



M.B. McGRADY & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Date : 7th July 2025

Ref : CMB / DMCF

The Board Of Trustees
Holywood Steiner School Ltd
34 Croft Road
Holywood
Co. Down
BT18 OPR

Dear Lauren

We have completed our audit of the financial statements of **Holywood Steiner School** for the financial period ended **31st August 2024**.

As advised in our engagement letter dated **13th May 2025** our audit is conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK)/(Ireland) (ISAs) which requires us to perform procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We are also required to consider internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we did agree to communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Please find enclosed our report to those charged with governance.

While we have previously communicated these matters to you please see section A of the attached report for significant deficiencies in internal control that we have identified.

We have also taken the opportunity to highlight and comment on other areas and therefore we include for your consideration section B of the report containing business and internal control recommendations arising from our work. We hope that you find this report informative and useful.

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K.A. Rainey, BA (*Acc*) FCA

Incorporating Duffy & Co and
Dawson & Co, Chartered Accountants

Business Consultants and Registered Auditors
Authorised to carry on Investment Business
in the Republic of Ireland and regulated for
a range of Investment Business activities in
the United Kingdom and registered to carry
on audit work by the Institute of Chartered
Accountants in Ireland.

M B McGrady & Co is the trading name
of Rathmore House Limited, a registered
Northern Ireland Company, Registration
Number NI 601538. Registered address as
per above Downpatrick office.



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Please note that the matters raised in this and other reports that flow from the audit are only those which have come to our attention arising from or relevant to our audit that we believe need to be brought to your attention. They are not a comprehensive record of all the matters arising, and in particular we cannot be held responsible for reporting all risks in your business or all internal control weaknesses. This report has been prepared solely for your use and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared for, and is not intended for, any other purpose.

We are grateful to all the management and staff of **Hollywood Steiner School** for the co-operation we received during our work, which is an important element in achieving our objective of an economical and effective audit.

If you have any queries relating to the matters raised in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

MB McGrady & Co

Belfast Office

Hollywood Steiner School Ltd

Year Ended 31 August 2024

**REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH
GOVERNANCE**

Section A:

Detailed below for your consideration are a number of **significant** internal control and other observations and recommendations which require your immediate attention.

Observation	Recommendation	Management response
Significant Deficiencies in Internal Control – require immediate attention		
1. None Noted		
Other significant matters noted during the audit – require immediate attention		
1. Going concern	<p>To allow for the completion of the audit of the 2024 accounts, we have been provided with budgets and forecasts for the 2024 – 2027 period. These budgets (and their ratification by the Board) have enabled us to conclude that a material uncertainty in respect of going concern does not exist for the twelve months following the signing of the 2024 financial statements.</p> <p>However, the accounts show the School again incurred a deficit in 2023-24 and this, combined with the persistent negative cash reserves, mean it is incumbent on the Trustees to plan and implement appropriate strategies and governance which will support the long term operational sustainability of the charity, providing security to stakeholders.</p> <p>The School is presently vulnerable to sudden changes in the regulatory environment (eg the imposition of VAT on private schools) or unexpected events (eg storm damage), and we recommend the Trustees work to build institutional resilience to minimise the risk of a material uncertainty to going concern arising during future accounting periods.</p>	

Section B:

Detailed below for your consideration are a number of other internal control and observations and recommendations designed to strengthen business control and improve operating efficiency.

Observation	Recommendation	Management's response
Status of Prior Period Recommendations		
1. All prior period recommendations have been implement (excluding re Santander bank account below)		
Internal Control Weaknesses		
1. None		
Financial Reporting Issues		
1. Santander bank mandate – the mandate requires the signature of a legacy trustee which makes accessing the account difficult. We were also unable to obtain a bank confirmation letter.	Although this account has a wholly immaterial balance, we strongly encourage HSS to have the mandate amended at the earliest opportunity. We would also recommend that this account be closed if it has no operational purpose as this reduces the risk of fraudulent activity.	
Unexpected Issues that affected the Statutory Audit Process		
1. None		
Uncorrected Misstatements or Errors noted during the audit		
1. None – all identified misstatements have been adjusted for.		
Regulatory or Legal issues noted during the audit – Independent legal advice may be required to be obtained		
1. None		
Other Matters		
1. None noted.		