as a defined benefit scheme as detailed in note 23.

Contributions payable to the Charity's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities so as to spread the cost of the pensions over the remaining service lives of employees in the scheme. The pension charge is calculated on the basis of actuarial advice.

The Charity also contributes to the Teachers' Pension Scheme at rates set by the Scheme Actuary and advised to the Trustees by the Scheme Administrator. This scheme is treated as a multi-employer defined benefit scheme and contributions are accounted for a defined contribution scheme.

**Educational income**

Fees receivable are accounted for in the period in which the service is provided.

**Donations**

Donations receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, generally the earlier of notification or receipt.

**Legacies**

Legacies receivable are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate, when the relevant recognition criteria has been met.

**Investment income**

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the Charity is entitled to receipt.

**Province Support Programme**

This consists substantially of pensions received by the Charity on behalf of the Christian Brothers. The corresponding living costs of Christian Brothers are included under Province Support.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. Support costs have been allocated to the main charitable activities in accordance with the total direct costs of those activities. Governance costs include those costs incurred in the governance of the Charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. Expenditure on raising funds comprises investment management fees. Redundancy costs are recognised when incurred.

**Fund accounting**

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes laid down by the donor. Expenditure for those purposes is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are income received or generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the Charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds which have been designated for specific purposes by the Trustees.

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**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value, and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

In applying the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions in determining the carrying amount of assets and liabilities. The Trustees' judgements, estimates and assumptions are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made, and are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the outcomes may differ.

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, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods, if the revision affects both current and future periods.

**Critical judgements in applying the charity's accounting policies**

The critical judgement that the Trustees' have made in the process of applying the charity's accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is discussed below.

i) Assessing indicators of impairment for trade receivables

In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment of assets, the Trustees have considered both internal and external sources of information such as market conditions and experience of recoverability. There have been no indicators of impairments identified during the current financial year.

**Key sources of estimation uncertainty**

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

i) Recoverability of receivables

The charity establishes a provision for receivables that are estimated to not be recoverable. When assessing recoverability the Trustees' consider factors such as the ageing of receivables, past experience of recoverability, and the credit profile of individuals.

ii) Determining residual values and useful economic lives of property, plant and equipment

The charity depreciates tangible assets over their estimated useful lives. The estimation of the useful lives of assets is based on historic performance as well as expectations over future use and therefore requires estimates and assumptions to be applied by management. The actual lives of these assets can vary depending on a variety of factors, including technological innovation and maintenance programmes.

iii) Provisions

The charity provides for potential litigation payments in respect of historical abuse claims. This is done in conjunction with the charity's solicitor and is based on the individual claim facts and historical outcome of settled claims and therefore requires some judgement from management.

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**2. JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING THE CHARITY'S ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY (continued)**

(iv) Pensions

The charity operates a defined benefit pension fund. This means that the charity has an obligation to pay pension benefits to certain former employees. The cost of these benefits and the present value of the associated obligation depend on a number of factors, including:

- life expectancy
- salary increases,
- assets valuations,
- discount rate as determined with reference to return on high quality corporate bonds.

The charity uses an independent actuary to help determine reasonable estimates for these factors in determining the net pension obligation in the balance sheet. The assumptions reflect historical experience and current trends. See note 23 for the disclosures relating to the defined benefit pension scheme.

**3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and legacies	45,566	14,902
	<u>45,566</u>	<u>14,902</u>

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Investment fund income	404,528	169,511
Bank interest	1,920	2,327
	<u>406,448</u>	<u>171,838</u>

**5. INCOME FROM OPERATION OF THE SCHOOLS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fee income	2,353,482	3,227,265
Education related income	265,049	495,408
	<u>2,618,531</u>	<u>3,722,673</u>

**6. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Province support programme	281,937	280,580
Sundry income	125,253	29,548
Rent receivable in respect of operating leases	18,868	18,816
	<u>426,058</u>	<u>328,944</u>

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**7. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	<b>Operation of schools</b>	<b>Province support £</b>	<b>Mission support £</b>	<b>Total 2020 £</b>	<b>Total 2019 £</b>
Raising funds	-	30,301	-	30,301	35,452
Staff costs (note 8)	2,281,158	202,591	-	2,483,749	3,162,279
Living allowances	-	222,364	-	222,364	488,746
Nursing homes	-	113,327	-	113,327	135,684
Governance costs (note 9)	16,020	56,533	-	72,553	639,406
Donations	-	-	1,289,868	1,289,868	309,435
Administration	336,339	334,842	-	671,181	301,303
Premises	237,097	-	-	237,097	316,304
Teaching goods	73,203	-	-	73,203	125,780
Services	128,725	-	-	128,725	261,528
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	2,626	-	2,626	-
Unpaid fees provision	54,525	-	-	54,525	-
Depreciation & impairment (note 10)	124,222	52,517	-	176,739	220,940
	<u>3,251,289</u>	<u>1,015,101</u>	<u>1,289,868</u>	<u>5,556,258</u>	<u>5,996,857</u>

**8. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Gross wages	1,942,060	2,460,002
Social security costs	164,939	201,192
Pension costs	366,749	282,765
Redundancy costs	10,000	218,320
	<u>2,483,748</u>	<u>3,162,279</u>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Average number of employees	<u>83</u>	<u>112</u>

One employee (2019: two employees) received remuneration in excess of £60,000 in the year in the band £60,000 to £70,000.

During the year the charity incurred redundancy costs totalling £10,000 (2019: £218,320). Amounts outstanding in respect of redundancy costs as at 31 August 2020 total £nil (2019: £173,566).

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

The Trustees consider that they and the Heads, Chairs and Governors of the four Independent Preparatory Schools along with the Schools Officer and Coordinator of the Edmund Rice Network comprise the key management of the Charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. The Trustees are members of the Congregation of Christian Brothers - English Province and whilst their living and personal expenses are borne by the charity they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. Similarly the Boards of Governors receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Governors. Expenses relating to travel and other costs of £nil (2019: £nil) were reimbursed to no (2019: none) Trustees.

Remuneration of the Heads is reviewed regularly by the Board of Governors while the remuneration of the Schools Officer is reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel in 2020 was £245,983 (2019: £342,425).

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<b>9. GOVERNANCE COSTS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Auditors' remuneration - audit	43,866	60,263
- non-audit	-	-
Other legal and professional advisory	28,687	579,143
	<u>72,553</u>	<u>639,406</u>

**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>COST</b>				
Balance as at 1 September 2019	6,381,104	1,491,352	295,345	8,167,801
Additions	-	15,368	34,647	50,015
Disposals	(125,000)	-	(8,299)	(133,299)
Balance as at 31 August 2020	<u>6,256,104</u>	<u>1,506,720</u>	<u>321,693</u>	<u>8,084,517</u>

**ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION**

Balance as at 1 September 2019	2,820,873	1,318,368	258,159	4,397,400
Charge for year	120,074	37,627	19,037	176,738
Disposals	(10,000)	-	(5,673)	(15,673)
Balance as at 31 August 2020	<u>2,930,947</u>	<u>1,355,995</u>	<u>271,523</u>	<u>4,558,465</u>

**NET BOOK VALUES**

As at 31 August 2020	<u>3,325,157</u>	<u>150,725</u>	<u>50,170</u>	<u>3,526,052</u>
As at 31 August 2019	<u>3,560,231</u>	<u>172,984</u>	<u>37,186</u>	<u>3,770,401</u>

The net book value at 31 August 2020 represents fixed assets used for:

	<b>Freehold Land &amp; Buildings £</b>	<b>Fixtures, Fittings &amp; Equipment £</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Direct charitable purposes:</b>				
Schools	2,082,420	134,296	35,788	2,252,504
Other support	1,242,737	16,429	14,382	1,273,548
	<u>3,325,157</u>	<u>150,725</u>	<u>50,170</u>	<u>3,526,052</u>

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**10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (Continued)**

Of the assets noted above, the following represents fixed assets used for social investments:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Social investments:</b>		
Schools	878,423	911,184
	<u>911,184</u>	<u>911,184</u>

**11. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Investments:</b>		
Market value at 31 August 2019	9,076,370	9,247,304
Less: disposals at opening book value	(2,121,889)	(15,854)
Add: purchases at cost	794,912	32,835
Foreign exchange movements	(42,576)	27,772
Cash movements	363,078	(708,378)
	<u>8,069,895</u>	<u>8,583,679</u>
Add: gains on investment	(157,597)	492,691
	<u>7,912,298</u>	<u>9,076,370</u>

A summary of the investments held is shown below:

	<b>31 August 2020</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Market</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Value</b>
		<b>£</b>
Unit trusts	4,324,538	7,912,298
	<u>4,324,538</u>	<u>7,912,298</u>

At 31 August 2020 the charity held investments representing over 5% of the total portfolio in the following entities:

	<b>% holding</b>
Unigestion SRI world equity fund	24%
Reditus income fund	10%
Setanta Global Equity	7%
SSGA Property	6%
ILIM Infrastructure Fund	9%
Blufield Income Fund	5%
Dalmore infrastucture Fund (PIP)	7%

**12. STOCK**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Uniforms	4,680	4,680

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**13. DEBTORS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade debtors	129,013	230,214
Other debtors and prepayments	100,403	137,476
Other loan	-	-
	<u>229,416</u>	<u>367,690</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Other debtors	287,500	312,500
	<u>287,500</u>	<u>312,500</u>

**14. CREDITORS**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Due within one year:</b>		
Trade creditors	21,763	43,526
Bank overdraft	1,951	-
Tax and social security	118,212	51,475
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,048,281	515,875
Deferred income (note 15)	323,017	441,102
	<u>1,513,224</u>	<u>1,051,978</u>
<b>Due after one year:</b>		
Deferred income (note 15)	595,145	603,641
	<u>595,145</u>	<u>603,641</u>

**15. DEFERRED INCOME**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance as at 1 September 2019	1,044,743	1,079,801
Amount released to income	(436,693)	(478,659)
Amounts returned to parents	(83,738)	(30,134)
Amount deferred in the year	393,850	473,735
	<u>918,162</u>	<u>1,044,743</u>

Deferred income comprises payments in advance for school fees and lease rentals received in advance.

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**16. PROVISIONS**

	<b>Total £</b>
At 1 September 2019	662,500
New provisions in the year	317,500
Increase in provisions in the year	-
Provisions reversed in the year	(305,500)
	<hr/>
At 31 August 2020	<u>624,500</u>

The above provisions related to ongoing legal cases.

**17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2020 £</b>	<b>2019 £</b>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>146,427</u>	<u>249,894</u>
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,391,411</u>	<u>1,934,418</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>120,316</u>	<u>132,042</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other debtors.  
 Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other payables

**18. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

	<b>Balance at 31.08.19 £</b>	<b>Income Expenditure £</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Balance at 31.08.20 £</b>
Education in Africa	379,933	20,500	(389,933)	-	10,500
School trips	736	3,919	(2,826)	-	1,829
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>380,669</u>	<u>24,419</u>	<u>(392,759)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,329</u>

The Education in Africa fund represents funds received and thus to be expended for that purpose.  
 The school trips reserve is used to cover costs of trips run as part of school operations.

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**19. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

	Balance at 31.08.19	Income	Expenditure	Gains/ (losses)	Transfers	Balance at 31.08.20
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
CCB Designated Fund 1	3,770,401	-	(176,738)	-	(67,611)	3,526,052
CCB Designated Fund 2	1,077,310	81,290	(429,868)	-	-	728,732
CCB Designated Fund 3	1,602,129	47,062	(537,433)	-	-	1,111,758
CCB Designated Fund 4	2,931,778	578,902	(335,692)	-	-	3,174,988
St Joseph Designated Fund	36,043	-	-	-	-	36,043
St Ambrose Designated Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>9,417,661</b>	<b>707,254</b>	<b>(1,479,731)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(67,611)</b>	<b>8,577,573</b>
General Funds	3,349,610	2,764,930	(3,995,968)	(157,597)	67,611	2,028,586
Pension Reserve	(399,600)	-	312,200	87,400	-	-
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>12,367,671</b>	<b>3,472,184</b>	<b>(5,163,499)</b>	<b>(70,197)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,606,159</b>

The Trustees have designated funds equating to the following:

Designated Fund 1 – total of the tangible fixed assets and work in progress costs of the Charity.

Designated Fund 2 – Mission and Ministry Funding. This fund exists to support the non-educational Mission and Ministry activities of the Trust over the next decade.

Designated Fund 3 – schools/educational funding. This represents working capital needed by the schools together with a provision for the shortfall in the non-teaching staff pension scheme over the next decade.

Designated Fund 4 – amount committed for the care and welfare of the Province's members over the next decade.

St Joseph's Designated Fund – relates to funds held by the school for specific extra-curricular activities.

St Ambrose' Designated Fund – relates to funds set aside for the future replacement of the boiler and school roof.

**20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	3,526,052	-	3,526,052
Investments	7,912,298	-	7,912,298
Current assets	1,900,678	12,329	1,913,007
Creditors	(2,108,369)	-	(2,108,369)
Provisions	(624,500)	-	(624,500)
Pension deficit	-	-	-
	<u>10,606,159</u>	<u>12,329</u>	<u>10,618,488</u>
Fund balances at 31 August 2019 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	3,770,401	-	3,770,401
Investments	9,076,370	-	9,076,370
Current assets	2,238,619	380,669	2,619,288
Creditors	(1,655,619)	-	(1,655,619)
Provisions	(662,500)	-	(662,500)
Pension deficit	(399,600)	-	(399,600)
	<u>12,367,671</u>	<u>380,669</u>	<u>12,748,340</u>

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**21. LEASING**

At 31 August 2020 the charity was committed to making the following payments under non-cancellable operating leases. All operating leases relate to the rent of equipment.

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Payments due within:		
Within one year	22,394	41,165
Between two and five years	34,749	89,900
	<u>57,144</u>	<u>131,065</u>

The total operating lease payments recognised as an expense was £41,165 (2019: £33,481).

At 31 August 2020 the charity had entered into operating lease agreements acting as lessor. The following amounts are due to be received within the following time periods:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Within one year	117,600	117,600
Between two and five years	470,400	470,400
In over five years	913,200	1,030,800
	<u>1,501,200</u>	<u>1,618,800</u>

**22. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net expenditure for the period	(2,059,655)	(1,758,500)
Adjustments in respect of:		
Depreciation charges	176,738	192,980
Impairment charges	-	27,961
Investment income	(406,528)	(171,838)
Investment gains	(157,597)	
Net loss on disposals of fixed assets	2,626	898
Decrease in stock	-	2,135
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	163,478	(2,672)
Increase in creditors	414,750	454,903
Pension adjustment	(399,600)	(248,200)
Foreign exchange gains	4,416	(27,772)
	<u>(2,261,372)</u>	<u>(1,530,105)</u>

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**23. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

**Defined Benefit Pension Scheme**

The group operated a defined benefit scheme in the UK. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out at 5 April 2011 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme was closed to future accrual of benefit on 31 October 2010.

Up to and including the year ended 31 August 2013, the Charity could not identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Therefore, in accordance with FRS102 Section 28 'Retirement and post-employment benefits', payments to the scheme were accounted for as for a defined contribution scheme. A creditor was, however, recognised in respect of an agreed deficit recovery plan.

During the year ended 31 August 2014, the Charity entered into a Deed of Amendment and Apportionment in relation to this scheme which resulted in there being only one employer (the Charity) and therefore the multi-employer exemption is no longer applicable. Accordingly, the scheme is now accounted for under FRS102 Section 28 as a defined benefit scheme as detailed below.

On 26 October 2018, the High Court handed down a judgement involving the Lloyds Banking Group's defined benefit pension schemes. The judgement concluded the schemes should be amended to equalise pension benefits for men and women in relation to guaranteed minimum pension benefits, ('GMP'). The Government will need to consider this outcome in conjunction with the Government's recent consultation on GMP indexation in public sector schemes before concluding on any changes required to LGPS schemes.

**The major assumptions used by the actuary were:**

	<b>31 August 2020</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>
Rate of increase in salaries per annum	N/A	N/A
Rate of increase in inflation linked pensions in payment per annum	3.4%	3.5%
Expected rate of return on the plan assets	3.75%	3.85%
Discount rate per annum	1.6%	1.7%
Inflation assumption per annum	3.4%	3.5%
Mortality table pre-retirement	AM/F00	AM/F00
Mortality table post retirement	100% S2PA CMI2019 (1.25%)	100% S2PA CMI2016 (1.25%)

**The assets in the scheme were:**

	<b>31 August 2020</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>
	<b>Value £'000</b>	<b>Value £'000</b>
Equities	3,596	3,201
Bonds	2,292	2,189
Cash	896	1,067
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fair value of assets	6,784	6,457
Present value of funded obligations	(6,592)	(6,857)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>(400)</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

As per section 28.22 of FRS 102 a defined benefit plan asset shall only be recognised to the extent that the Charity is able to recover the surplus. Given there is no expectation the surplus will be recovered, the asset has not been recognised on the balance sheet.

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**23. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Analysis of gain included in Statement of Financial Activities:**

	<b>31 August 2020</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
(Gains)/losses on scheme assets and obligations	(400)	482
<b>(Gains)/losses shown in Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>(400)</b>	<b>482</b>

**Reconciliation of change in defined benefit obligation:**

	<b>31 August 2020</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	6,857	5,946
Interest cost	115	157
Actuarial losses/(gains) on obligation	(180)	1,162
Benefits paid	(200)	(476)
Past service cost	-	68
<b>Closing defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>6,592</b>	<b>6,857</b>

**Reconciliation of change in plan assets:**

	<b>31 August 2020</b>	<b>31 August 2019</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Opening fair value of plan assets	6,457	5,780
Expected return on plan assets	111	157
Actuarial gains on assets	90	680
Contributions paid by the employer	316	316
Benefits paid	(200)	(476)
	<b>6,774</b>	<b>6,457</b>

**Amounts for the current and previous four periods:**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Defined benefit obligation	6,784	(6,857)	(5,946)	(6,568)	(7,013)
Plan assets	(6,592)	6,457	5,780	5,475	5,440
Surplus/(deficit)	182	(400)	(166)	(1,093)	(1,573)

Based on the current Schedule of Contributions, the company/group expects to pay contributions in the region of £316k to the scheme during the next accounting period.

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**23. PENSION COMMITMENT AND OTHER POST RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership. Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

**Teachers' pension budgeting and valuation account**

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The School is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The School has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the School in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) in April 2019. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £198 billion giving a notional past service deficit of £22 billion.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19). DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2019-20 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

**24. CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE HOLDINGS**

The Trustees hold certain investments and bank accounts as custodian Trustee holdings only. The assets, totalling £175,104 at 31 August 2020 (2019: £174,783) are held securely and separately from those of the Trustees who are responsible for their safe custody. They are not therefore included in the Trust's balance sheet.

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**25. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

**Runnymede St Edward's Preparatory School voluntary aided school application**

Prior to the balance sheet date, a plan was proposed whereby an application was submitted for the school to become a Voluntary Aided school.

This application was approved and the school will become a voluntary aided school from 1 September 2020 and will cease to form part of the operations of the charity from this date.

The net book value attributed to the operations of Runnymede St Edward's Preparatory School, and therefore donated to the voluntary aided school on 1 September 2020 totalled £582,689.

**Sale of Redcourt St Anselm's Preparatory School building**

After the balance sheet date the premises of Redcourt St Anselm's Preparatory School Birkenhead have been sold for a value in excess of their carrying value.

**26. RELATED PARTIES**

During the year the Trustees were involved with the following related party transactions:

Related party	Lease payments received	Contributions by colleges to programmes	Reimbursement of costs incurred	Donations made to the college	Outstanding at 31 August 2020	Outstanding at 31 August 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£
St Ambrose College	26,700	-	-	-	-	-
St Anselm's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
St Edward's College	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Joseph's College	30,000	-	-	-	-	-

**Related party relationships**

The four colleges named above are considered to represent related parties due to either the English Province itself or certain of its Trustees being members of the colleges, together with the English Province having the ability to appoint a number of college governors.

The Trustees have taken the view that it would not be appropriate to consolidate the accounts of the academy trusts under FRS 102 as the Academies must abide by strict financial and operating provisions laid down by the Department for Education and these amount to severe long term restrictions.

The Trustees comprise Christian Brothers who, in common with the non-Trustee Brothers, are provided with living accommodation and daily essentials by the Charity.

During the year the Trustees, similar to the non-Trustee Christian Brothers, donated all of their earned income by perpetual gift aid to the Charity. In the year to 31 August 2020 this amounted to £60,396 (2019: £58,827). Similarly, as stated in Note 8, the Trustees have their living and personal expenses borne by the Charity and they receive no remuneration in connection with their duties as Trustees. Expenses relating to travel and other costs of £nil (2019: £nil) were reimbursed to two Trustees.

**Other entities**

The Charity has also had transactions with the Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust in the year. A total of £nil has been donated in the year (2019: £nil). During the year £nil (2019: £223) was recharged to the Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust in respect of catering costs incurred by the Charity. This is linked to the Charity as Br P Gordon is a trustee of the Edmund Rice Bicentennial Trust as well as this charity.

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**26. RELATED PARTIES (continued)**

The Charity has also had transactions in the year with CCB Northern Ireland Trust. During the year the Charity recharged the Northern Ireland Trust £8,454 representing expenses incurred on their behalf (2019: £6,305). At the year end the amount owed to the Charity was £8,454 (2019: £6,305). This is linked to the Charity as Br E Garvey is a Trustee of CCB Northern Ireland Trust as well as the English Trust.

The Charity also had transactions in the year with 'The Congregation of Christian Brothers European Province - Republic of Ireland' (CCBEP-ROI), a Charity registered in the Republic of Ireland. At 31 August 2020 the Charity owed £13,558 (2019: £23,908) to the CCBEP-ROI representing expenses incurred.

**27. COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Donations and legacies	14,902	-	14,902	561,043
Investment income	171,838	-	171,838	241,257
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>				
Operation of the schools	3,699,412	23,261	3,722,673	4,094,922
Other income	328,944	-	328,944	386,321
<b>Total income</b>	<b>4,215,096</b>	<b>23,261</b>	<b>4,238,357</b>	<b>4,947,092</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
Raising funds	33,467	-	33,467	41,591
Charitable activities	5,593,506	31,990	5,625,496	5,265,623
<b>Total expenditure:</b>	<b>5,626,973</b>	<b>31,990</b>	<b>5,658,963</b>	<b>5,307,214</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	<b>(920,420)</b>	<b>545,000</b>	<b>(375,420)</b>	<b>(360,122)</b>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income after transfers</b>	<b>(920,420)</b>	<b>545,000</b>	<b>(375,420)</b>	<b>(360,122)</b>
Net gains on investments	235,909	-	235,909	647,912
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>				
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension scheme	634,000	-	634,000	193,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(50,511)</b>	<b>545,000</b>	<b>494,489</b>	<b>480,790</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward	14,001,660	-	14,001,660	13,520,870
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>13,951,149</b>	<b>545,000</b>	<b>14,496,149</b>	<b>14,001,660</b>