

THE DELL OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

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The Dell Out of School Club

TRUSTEES AND ADVISORS

Trustees

Under the constitution, the activities of The Dell Out of School Club ("The Dell") are coordinated by a committee of Trustees whose power and responsibilities are defined in the Governing document. The Committee of Trustees who served during the year are set out below:

Helen Fellows (Co-Chair)
Matthew Hill (Co Chair)
Alison Dolling (Secretary)
Rehka Rancordias
Kirsty Wilkojc

Re-appointed as Co-Chair on 18th Jan 24
Appointed as Chair on 18th Jan 2024
Appointed 18th Jan 2024
Committee member
Committee member

Registered Address:

The Dell Out of School Club
Morgans JMI School
Morgans Road
Hertford
Herts
SG13 8DR

Registered Charity Number:

1038546

Business Address:

The Dell Out of School Club
Morgans JMI School
Morgans Road
Hertford
Herts
SG13 8DR

Independent Examiner:

Francis Corbishley
Moore Northern Home Counties Limited
East Wing, Goffs Oak House
Goffs Lane
Goffs Oak
Hertfordshire
EN7 5GE

TRUSTEES REPORT

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on Page 15 and comply with the requirements of the trust deed, the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is governed by the trust deed dated 30 September 1993, is registered with the Charity Commission and its registration number is 1038546.

The Trustees are all users of the club. The Committee meets up every 6-8 weeks to review the running of the Club. The Committee is made up of elected persons drawn from parents and carers whose children use The Dell, staff and other interested parties. Being a voluntary organisation, the Trustees are always looking for parents to assist with the decision making that goes on around the running of The Dell. Trustees are required to be vetted as "suitable to run a childcare business" by OFSTED.

The Trustee's role is to

- Ensure The Dell is carrying out its duties for public benefit.
- Ensure compliance with The Dell's governing document "Constitution" and the UK Law.
- Act in The Dell's best interest.
- Manage The Dell's resources responsibly.
- Act with reasonable care and skill.
- Ensure The Dell is accountable.

The Trustees play a vital part of The Dell's effectiveness, and they rely on the feedback from parents, children and staff. The Trustees are given training and may attend relevant courses and seminars as appropriate to their role within the Charity.

Objects, Public Benefit, Aims, Objectives and Principal Activities

The Charity's aim is to provide public benefit, in compliance with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's published general and relevant sub-sector guidance, and in accordance with its trust deed.

Objectives and activities

The Charity was formed with the following objectives:

1. Providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation, and education of children during out of school hours and school holidays.
2. To advance the education and training of persons in the provision of such care, education, and recreational facilities.

The Dell Out of School Club

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Brief History

The Dell was first established in September 1991 by two parents caring for six children after school two days a week and grew from there. In January 2004 the breakfast club was formed and proved successful. Income from fees has previously been supplemented over the years by grants from various local bodies. The club has grown to service the needs for a vast number of families with children at Morgans School for breakfast, after school, and holiday care.

In January 2011 The Dell expanded, providing Breakfast & After School Club, to Abel Smith pupils based at this school.

During school holidays in addition to offering services for both our host schools, The Dell attracts further families from the community who are looking for regular childcare, fun activities or just a break.

The Dell Out of School Club

The Dell Out of School Club currently operates term time breakfast and after school clubs at two school sites in Hertford:- Morgan's JMI School & Abel Smith School, as well as a holiday play scheme usually based at Morgans School.

Each of the clubs are managed by a qualified Manager. Both sites are registered with OFSTED for the provision of Early Years and Childcare for children between the ages of 3-12. Morgans last inspected September 2024 and Abel Smith in Jan 2020.

The Dell – Abel Smith School

The Breakfast Club Now merged for all year groups is based in the School Dining Room and this year provides care between 7.30am and 9.00am for up to 48 children.

There is a free choice of indoor activities including art, games and reading. Children chat to their friends at the breakfast table or for those slow to wake up, just sit quietly. Breakfast of cereal and toast is served until 8.30am.

After-School Club. Our after-school provision for children up to the end of Year 1 is held in the Annexe building for 20 children with the older children from Year 2 upwards using the Dining hall and ICT suite, providing capacity to offer up to 24 children in this age group

There is a weekly theme to engage the children in educational play as well as time spent outside in the school fields or school playground. Parents and staff have been very generous in providing new toys and activities to enhance the children's play. Besides offering a full range of play and recreational activities our afterschool clubs provide a healthy light tea to the children who attend. Occasionally the children may have an outside trip or nature trail into the town or to the churchyard next to the school.

The Dell – Morgan's JMI School

The Breakfast Club is based in the school dining room and this year provided care between 7.30am and 9.00am for up to 48 children.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

In 2023 the breakfast club was split as a total capacity had been exceeded and so now the Early Years children attend Breakfast club in the annexe building whilst those aged year 2 and above attend in the dining room in Queens building.

There is a free choice of indoor activities including art, games and reading. Children chat to their friends at the breakfast table or can play a selection of tabletop games. Breakfast of cereal and toast is served until 8.30am. The children are escorted to line up for class at around 8.45am.

The Mandeville Club - after school until 6pm daily was previously based in the annexe. It provides care and activities for Nursery and Infant children up to and including Year 1. The children's play and learning are enhanced via the Early Years Framework and linkages to school themes and activities. A light healthy tea is prepared and offered daily. Staff who work in this area are qualified in childcare.

The Queens Club (Years 2-6) Based in the school dining room and Queens Hall it provides care and activities until 6pm. A light healthy tea is made with the children's input, especially with the menu planning. Indoor activities available to the children include free choice of home corner, pool table, table tennis, cooking art and craft, Lego, k-nex and other construction toys, board games, quiet corner for reading and resting. We use the hall for the team games and sports. Outdoor sports include cricket, tennis, trim trail, Tree house, small bikes, skipping etc. also sand and water play as well as gardening for the Early Years children.

Holiday scheme

Operates during the school half term, Easter and the whole of the summer holidays and occasionally part of Christmas Holiday. We also offer subject to demand childcare on inset/occasional days. The holiday club has themed activity weeks and are open to children aged three to eleven. In addition to the activities available during term time, play scheme free choice activities includes different art and crafts, team sports, bouncy castle, bowling, and walks to visit local places of interest i.e. park visits, and sports, dancing and storytelling.

Our aim is to review and improve of the quality of services we offer to our families. As well as to provide a good support and development structure for our staff. We continue to build on our partnership with parents and promote a sense of belonging, emphasising the fact that everyone - parents, children, committee and staff, have a part to play in making a success of the club.

Staffing at The Dell

Staffing is based on a ratio of 1:8 children, with some additional support from Assistant Playleaders to help the current staff. The Dell has been fortunate to employ full time qualified managers and deputies at both clubs which has helped with succession planning. In 2023 we took on an Apprentice who is now qualified and a further two apprentices have been appointed in 2025 to provide continuity of qualified staff.

Succession planning has also been enhanced by recruiting / promoting existing staff to become Senior Playleaders. Our core team of Dell staff have all worked extremely hard and have been committed to their jobs by providing excellent services to the various clubs. At the start of this year, we had around 23 regular staff on our payroll plus some students who returned to us during the holidays.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Staffing is kept flexible through a mixture of fixed, term time, bank and seasonal contracts. Teamworking and staff participation is encouraged through regular supervision, team meetings, and things like team building events. Some of our students were ex pupils who attended The Dell during their primary school years.

Staff are equipped with the skills required through due diligence training courses such as First Aid, Food Safety, Child Protection and activity courses.

Achievements and Performance

Despite a challenging economic climate The Dell continues to maintain good numbers although Abel Smith reflected a downturn at Breakfast club due to parents working from home. A small reduction in contract bookings has been offset by a higher-than-expected number of ad hoc bookings.

Our holiday club returned a good revenue particularly from children under 5 years. Other local out of school clubs focused on their term time offer so we became one of the only out of school club in the local area providing OFSTED holiday provision for under 5's. Whilst there was availability for Early Years children within some local private nurseries, our costs remained competitive and the fact we were able to offer sibling places helped.

We adapted staffing and activities to meet the demand of a younger age group and ensuring staff were able to meet the additional needs of these younger children.

The continued use of our online booking system coupled with the use of social media allows easy access for parents to book and pay online via stripe and the ability to receive direct debit payments via Go Cardless helped streamline some of the payment processes.

Both host schools are supportive of the services we provide and have continued to help us in negotiating a fair rent for the sessions we run. A significant increase in rent at Morgans has helped keep the competition on this site at bay and we have had facilities allowing us to offer care for both older and younger children.

Staff continue to receive training in Paediatric/ First Aid and online courses for Safeguarding Prevent, FGM and food hygiene.

The Dell came under pressure to increase staff salaries in line with the living wage which gave staff around a 6% pay increase.

Staffing

Our management team has continued to evolve with Karen developing in her role as Manager at Morgans. The appointment of Sarah Matthews to deputy (following Maisie's decision not to return to work at the end of her maternity leave) was short lived and since the summer 2025 this position has remained vacant. Vicki Philpott continues to Manage Abel Smith alongside Gemma as her Deputy. They continue to build a stronger relationship with the school.

With the assistance of our Finance Officer, Sara and Business Manager, Carolyn and support from Helen DeBois from Rapier group we ensured that the business remained as streamlined

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

as we could. We continue to use Xero accounting to track and manage our accounting processes and having completed several full years it is becoming easier to be able to track our costs on a year-to-date basis.

The Dell Committee have been kept up to speed with the financial position and have been integral to the decision making during the year. As well as supporting with regular meetings. Rapier Group continues to support The Dell with part time office facilities and finance services for which we are grateful.

The financial results are shown in the accompanying statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes to those statements.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the current state of the finances, and the Trustees are aware of the results.

Reserves Policy

We continue to hold reserves to cover any short fall in revenue in the event of another incident closure or suspension of services. This would be primarily used to cover staff wages/redundancy in the event of a closure/ suspension of services.

The unrestricted funds amounted to £64,955 (2024: £64,838) at the reporting date. The Trustees aim to maintain a reserve of three months' running costs. This allows The Dell to continue operating and provides the capacity to explore new sources of funding should any of its funding streams be withdrawn or come to an end with no immediate replacement.

Investment Policy

The Charity's investment policy is not to allow interest to accumulate but to use it in fulfilling the Trust's objectives. Income is credited to the appropriate fund. There are no restrictions on the Trustees' absolute powers of investment.

Risk Management

The Dell regularly reviews its procedures to minimise risk to its assets and income. This involves identifying the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and the likelihood of occurrence and establishing systems to manage those risks.

The economic climate and recessionary trends will continue to affect the Dell during 25/26. We are seeing the number of contract bookings fall slightly, although this is supported by increased ad hoc bookings and so some families are choosing a more casual approach to booking their childcare. It is anticipated that a few parents will reduce their childcare and it is envisaged some parents may no longer afford us - which may mean that parents choose to look after their children at home to reduce outgoings.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

The cost of meeting the increases in the living wage is affecting not just the lower salary levels but also the staff who previously had been paid above living wage also need increases to reflect the points of differentiation. The governments increase of minimum wages from £11.44 to £12.21 from April 25 has and will continue to significantly affect our costs particularly as wages are one of the biggest costs to the Dell.

The increase in employer NI contributions was offset during 24/25 with an increase in Small Business relief to offset the increase. This offset the increase from April to Sept 25, but we anticipate the effect of the employer NI contribution increase to affect our bottom line during 2025-2026.

Although with a reduction in staffing numbers in line with ratios, the impact may be lessened.

Pressure on wages remains a risk with The Dell having to benchmark against other local jobs which are offering higher salaries to staff. Staff undergoing pressure to meet the cost of utilities and other rising costs may look to earn more from other employment, where they can work longer hours and earn more money – this is particularly the case for our qualified staff.

Additional costs are also likely to be incurred through succession planning and the recruitment of qualified staff to meet OFSTED Early Years regulations, and we are having to offer more than market wages and full-time hours to attract staff to fulfil these roles.

The rising costs of food and increases in rent from our host schools to cover their utilities is of consideration.

It should be noted as a potential risk that The Labour parties manifesto policy of providing free “breakfast clubs” for children is unknown. This may have a significant impact on the Dells finances if our host schools offer “free” breakfast sessions. Which may affect our bottom line.

As schools are under pressure to ensure space is maximised by outsourcing The Dell is having to adapt and be flexible to work in new areas of the school which makes the workload more challenging.

Despite increasing fees again this year by 3% current projections based on numbers of bookings and staffing show The Dell to be forecasting a small loss of around £3K which is predominantly caused by the likely wage increases needed to cover future living wage costs and employer NI increases.

Future Plans

Our current business focus is on trying to retain current contracted numbers and increasing ad hoc capacity - whilst capping expenditure and reducing outgoings where we can.

The Trustees are keen to promote and continue to improve the quality of services provided to our children in the form of a fun and safe place to be with some great activities.

We need to actively promote The Dell to engage parent trustees who can sit on the Committee and provide a steer to the Dell Managers and feedback on service provision.

The Dell Out of School Club

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Benchmarking fees to remain competitive in the area together with careful monitoring of the impact of any future recessionary downturn or inflation on the wider local economy.

Succession planning remains integral for the Dell to be able to meet its Ofsted Registration. Developing the capability of our management team to enable the business to be secure if someone were to leave via recruitment and apprenticeships.

The additional income from ad hoc and holiday clubs is essential to support the overall provision of childcare throughout the year. Therefore, these services need to be actively promoted and marketed.

ACCOUNTANTS

A resolution for the re-appointment of Moore Northern Home Counties Limited was passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 September 2024.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature *A. Dellwig*
Full Name ALISON DELLWIG
Position TRUSTEE
Date 16/03/28

The Dell Out of School Club

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

The Dell Out of School Club

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DELL OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Dell Out Of School Club (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Francis Corbishley (Independent Examiner)

Moore Northern Home Counties Limited
East Wing, Goffs Oak House
Goffs Lane
Goffs Oak
Hertfordshire
EN7 5GE

23/3/2026 .

The Dell Out of School Club

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
INCOME			
Income from Charitable Activities			
Breakfast Club – Morgans		49,123	54,948
Breakfast Club – Abel Smith		24,262	21,180
After School Clubs – Morgans		111,155	110,218
After School Club – Abel Smith		77,235	76,936
Holiday Play Schemes		42,100	48,841
Other Income		30	150
		<u>303,905</u>	<u>312,273</u>
Investment Income: Interest Received		<u>1,793</u>	<u>2,300</u>
Total Income		305,698	314,573
EXPENDITURE			
Expenditure on Charitable Activities			
	2		
Wages and Social Security		244,000	255,363
Cost of Providing Clubs and Play Schemes		19,928	23,976
Rent		21,630	17,063
Insurance		2,560	2,331
Telephone		973	1,247
Printing, Postage and Stationery		840	965
Subscriptions		521	640
Advertising		121	276
Sundry Expenses		2,064	2,255
IT Equipment		496	528
Bank Charges and Interest		2,222	2,342
		<u>295,355</u>	<u>306,986</u>
Expenditure on Governance Costs	3	10,226	9,965
Total Expenditure		305,581	316,951
Net Movement in Funds		117	(2,378)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:			
Total Funds Brought Forward		<u>64,838</u>	<u>67,216</u>
Total Funds Carried Forward		<u>64,955</u>	<u>64,838</u>

The notes on pages 14-18 form an integral part of these financial statements

The Dell Out of School Club

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	5	7,411	6,080
Short Term Investments		30,000	30,000
Cash at Bank		81,660	77,563
		<u>119,071</u>	<u>113,643</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors	6	5,534	7,589
Deposits		-	-
Deferred Income		26,023	25,737
Accruals		22,559	15,479
		<u>54,116</u>	<u>48,805</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>64,955</u>	<u>64,838</u>
NET ASSETS		64,955	64,838
REPRESENTED BY:			
Unrestricted Income Funds	7	<u>64,955</u>	<u>64,838</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board on 16/03/2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Signature A. Dolling
 Full Name ALISON DOLLING
 Position TRUSTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – Charities SORP (as amended) and the Charities Act 2011.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going Concern

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

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

The Dell generates its income mainly from breakfast and after school clubs and holiday play schemes.

Donations, grants and similar income are included in the financial statements when The Dell becomes entitled to the income and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Investment Income

Investment Income relates to bank interest and is included in the financial statements when receivable.

Expenditure

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. They are recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

2. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

This totalled £305,581 (2024: £316,951) and is detailed in the Statement of Financial Activities. The expenditure represents costs incurred to maintain the running and operations of The Dell. Such costs are all part of the unrestricted funds of the charity.

Wages and Social Security Costs are apportioned to the following direct activities:

	2025	2024
	£	£
School Club Activities	216,098	228,107
Support Staff	27,902	27,256
	244,000	255,363

Staff costs comprises of:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and Salaries	233,270	243,558
Social Security Costs	10,730	11,805
	244,000	255,363

The average number of employees during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	Avg	Avg
School Club Activities	14	9
Support Staff	2	2
	16	11

Costs of providing clubs and play schemes include:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Training & Clothing	1,921	3,693
Play Supplies	2,056	2,731
Activities	1,306	2,598
Food	14,645	14,954
	19,928	23,976

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

3. GOVERNANCE COSTS

These costs represent costs incurred by finance, human resources, Independent Examiner's fees and departments attributable to the management of the charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements. Such costs are part of unrestricted funds.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accountancy	3,960	3,960
Professional Fees	6,266	6,005
	<u>10,226</u>	<u>9,965</u>

4. REMUNERATION OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees or persons connected to them did not receive remuneration or reimbursement of expenditure during the year.

5. DEBTORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,100	4,904
Prepayments	1,311	1,176
Other receivables	-	-
	<u>7,411</u>	<u>6,080</u>

6. CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,201	3,893
Other creditors	2,333	3,696
	<u>5,534</u>	<u>7,589</u>

FUND ACCOUNTING

Analysis of movements in unrestricted fund:

	As at 01 September 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	As at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds	64,838	305,698	(305,581)	64,955

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds – previous year:

	As at 01 September 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	As at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds	67,216	314,573	(316,951)	64,838

Purpose of Unrestricted Funds

The purpose of the funds is to be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.