

Charity Number: 101722  
Company Number: NI054357 (Northern Ireland)

**THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## CONTENTS

---

	<b>Page</b>
Legal and administrative information	1
Directors' report	2 - 6
Statement of Directors' responsibilities	7
Independent auditor's report	8 - 10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 - 21

---

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

---

<b>Directors</b>	Br Christopher Thomas Patrick Collier Br Eamonn Manning Br Michael Loran Br Patrick John Kelleher Br James Mangan Br Joseph Reid
<b>Secretary</b>	Br Michael Loran
<b>Charity number (Northern Ireland)</b>	101722
<b>Company number</b>	NI054357
<b>Registered office and principal address</b>	De La Salle Residence Glanaulin 141 Glen Road Belfast Northern Ireland
<b>Auditor</b>	Walsh O'Brien Harnett Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 104 Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
<b>Bankers</b>	Allied Irish Bank (NI) University Road Belfast
<b>Solicitors</b>	Napier & Sons 1-9 Castle Arcade Belfast  P.J. McGrory & Co 52 Andersonstown Road Belfast

# **THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

The Directors, who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Northern Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Directors confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) as amended by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2019).

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity was established on 16 March 2005 as a charitable company and is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital. The company's registered number is NI054357 and its registered charity number is 101722.

#### *Governance*

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (In Northern Ireland) Limited is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association which were amended by special resolution on 30 August 2005.

#### *Directors*

The Directors, who are also the Trustees of the charity, at the date of this report and those who served during the financial year together with the dates of any changes are set out in the legal and administrative details on page 1.

The Directors of the charity are appointed by the Provincial and Council of the De La Salle congregation, as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The number of Directors is determined by the Council, with a minimum of two and a maximum of seven. Directors are selected based on their willingness to serve, governance skills, relevant experience, and alignment with the ethos, mission, and philosophy of the charity. Their term of office is four years, renewable as deemed appropriate by the Provincial and Council.

Members of the charity also have the power to appoint new Directors or fill casual vacancies and may, by special resolution, remove a Director before the expiry of their term. Directors do not receive remuneration but may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses, and no Director may be employed by the charity.

The secretary who served during the year was Brother Michael Loran.

#### *Management*

The Directors are responsible for setting and implementing the charities policies. The board meets regularly in compliance with its statutory responsibilities and review the impact of the charity and its achievements.

Directors are not remunerated for their services and are not reimbursed for any out-of-pocket expenses.

#### *Principal Risks and Uncertainties*

The Directors are responsible for setting the charities internal systems and controls and for reviewing them for effectiveness. The internal systems and control system is designed to manage, rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve the charities objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatements or deficit. The Directors are not aware of any specific risks or uncertainties which would have an impact on the company.

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023*

---

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The object and principal activity of The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (In Northern Ireland) Limited is that of advancing the Roman Catholic Faith in Northern Ireland and to provide or assist in the provision of education of children and young person's attending in any school or educational establishment in which religious instruction in the doctrine, principles and precepts of the Roman Catholic Faith is given.

Our main charitable activities are the support of Brothers and their ministries which facilitates the core activities of the Institute carried out through:

- the management of two schools, De La Salle High School Downpatrick and St Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick. As of September 1, 2024 these two schools merged with St Mary's High School to form Lecale Trinity Grammar School, a new 11-19 co-educational voluntary grammar school under the trusteeship of The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (In Northern Ireland) Limited. The Brothers were active members on both boards of management the end of the academic year 2023-2024.
- the operation of two residences at Glen Road Belfast and Downpatrick.
- funding to the De La Salle Pastoral Centre in Belfast.

The Institute also acts as bare trustee for the properties of the De La Salle Congregation in Northern Ireland as outlined in note 12 to the financial statements.

### Public Benefit

The Directors have reviewed the relevant guidance published by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland concerning the principles of public benefit in relation to both the advancement of education and the advancement of religion. The Directors are satisfied that all of the activities of the charity,, as outlined in the achievement and performance section of this report, fall within its stated charitable objectives and provide a clear benefit to the public.

The Charity's facilities offer opportunities for young persons and adults to grow physically, mentally, and spiritually through training, instructions, counselling and supervision, alongside the provision of suitable educational and instructional resources.

The two schools - one secondary and one grammar – share a common ethos, fostering an environment that supports the growth and promotion of Lasallian Catholic faith in Northern Ireland.

In response to the Department of Education policies and Government's Area-based Planning requirements, the Institute is actively assisted the three post-primary schools in Downpatrick - De La Salle High School, St Patrick's Grammar School, and St Mary's High School - in establishing a partnership. Together, they worked towards creating a model of co-educational provision for 11 -19-year-olds in Downpatrick and the surrounding rural area. As of September 1, 2024 the two Lasallian schools in Downpatrick merged with St Mary's High School to form Lecale Trinity Grammar School, a new 11-19 co-educational voluntary grammar school under the trusteeship of The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (In Northern Ireland) Limited.

The direct benefit following from the charitable purposes of the Institute are of a pastoral, spiritual, educational and inclusive nature. These activities help students and adults develop their personal development, social skills, faith, and spiritual lives. It enables them to improve their self-esteem, have a greater awareness of themselves and others. The spiritual dimension permeates daily activities, and the students are encouraged to believe in their own worth as children of God by whom they are loved unconditionally.

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the De La Salle Pastoral Centre in Belfast catered for an average of 39 schools each year with over 2,000 young people attending one of the various retreat programmes available each year. Throughout 2023 the number of schools participating in the La Salle Pastoral Centre continued the steady increase back to pre-Covid numbers. The value of these activities is evidenced by positive feedback from participants. The relationships formed among teachers, students, and the pastoral care framework are as vital to shaping a school's ethos as the formal curriculum or the skills of the educators.

The primary beneficiaries of the De La Salle Pastoral Centre are students in local schools in the Belfast, as well as the wider community, who use the pastoral facilities.

Through the Institute's international connections, teachers and pastoral staff at the two schools, and the pastoral centre in Belfast benefit from a variety of formation and training programmes aimed at their ongoing personal, professional and spiritual development.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Throughout 2023 the number of young people who benefited from the programmes of the Belfast La Salle Pastoral Centre has reached again the 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Throughout the year the centre offered the following programmes:

- For Primary School students, Confirmation Retreats and Transition Retreats (primary to secondary)
- A range of age-appropriate retreats for secondary students from Year 8 to Year 14
  - Year 8: New Beginnings
  - Year 9: Love One Another
  - Year 10: What Can I Do?
  - Year 11: Finding a Moral Compass
  - Year 12: Self-Esteem and Resilience
  - Year 13: Beliefs and Attitudes
  - Year 14: God Speaks to the Heart
- Retreats based on resilience
- Advent and Lenten retreats
- Programmes and sessions offered in school rather than at the centre:
  - Journey of Your Heart – a meditation programme delivered over three class period sessions for Years 13 and 14 students
  - Ignatian Daily Examen for Years 13 and 14 students
  - Meditation for Year 8 students
- Advent and/or Lent online short reflections via Zoom for school groups
- Retreats for other groups including school staffs, parish groups, folk groups, youth groups
- Art Psychotherapy programme on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings
- A School Chaplaincy programme.

The chaplaincy programme is a joint initiative between the Pastoral Centre, three local priests and staff members in schools. The school chaplaincy programme was initiated in De La Salle College, Belfast and then extended to three other schools. The idea is to support a small group of teachers to act as chaplains within their own schools.

The De La Salle residence in Glen Road Belfast accommodated the Cursilio Group two nights weekly and a St Vincent de Paul group weekly throughout the year. An Art Therapy Group was also occasionally hosted there. The De La Salle residence in Downpatrick accommodated a St Vincent de Paul group throughout the year.

All facilities provided by both residences were provided free of charge.

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

The three post-primary schools in Downpatrick; De La Salle High School, St Patrick's Grammar School, and St Mary's High School have been supported to establish a partnership in which they worked together to create a model of co-educational 11-19 provision for the Downpatrick area. Since January 2023 this work has intensified.

The De La Salle Trustees and Diocesan response to the Department of Education policies and Government requirement for Area-based Planning is an all ability co-educational 11-19 school. This new school is designated a voluntary Grammar school offering pathways to a curriculum with academic and vocational choices. This one school model will maximise and ensure the accessibility of high quality 2<sup>nd</sup> level Lasallian Catholic education in Downpatrick into the future. Trustees have successfully ensured the appointment of highly competent and widely respected members of the community as independent members on the Interim Board of Governors (IBOG) of the proposed new school.

The process has been evolutionary; Principals, Boards of Governments and Trustees have been working on this since 2012. The inaugural meeting of the Interim Board of Governors Meeting of the New School in Downpatrick took place on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Over the course of the subsequent monthly meetings of the IBOG, an implementation plan was agreed to ensure the successful and timely fulfilment of the various steps and actions required to ensure the opening of the new school by September 2024. During this period, it was agreed, following consultation with representative groups of students, parents and staff from the three schools involved, that the name of the new school would be Lecale Trinity Grammar School. This new educational institution will build on the long established and great educational tradition of the Mercy and De La Salle congregations.

### *HIA Inquiry*

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited have been involved with the Historical Institution Abuse inquiry (HIA) since 2012 and supplied HIA with all its needs in relation to legal matters.

In 2014 and in 2015 members of the Company attended the HIA Inquiry, made statements and gave oral evidence to it. Following the publication of the HIA report in 2017 the members of the Company continued to support the redress board set up by the HIA.

Members of the Company together with members of other Congregations/Companies met with the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister to discuss the question of redress.

Members of the Company had a private meeting with an independent facilitator to discuss the question of a voluntary contribution to the redress scheme

At the time of approving these financial statements, voluntary contributions to the redress schemes have not yet been finalised and no estimate of future contributions, if any, have been included in the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023. The publicised contribution to the Redress Scheme was made by the De La Salle Order in the Republic of Ireland.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2023, the total income amounted to £248,266 (2022: £299,803) which is made up of brothers' donated pensions, community income and bank interest. Expenditure amounted to £457,975 (2022: £230,693). Legal costs (£195,615) & community stipends (£136,400) were the largest expenditure items in 2023. Net expenditure for the year amounted to £209,709 (2022: net income of £69,110).

### *Reserves Policy*

Reserves are needed to retain surpluses which are not distributed or spent shortly after an accounting year end but rather retained to allow for any further reductions in income or unanticipated expenditure not provided for in annual budgets. The Charity Commission requires that Directors recognise the reserves issue, assess the needs of the entity, seek to reach an appropriate level within a reasonable timescale and report their reserves policy in the annual report accompanying the financial statements. The actual reserves at 31 December 2023 were £1,984 (2022: £211,693).

# **THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED**

## **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023***

---

The policy relating to the reserves of the charity are reviewed annually by the Directors.

The Directors have reviewed the Charities future budgets and forecasts and are confident that there is sufficient funding available to ensure the charity can continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and the financial statements can be approved as a going concern.

### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

The Directors have no plans to change the activities or objectives of the charity.

### **POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

### **Auditors**

The auditors, Walsh O'Brien Harnett, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards**

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (CCNI) guidance
- The Charities Act 2008

### **Political Contributions**

The company did not make any disclosable political donations in the current year.

### **Special provisions relating to small companies.**

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each of the Directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditors are unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

**Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:**

**Br Eamonn Manning**  
**Director**

**Br James Mangan**  
**Director**

**Dated: 22 september 20 24**



# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023***

---

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the net income or expenditure of the company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf:

**Br Eamonn Manning**  
**Director**

**Br James Mangan**  
**Director**

**Dated: 22 September 2024**

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

---

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited (the 'Company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including 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* and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

#### 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 Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in UK, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note 3 to the financial statements, 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 Directors' 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 Company'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 Directors 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 annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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.

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

---

#### Opinion on the Other Matters Prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

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

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Annual Report.

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Directors' 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 Directors

As explained more fully in the statement of Directors' responsibilities, the Directors 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 Directors 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the Company'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 Directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company 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 65(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

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

#### Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

# **THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)**

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED**

---

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charity operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items. In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charity for fraud.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the timing and completeness of recognition of grant and contract income and major donations and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management and the Audit Committee about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, testing of a sample of transactions against the terms of the funding agreements and the requirement of the Charities SORP (FRS102), sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Joseph O'Brien (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**for and on behalf of Walsh O'Brien Harnett**  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
104 Lower Baggot Street  
Dublin 2

**22 September 2024**

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
	Notes		
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
Donations and legacies	5	197,219	227,063
Charitable activities	6	45,790	71,801
Bank interest	7	5,257	939
<b>Total income</b>		<b>248,266</b>	<b>299,803</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Charitable expenditure	8	457,975	230,693
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(209,709)</b>	<b>69,110</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2023		211,693	142,583
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2023</b>		<b>1,984</b>	<b>211,693</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		4,723		11,744
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	5,257		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		212,060		375,005	
		<u>217,317</u>		<u>375,005</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(220,056)</u>		<u>(175,056)</u>	
Net current (liabilities)/assets			(2,739)		199,949
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>1,984</u>		<u>211,693</u>
<b>Funds</b>					
General funds	15		1,984		211,693
			<u>1,984</u>		<u>211,693</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 22 September 2024

Br Eamonn Manning  
Director

Br James Mangan  
Director

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

---

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Cash absorbed by operations	20		(162,945)		(11,815)
<b>Investing activities</b>					
Investment income received		-		939	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities</b>			-		939
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>			-		-
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>			(162,945)		(10,876)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			375,005		385,881
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>			212,060		375,005
			<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

### **1 General information**

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is De La Salle Residence, Glanaulin, 141 Glen Road, Belfast, BT11 8BP, Northern Ireland. The nature of the Company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report.

### **2 Accounting policies**

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Company's financial statements.

#### **2.1 Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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

#### **2.2 Going concern**

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

#### **2.3 Charitable funds**

Unrestricted funds represent funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Company in the furtherance of the objects of the Company. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

#### **2.4 Income**

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

Donations, including salaries and pensions of individual brothers are recognised when the District has entitlement to the income, the amount can be reliably measured and it is probable that the income will be received. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Cash donations collected are recognised as income when the Charity gains control, and the amount can be reliably measured.

Income from the charitable activities is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Charity and the revenue can be reliably measured. It is measured at fair value of the consideration received or receivable, including any relevant value added tax.

Investment Income from financial assets and interest on funds held on deposit are included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity.



# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

### **2 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

#### **2.5 Expenditure**

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis and includes an attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure comprises the following:

- a) Charitable expenditure comprises expenditure on the Company's primary charitable purposes.
- b) Governance costs comprise the costs directly attributable to the organisational procedures and the necessary legal procedures for compliance with statutory requirements.

#### **2.6 Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

Motor vehicles	25% Straight line
----------------	-------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

#### **2.7 Cash and cash equivalents**

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

#### **2.8 Basic financial assets**

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

#### **2.9 Basic financial liabilities**

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

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

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

#### **2.10 Taxation**

The Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited is not subject to tax as it has charitable exemption (Charity Number 101722).

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 2 Accounting policies (Continued)

#### 2.11 Provisions

Provisions for liabilities made in the financial statements are shown within current liabilities where the consideration expected to be paid can be reliably measured.

#### 2.12 Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions, during the year, which are denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities.

### 3 Provisions available for audits of small entities

In common with many other charitable companies of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

### 4 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

#### Key sources of estimation uncertainty

##### Useful economic life of tangible assets

The annual depreciation on tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimate useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. These estimates are reviewed annually and amended when necessary.

The Directors do not consider that there are any key assumptions concerning the future, or any other key sources of estimation uncertainty, that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### 5 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Donations of Brothers' Pensions	197,219	227,063

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 6 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Community income	45,790	71,801

### 7 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Bank interest	5,257	939

### 8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Support of the Brothers and their Ministries 2023 £	Support of the Brothers and their Ministries 2022 £
Depreciation	7,021	7,021
Direct costs	441,322	214,746
	448,343	221,767
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	9,632	8,926
	457,975	230,693

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 9 Support and governance costs

	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2023 £	Support costs £	Governance costs £	2022 £
Audit fees	-	9,632	9,632	-	8,926	8,926
	-	9,632	9,632	-	8,926	8,926
Analysed between Charitable activities	-	9,632	9,632	-	8,926	8,926

Support and governance costs are allocated to charitable activities on actual basis.

Support and governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £9,632 (2022 - £8,926) for audit and advisory services.

10 Net movement in funds	2023 £	2022 £
Net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting)		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	7,021	7,021

### 11 Directors

All Directors' are members of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited. The Directors consider that they alone comprise the key management of the Company. As members of the District, the directors' living and personal expenses are borne by the Company but they receive no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses in connection with their duties as Directors (2022: none).

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Motor vehicles £
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 January 2023	45,085
At 31 December 2023	45,085
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 January 2023	33,341
Depreciation charged in the year	7,021
At 31 December 2023	40,362
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 December 2023	4,723
At 31 December 2022	11,744

The Company holds title to the following property. These property are held in trust for the De La Salle Brothers - Ireland and are not part of the assets of the company.

- Glenaulin, 141 Glen Road, Belfast
- 4 Stream Street, Downpatrick

The Company also acts as Trustee for the properties comprising of St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick, and De La Salle High School, Downpatrick. All properties are held in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Education in Northern Ireland and are not part of the assets of the company.

### 13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>		
Prepayments and accrued income	5,257	-

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other creditors	215,000	170,000
Accruals and deferred income	5,056	5,056
	220,056	175,056

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 15 Unrestricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 January 2023	Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
General fund	211,693	248,266	(457,975)	1,984
	<u>211,693</u>	<u>248,266</u>	<u>(457,975)</u>	<u>1,984</u>

### 16 Related party transactions

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited and the De La Salle Brothers - Ireland are related due to commonality of Directors / Trustees.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited received income from donations of salaries and pensions from the De La Salle Brothers in Northern Ireland amounting to £197,219 during the year (2022: £227,063). They also received additional support of £43,524.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited provided a total of £203,400 of financial support to De La Salle - Communities and Pastoral Centres in Northern Ireland (2022: £202,400)

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (in Northern Ireland) Limited acts as trustee for properties of the De La Salle Congregation in Northern Ireland as outlined in note 12 to the financial statements.

### 17 Status

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The Company's registered number is NI054357.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £1.

### 18 Post Balance Sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the Company since the financial year end.

# THE INSTITUTE OF THE BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS (IN NORTHERN IRELAND) LIMITED

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

---

### 19 Contingent liability

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (In Northern Ireland) Limited is currently incurring legal and other costs relating to a statutory inquiry into the alleged historical abuse of children in Northern Ireland.

The Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry in Northern Ireland reported in January 2017 and a redress scheme was established, in March 2020.

The Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (In Northern Ireland) Limited expects to incur further legal and other costs in relation to the inquiry, however it is not possible at the present time to provide a reliable estimate of these future costs.

Voluntary contributions to the redress schemes, if any, have not yet been agreed and it is therefore not possible at the present to provide an estimate of any future contributions.

20 Cash generated from operations	2023 £	2022 £
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(209,709)	69,110
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(5,257)	(939)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	7,021	7,021
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	-	3
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	45,000	(87,010)
<b>Cash absorbed by operations</b>	<b>(162,945)</b>	<b>(11,815)</b>