The Childrens Art School

Charity number 1161225

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Childrens Art School

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2026

Contents	Page
Trustees' report	2 to 5
Examiner's report	6
Receipts and payments account	7
Statement of assets and liabilities	8
Notes to the accounts	9 to 10

Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

The Childrens Art School

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name

Jael Williams
Sally Brown
Maire Tracey
Shamyla Younas

Charity number 1161225 Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address

22 Back Lane
Holmfirth
Huddersfield
HD9 1HG

Bankers

The Co-operative bank
P O Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent examiner

Chalitha Herath FCCA
West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO
Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) foundation formed on 9 April 2015.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed at a meeting of the trustees.

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

To promote the education of children and young people in the United Kingdom, particularly in West Yorkshire, by: providing visual and other arts classes and workshops advising and training teachers and arts facilitators; and raising awareness of the value of teaching creativity and innovation and its impact on the development and well-being of children and young people.

The charity's main activities

During the financial year 2025–26, The Children's Art School continued to deliver its charitable objectives by providing high-quality, accessible creative opportunities for children and young people aged 2–18. The charity's activities are designed to promote creativity, confidence, wellbeing and social connection, particularly for children and families who face barriers to accessing arts and cultural provision due to cost, geography or socio-economic disadvantage.

Public benefit statement

In planning and delivering its activities, the Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The paid-for classes and Saturday Art School in Holmfirth continue to provide a sustainable core, whilst all other programmes remain free at the point of access with a particular focus on town-centre and community-based provision that supports inclusion and family participation.

Achievements and performance

MakerWorld Huddersfield & Flagship Offer

MakerWorld Huddersfield continued to be the charity's flagship free creative engagement programme, delivering regular weekly term-time sessions, pre-school *Little Makers* sessions, and extensive holiday drop-ins supported by ongoing *Reaching Communities* funding from The National Lottery. Across the full 2.5-year funding period (November 2023 – May 2026), MakerWorld achieved **14,433 visits** from children and families, demonstrating deep integration into local family life.

Key impact data highlights MakerWorld's reach among underrepresented audiences:

- **72%** of participants reported MakerWorld was their main reason for visiting Huddersfield town centre.
- **63%** of participating families previously had low or no engagement in creative activities.
- **39%** of attendees identified as being from ethnic minority backgrounds (compared to 26% across Kirklees overall).
- **25%** of children attending were eligible for Free School Meals / Pupil Premium.
- **96%** of first-time participants indicated they would return.

Music integration continued to flourish through djembe drumming (*MakerNoise*) and singing sessions alongside family drop-ins.

Expansion of the Piazza Unit: MakerSkate & Youth Offer

Building on the acquisition of the former Toyland unit in the Piazza Centre, the charity expanded its youth-led provision to tackle the local shortage of safe, creative spaces for older children and teenagers.

In partnership with *Skate It Yourself*, the basement space operated as Huddersfield's first indoor skate park

MakerWorld Gallery (Arts Council England Funded)

A major achievement for 2025–26 was gaining project funding support from **Arts Council England (ACE)** to establish and pilot **MakerWorld Gallery**—a dedicated, child-centred exhibition and participatory art space in the Piazza unit adjacent to MakerWorld.

The Gallery transformed an empty retail unit into a playful, free, welcoming, and high-quality cultural venue where children and young people act not just as audiences, but as active creators and exhibitors.

Achievements and performance (continued)
Gallery Pilot Highlights & Impact (2025–26)

- **Engagement**: Reached **1,378 participants** across gallery events, clubs, workshops, and 8 dedicated SEN school visits, alongside drop-in exhibition visitors.
- **Exhibitions**: Hosted **8 exhibitions and installations**—including *Soft Studio* (Hold Art), *Toddler Takeover* (Abi Horn), *Brutulast* sound installation, community exhibition *Experiments in Biophilic Form* led by isobel Denton (Isobel Denton),
- **Inclusion & Accessibility**: **20%** of visitors identified someone in their group as disabled or neurodivergent, **33%** came from ethnic minority backgrounds, and **32%** were first-time visitors. Families consistently praised the gallery for being calm, sensory-friendly, non-judgemental, and neuroinclusive.
- **Placemaking Impact**: **Around 2/3 of visiting families** combined their gallery visit with shopping, dining, or other town-centre activities, driving footfall and civic pride.
- **A teen takeover** in February 2026 saw 3 young producers supported by Chol theatre develop a young people event alongside a week of sculpture and film workshops for young people.

MakerWorld Dewsbury

Following pilots in 2023–24, MakerWorld Dewsbury established a strong local presence throughout 2025–26. Supported by a one-year **National Lottery Awards for All** grant (commencing April 2025) alongside Town Improvement Funding and Dewsbury Arcade support, the site delivered **55 creative sessions**. Dewsbury provision mirrored Huddersfield's success, engaging ethnically diverse communities and demonstrating high repeat attendance in an area with substantial demand for free family arts provision.

Schools, Outreach & Strategic Partnerships

The Children's Art School delivered paid-for art clubs, commissions, and festival activity to support overall financial sustainability:

- **Clubs & Commissions**: Regular art clubs at Holmfirth Tech and Salendine Nook High School, alongside commissions for Huddersfield Literature Festival, Holmfirth Arts Festival, Batley Festival, and the University of Huddersfield.
- **Targeted Outreach**: In partnership with Chol Theatre, summer outreach programs reached **423 children** across 9 high-deprivation Kirklees neighbourhoods, utilizing cardboard den-building and safe tools. Further summer outreach engaged **713 young people** at events including Shockwaves Community Music Festival, Oakwell Hall (Yorkshire Day), Beaumont Park, and regional skate parks.
- **Collaborators**: Key partners included *Skate It Yourself*, *Chol Theatre*, *Kirklees Libraries* (including the *Colourful World of Bacteria* exhibition), *Musica Kirklees* (*Little Makers* music), and the *Creative Piazza Collective*.

Organisational Development & Youth Pathways

- **Staffing & Capacity**: Expanded the freelance team with 5 new freelance artists, bringing the total delivery team to **16 professional artists** alongside specialist skate coaches.
- **Youth Volunteering**: Supported **16 young helpers/volunteers** (aged 13–21), providing structured work experience, leadership pathways, and formal training in first aid, disability awareness, and customer service.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Summary

The 2025–26 year represented a period of significant growth, creative ambition, and strategic consolidation for The Children's Art School. By securing Arts Council England funding to launch the MakerWorld Gallery, expanding youth provision in partnership with Skate it Yourself and Chol Theatre, and sustaining high-impact, free creative spaces across Huddersfield and Dewsbury, the charity has firmly established its role as a vital contributor to local community wellbeing, youth engagement, and town-centre placemaking. Looking ahead, the organisation remains dedicated to breaking down barriers to cultural participation and ensuring every child and young person in Kirklees has access to inspiring, welcoming, and child-centred artistic opportunities

Financial review

The net payments for the year was £26,251, including net receipts of £10,261 on unrestricted funds and net payments of £36,512 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, at the year end were £46,676.

The policy allocates money from unrestricted fund balances, which are not invested in fixed assets, to a designated reserves fund. These funds are for potential situations such as

- Continuity - to be used to bridge any possible delays in receiving promised grants or managing payment in arrears contracts. This has been defined as a minimum of a three months budgeted trading activity.
- Restructuring - to be used to cover essential trading/activities whilst sourcing income to a maximum of 3 months budgeted trading activity.
- Dissolution - provides for the costs of dissolution should the company be unable to continue. It is only to be used in the event of the Trustees' deciding the company should cease to exist. It will be used to pay notice periods, redundancies and the expenses of running (The Children's Art School) until closure of the organisation.

Fund Balance

- 3 months minimal running costs £2,000
- 3 months residual salaries (1 staff) £10,000
- Minimum Required £12,000
- Maximum: £25,000

Our reserves currently stand above our target policy level. We see this excess as providing a crucial financial safety net during a period of transition. Following an unsuccessful bid to renew our Reaching Communities funding and the loss of our physical space, we expect to be drawing on these surplus reserves to ensure the continued delivery of the MakerWorld project in the short and medium term. While the project faces an uncertain future, this excess capital gives us the flexibility to adapt to new opportunities as they arise and secure a sustainable path forward.

Approved by the board of trustees on 15/10/2026

Jael Williams (Trustee)

The Childrens Art School

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Childrens Art School

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the CIO for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the CIO you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the CIO's accounts as 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 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 Charities Act;
2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

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 accounts to be reached.

Chalitha Herath FCCA

22/10/2026

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO
Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

The Childrens Art School

Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 Unrestricted funds £	2026 Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Receipts					
Grants and donations	(2)	15,000	179,468	194,468	125,511
Sales and fees		42,726	-	42,726	59,155
Bank interest		811	-	811	-
Total receipts		58,537	179,468	238,005	184,666
Payments					
Salaries and NIC		6,851	71,202	78,053	76,089
Freelance teachers and artistes		22,079	57,259	79,338	38,794
Rent, rates, service charges and utilities		5,681	33,462	39,143	36,988
Materials and resources		2,371	3,688	6,059	5,656
Equipment		1,990	20	2,010	2,817
Marketing		2,216	15,906	18,122	14,268
Travel expenses		185	139	324	400
Training		-	1,657	1,657	2,790
Bookkeeping		419	2,219	2,638	1,804
Insurance		-	251	251	3,449
Miscellaneous		425	1,123	1,548	1,173
Volunteer expenses		23	161	184	289
Accountancy and Independent examination		-	1,494	1,494	990
Organisational development		3,722	-	3,722	178
Consultancy and professional		2,210	2,750	4,960	3,979
Phone and internet		-	495	495	694
Printing		97	1,740	1,837	3,301
Activity costs		820	21,601	22,421	-
Total payments		49,089	215,167	264,256	193,659
Net receipts / (payments)		9,448	(35,699)	(26,251)	(8,993)
Transfers between funds		813	(813)	-	-
Net movement in funds		10,261	(36,512)	(26,251)	(8,993)
Fund balances brought forward		36,415	47,328	83,743	92,736
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	46,676	10,816	57,492	83,743

The Childrens Art School

Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 March 2026

	2026 Unrestricted £	2026 Restricted £	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Cash funds				
Cash at bank	46,676	10,816	57,492	83,743
Total cash funds	46,676	10,816	57,492	83,743

Debtors and prepayments	2026 £
Debtors - ACE Grant to be received	4,776
	4,776

Liabilities	2026 £
Accruals	1,539
	1,539

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 15/10/2026

Jael Williams (Trustee)

The Childrens Art School

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

The Childrens Art School

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2026

2 Grants and donations

	2026 Unrestricted funds	2026 Restricted funds	2026 Total funds	2025 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Arts Council England	-	66,060	66,060	2,959
Kirklees Council	-	19,870	19,870	9,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	88,336	88,336	112,496
One Community	-	4,000	4,000	-
Other donations	15,000	1,202	16,202	1,056
	15,000	179,468	194,468	125,511

3 Restricted funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
HAF	-	19,870	18,870	(1,000)	-
NL Makers World	27,428	89,499	102,161	-	14,766
NL Dewsbury little makers	19,900	-	18,900	(1,000)	-
Dewsbury little makers	-	39	400	1,187	826
Galery - One communy	-	4,000	4,000	-	-
Galery - ACE	-	66,060	70,836	-	(4,776)
	47,328	179,468	215,167	(813)	10,816

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
HAF	To provide activities for children at Dewsbury and Huddersfield Maker World and a youth offer at the gallery. The transfer relates to a contribution towards management costs.
NL Makers World	To fund a Maker World offer for children and families.
NL Dewsbury little makers	To deliver a Maker World offer in Dewsbury. The transfer relates to a contribution towards management costs.
Dewsbury little makers	To deliver a Maker World offer in Dewsbury. The transfer relates to an opening balance adjustment.
Galery - One communy	To develop a children's art gallery offer.
Galery - ACE	To develop a children's art gallery offer.

4 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.