

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the period 01/08/23 to 31/07/24**

### **Section A. Reference and administration Details**

#### **Charity name**

Christians in Schools Trust

#### **Registered charity number**

Registered charity number 1019848.

#### **Charity's principal address**

The principal address for the charity is that of the Charity Office

#### **Office Address**

Church House 99 Chatham Street Stockport SK3 9EG

#### **Trustees**

As at the end of the financial year, 31st July 2024:

Mr Stephen Innes (Trust Chairman)  
Mrs Deborah Allen (Secretary)  
Mrs Gill Golding (Safeguarding)  
Mr Phillip Pasteiner (Trust Treasurer)  
Mrs Vivienne Allen  
Mrs Janet Elizabeth Ford  
Mrs Christine Joyce Hall

### **Section B. Structure, governance and management**

#### **Governing document**

The charity is governed by a Declaration of Trust made on 17th March 1993.

#### **Trustee selection methods**

Clause 6 of the Declaration of Trust which governs the trustees provides for not less than 3 nor more than 9 trustees. Each trustee is required to assent in writing to the doctrinal basis of this trust. The appointment of new trustees is by the continuing trustees. There are no custodian trustees. The Trustees met 5 times during the year and the average attendance was 72.5%. One trustee attended less than 50% of trustee meetings. Apologies were given to the meeting at all times.

One new trustee was elected to join the trust and one trustee stood down from the trust in the past 12 months

**Review of major risks**

Major risks are reviewed at trustee meetings. Systems designed to mitigate significant risks are introduced as necessary. Trust policies are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Following policies form part of our overall policy pack

Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Complaint's policy

Bullying and Harassment Policy

Social Media policy

Conflicts of Interest policy

Safer Recruitment

Trustee expenses policy

**Section C. Objectives and activities for the public benefit****Objects of the charity**

The purpose of the Trust is the advancement of Christian religion as follows:

The proclamation and furtherance of the Gospel of God concerning his Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord. The teaching of the Christian Faith in schools throughout the Stockport area and elsewhere.

The organization, sponsorship and promotion of Inter-denominational Christian work throughout the Stockport area and elsewhere the object of which shall be to present to men, women, young people and children the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord by all possible means.

**The trust**

The Trust is committed to providing Christian support for schools. Funds are provided by gifts from churches and individual supporters, mainly from Stockport and the surrounding areas.

The Trust has a Mission Statement. All activities that we carry out must adhere to at least one of the points in our mission statement.

Our mission is to:

- Share the relevance of the Christian faith with young people
- Support and promote excellence in religious education, Assemblies and Schools' work
- Partner with Christian communities in providing opportunities for children and young people to explore the Christian faith.

Founded in 1993, the work has developed and multiplied. Support is currently being given to primary and secondary schools, the local education authority and churches of all denominations.

**Grant-making policy**

The Trust does not normally make grants. A specific decision of the Trustees, following appropriate enquiries, is necessary before a grant could be made.

**Investments policy**

The Trust seeks funds to support its current program. It does not currently have any long-term investments. Specific investment powers are included in clause 3 of the Declaration of Trust

**Volunteers and Supporters**

Volunteers of the trust offer support by praying for the trust it's work and workers, and by supporting through financial giving. They do this on their own and also through meeting together for prayer. The staff compose a monthly news sheet which includes news of our work and points to pray for.

2019 saw the trust introduce "Mission Partners". These are gifted individuals who support our staff in their work in a practical way both on an ad-hoc and unpaid basis. Sadly, the Trust currently has no Volunteer Mission Partners.

**Section D. Achievements and performance for the public benefit****Overview****A year of growth and new things**

From Sept 2023, the team continued to rebuild their links with schools and form new links with schools that we had lost contact with.

The team have also continued to update our weekly assemblies programme and they have produced some new lessons replacing out of date subjects. The team have also continued to create suitable "Prayer Spaces" for schools to book.

Our treasurer stood down from the role as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and the trustees voted to appoint Mr Phillip Pasteiner as our new treasurer from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The trusts existing treasurer stood down as a trustee in April 2024

The trustees have created and added a new policy to the trust's policy portfolio, "Trustees Expenses". Other polices are updated at regular intervals

**Staffing**

It has been a year of change for the trust again as we were able to appoint a secondary school's worker during the year. Our new member of staff joined us during October 2023 and is a valued member of our staff team. The trustees also agreed to an increase in the hours worked by our 2nd primary worker from September 2023

**Secondary schools**

Due to the fact that our new secondary school worker began working for the trust in October 2023, the first priority was to reconnect with schools we have previously had links with. However, the work has grown quite quickly and new contacts have been made. Our worker has not only been doing some R.E. lessons but also runs lunch time and after school clubs in several schools. These have been supported by staff from the local churches or staff from within the schools. Our worker also supports a monthly youth event held in the centre of the town.

It is hoped to grow and develop the work further in the coming academic year. We have already made contact with a school we are not currently serving. Feedback shows that the clubs are valued and well attended by pupils. Our worker is currently training part time to be a trained councillor at a university nearby and is also a qualified Mental Health First Aider. It is hoped to develop a suitable Prayer Space for key stage 3 children during 2024.

### **Primary schools**

The Trust continues to develop its work in primary schools. Throughout 2023 and 2024 both our staff have delivered weekly school assemblies, lessons and projects which have been widely used and valued by many schools. The trust currently has links with over 40 local schools and visit most on a regular basis. Many new lessons have been written to link with the new Greater Manchester R. E. curriculum. Following training on "Prayer Spaces in Schools" a U.K. wide organisation the team have developed spaces suitable for Key stage 1 and 2 children. Partly due to the current "Mental health" amongst children these Spaces have become very popular and useful to schools and they are making use of them.

During the year our staff planned and led around 205 workshops, 12 prayer spaces as well as taking over 350 lessons plus assemblies and have had contact with around 17,500 children, this is quite an increase on last years figures and demonstrates how much our local schools value our work.

The trust also works in conjunction with the "Heaton's churches Partnership" to resource and manage input into the schools there and to build links with churches. One member of staff takes overall responsibility for this and attends the church leaders' meetings

### **Development work**

Trust employees and some Trustees visit local churches and related organizations to promote and maintain the work of the Trust. Networking with Christian organizations and educational bodies is an also part of the Trust's work.

Over recent years the staff team have continued to develop and improve our current projects for schools. The projects that have been developed so far are aimed mainly at key stage 1 and 2 children which have been well received. Staff continue to review and update all material used as necessary.

The staff have all continued to developed some sessions and projects suitable for reception and Key stage 1 children, The Trusts intention is to continue rebuilding links with the secondary schools develop the Prayer or reflective spaces projects more and encourage local churches to take an active interest in and serve their local schools where possible.

Over the past twelve months the staff and trustees have been able to strengthen our links with some local churches and partner with them in projects and clubs.

The trustees continue to make sure we comply with current Data Protection and our privacy policy, making sure both are up to date.

### **Safeguarding**

As a trust we are committed to having a high standard of safeguarding both for our staff and those they come in contact with. The trust has a safeguarding policy and we review this policy approximately ever twelve months.

Safeguarding is an item on the agenda at every trustee's meeting.

Safeguarding training for staff and some of our trustee was completed in a local school in September of 2023 where they joined with the school staff on their safeguarding training day. The trustee's hope that staff will continue to have access to in-school training this coming academic year. Our Safeguarding trustee and team lead has had "Safer Recruitment" training. The Trustees have also completed some on-line training in "Safeguarding" and "Safer Recruitment" recently.

### **Internet resources**

The Christians in Schools Trust web site ([www.cist.org.uk](http://www.cist.org.uk)), was originally launched in September 2000. The website continues to be upgraded and developed as a point of information. Our website was redesigned, edited and our new site was launched at Easter term of 2021 and is updated by our "Team Leader"

The staff also use other social media sites such as "Facebook" and "Instagram" to keep our supporters informed on a regular basis.

### **Public Benefit**

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning all our activities.

### **Serious Incidents**

There were no serious incidents relating to the charity during the previous year that the Trustees neglected to inform the Charity Commission.

## Section E. Financial review

Whilst our current financial situation is very healthy, Due to the fact that we have been able to employ a further worker in this year our expenditure has exceeded our income although we have funds to cover this it is a matter that the trustees with need to address in the near future,

### Income 2023 – 2024

Donations are received from supporting churches and individuals who support our mission/ General gifts received during the year of operation totalled £22,049 from churches and £17,911. from individuals. The total of tax recovered was £3,781.00. A further £7,200 came from the service agreement with the Heaton's' Group of Churches. The trust did not receive any further one-off gifts

### Expenditure 2023 – 2024

Employee costs totalled £43,488 for salaries and pensions, £3,099.00 for expenses and activities. Support and Administration and I.T. costs for the year were £2,569.00. We also gifted £1,100.00 to St Matthews Church for the use of St Matthews Church House as an office.

### Budget for 2023 – 2024

Total Assets at the start of the next year are £139,733 The trusts budget for 2024-2025 is £XXXXX Our aim is to have a balanced budget for the year; however, we currently hold enough reserves to cover any shortfall. Our balance is so high due to the fact that we have not been able to employ a third worker for some time. We expect to see a reduction in our balance over the next 12 months due to being able to employ one and the increased hours for our second worker.

### Reserves policy

Trustees are alerted when funds fall to near three months working expense and appeals to supporters are initiated as required. The Trust's funds include a sum of £12,868.00. which covers 90 days of total salary's, our employer's financial responsibilities and any other financial commitments that the trust has. Due to the fact that we have been able to employ a third worker this year and still have a good balance, we should be able to continue to operate at the current level for a lest the next 24 months

### Capital expenditure policy

Items of capital expenditure costing over £500 that have been bought for the use of the Trust and its employees, these are treated as investment assets and are normally depreciated in four equal annual steps of 25%.

**Section G. Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above at a meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2024

Signed on behalf of the charity



Mr Stephen Innes  
Chair of Trustees

Date 12/09/2024

D. A. Allen

Mrs Deborah Allen  
Secretary & Trustee

Date 12/09/2024

Accounts Independently Examined by

J. A. Simpson A.C.A.



## Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	01/08/2023	To	31/07/2024
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Church Gifts	22,049	-	-	22,049	20,838
Personal Gifts	17,911	-	-	17,911	26,145
Tax Reclaimed	3,781	-	-	3,781	3,072
Other Gifts	2,313	-	-	2,313	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	1,688
Heaton Service Partnership	7,200	-	-	7,200	7,200
Investment Income	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>53,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,254</b>	<b>58,943</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>53,254</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,254</b>	<b>58,943</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Employee Salaries	38,451	-	-	38,451	28,028
HMRC (includes NI)	3,291	-	-	3,291	1,614
Nest Pensions	1,746	-	-	1,746	1,810
Staff Training	-	-	-	-	353
Employee Expenses	802	-	-	802	621
Office Costs	3,397	-	-	3,397	1,451
Insurance	933	-	-	933	865
IT Costs	308	-	-	308	941
Trustee Costs	2,313	-	-	2,313	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>51,241</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,241</b>	<b>35,683</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
Equipment Purchase	55	-	-	55	220
Material Costs	174	-	-	174	1,013
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1,233</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>51,470</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,470</b>	<b>36,916</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>22,027</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>22,027</b>

# Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Currant Account	43,909	-	-
	Deposit Account	95,824	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>139,733</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK	OK

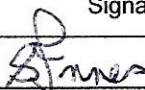
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Stephen Innes	11/03/2025
D A. ALLEN	DEBORAH ALLEN	11/03/2025

## CHRISTIANS IN SCHOOLS

### QUERIES

- 1 I need to see the Gift Aid return for the amount of £1,057.50 received in December 2023. I also need to check a sample of donors to authorisation forms.
- 2 What is the Heaton Contract for which you receive £7,200 per annum.
- 3 What was the loan refund of £2,312.93 paid to J A Whelan as posted to Trustees Expenses?
- 4 Do you claim Employer's Allowance so you do not need to pay Employer's National Insurance?
- 5 I need to see the bank statement showing £95,824.07 in the deposit account at 31/07/24.
- 6 Why is there £45k in the current account, could you not put more into the deposit accounts and leave enough in the current account to cover normal expenditure?
- 7 Is there an employer's contribution to NEST? If so how much for year to 31/07/24?
- 8 Where is the rent charged for? OK – St Matthews Church – in Annual Report.
- 9 Are donations from churches and individuals regular or do they tend to be one-offs?
- 10 Is there a reason for the fall in personal gifts from £26,145 in 2023 to £17911 in 2024?
- 11 I can see that Beth was taken on extra for 2024, so salaries were higher than the previous year. What extra functions does Beth carry out and is this likely to increase income?
- 12 I have lumped together Resources and Rent into Office Costs which totals £3396.75 for 2024 and compared this to £1451 Office Costs for 2023. Is this a proper comparison and have costs gone up because you have an extra member of staff?
- 13 The Charity Commission website shows Joseph Whetham as a trustee still and does not show Gill Golding and Vivienne Allen as trustees. This needs to be updated if the annual report for 2024 is correct.
- 14 Please send me a copy of the Declaration of Trust made on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1993 which is listed on the Annual Report as the governing document.
- 15 The Annual Report shows a gap for budget 2024-25. Is this figure the forecast balance of bank balances at 31/07/25?