PORRIDGE & PENS™

GHANA

TEN YEARS

Alongside Children and Families in Ghana

A DECADE OF EDUCATION, NUTRITION AND HOPE



EDUCATION
Giving children the chance to learn

NUTRITION
Providing daily meals and hope

STABILITY
Supporting families and communities

OPPORTUNITY
Building brighter futures

2025 TRUSTEE REPORT

2025 has been an important year for Porridge and Pens. Despite continued financial pressure in both the UK and Ghana, we have remained focused on keeping children and young people in education and supporting families facing increasing hardship.



During the year, we supported 460 children through nursery, primary, and Junior High School education, and a further 60 girls, young women, and boys through our Girl Power educational support programme. Alongside education, many of the children and young people we support also relied on us for meals and welfare support throughout the year.

One of the biggest developments during 2025 was the opening of our boarding facility near Brightlingsea Academy, one of our partner schools. Over recent years, we have seen increasing numbers of children struggling with unstable housing, difficult family situations and disruption to their education during the rainy season. Some children were missing school because there was nowhere stable for them to stay, while others faced long, dangerous journeys during floods from Ghana's rainy season, which is growing ever more unpredictable in line with climate change. Opening the boarding facility has allowed vulnerable students to stay close to the school, attend lessons consistently and access evening tuition without barriers. It was a joy and a privilege to be there on the day we opened the doors, with our school band in full swing, to mark the occasion.

During 2025, we also completed the construction of a bridge near Brightlingsea Academy to help children and local villagers cross safely during the rainy season. For years, families have risked crossing flooded riverbanks to reach the school and nearby communities & their families have struggled to get to work. Children often tried to cross dangerous water to avoid missing lessons. Trying to detour the children from reaching the school during the rains has always been tough with most families without mobile phone access, so we resorted to teachers 'piggybacking' students across the flooded areas safely. This was a short-term solution and asked too much of the staff, so we are thrilled the bridge is up.

At Brightlingsea Academy, our 40 Ghanaian staff continued to work incredibly hard to support children living in multidimensional poverty. School feeding remained one of the most important parts of our work, with many children continuing to rely on their school meals each day. Watching our two school cooks make 900 meals each day without any electricity is quite incredible. We also continued developing our school farm and food production projects as part of our aim to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the feeding programme and reduce some of the pressure from rising food costs. As Porridge and Pens continue to evolve, we are always looking for ways to make our work more sustainable.

I am also incredibly proud that, in 2025, we were able to continue supporting more than 60 girls, young women, and boys through our Girl Power educational support programme. Over the years, we have seen many young people progress from extremely difficult situations to secondary school, vocational training, and university education, often becoming the first in their families to reach that stage.

Over the years, we have increasingly recognised that many young people do not always require years of continuous charitable funding, but instead need practical support, mentoring and stability during periods of crisis that place their education at immediate risk. In many situations, a relatively short period of support can prevent a student from dropping out completely and allow them to continue progressing independently once circumstances improve.

As we move further into 2026, our hope is for Porridge and Pens to increasingly act as a bridge during periods of instability, helping students remain in education while also working closely with families, schools, universities and local support systems to identify longer-term solutions beyond Porridge and Pens. This includes encouraging and supporting families back towards greater financial stability where possible, helping students and parents better understand the educational opportunities available to them through university government funding, and strengthening relationships with universities and government support systems within Ghana.

We have been particularly encouraged by the Ghanaian Government's growing efforts to improve access to higher education support, including grants and student finance opportunities for some university students. Part of our role is now to help students and families navigate these systems more confidently, so they can access every opportunity available to protect a young person’s right to education. While many students still face very serious financial and safeguarding challenges, we hope this approach will gradually direct charitable funding more towards young people facing immediate crises and the greatest barriers to education, while also helping more students move towards long-term independence and stability.

Finally, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has continued to support Porridge and Pens through another difficult year. Whether through donations, fundraising, volunteering, encouragement or simply continuing to believe in the children and young people we support, your kindness has helped keep vulnerable students in education during some incredibly challenging circumstances. There are children attending school today, young women continuing their university studies, and families feeling a little more hopeful about the future because people have chosen to stand alongside them. On behalf of all of us at Porridge and Pens, thank you for continuing to be part of that journey.

Jemma Williams

Founder of Porridge and Pens Ghana

Brightlingsea Academy: Hope, Safety and Education



During 2025, Brightlingsea Academy continued supporting around 460 children through free education, school meals and welfare support. Many of the children attending the school still live in significant poverty, with some families living in informal settlements or unstable housing situations which regularly affect school attendance and family life.

School feeding & our teachers continued to be one of the most important parts of our work throughout the year. For many children, the meals they receive at school are still the most reliable food they will eat that day. Rising food costs across Ghana continued to create challenges during 2025, especially the cost of staple foods, but we continued working hard to keep the feeding programme running each day. We still regularly see the difference a meal makes to a child's ability to concentrate in class and attend school consistently.

Alongside education, staff continued supporting families facing difficult circumstances and monitoring children at risk of missing school because of poverty, flooding, illness or unstable home situations. During periods of heavy rain, some children were still making dangerous journeys to school because of flooded riverbanks near the community. We have an incredible teaching team, with Brightlingsea Academy holding the record for best JHS academic results in the area.

One of the biggest moments of 2025 was finally opening the boarding facility near Brightlingsea Academy. Over recent years, we had seen increasing numbers of children struggling to remain consistently in school because of unstable housing and difficult family situations. After years of fundraising and planning, it was wonderful seeing the first children finally move into the new boarding rooms. Already, we are seeing children attending school more consistently, settling into routines and benefiting from evening tuition and additional support in a safer and more stable environment.

During 2025, the charity also completed the construction of a bridge near Brightlingsea Academy to help children and local villagers cross safely during the rainy season. For many years, families have risked crossing flooded riverbanks to reach the school and nearby

communities. Some children attempted to cross dangerous water because they did not want to miss lessons. The bridge has already made journeys much safer for both students and the wider community.

Alongside these developments, the charity continued exploring ways to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the feeding programme through local food production and school farming projects. During the year, work continued on crop-growing and poultry projects linked to the school farm, with the aim of helping reduce feeding costs in future years



2025 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY

PORRIDGE & PENS™ — GHANA —

Every day, your support helps us provide nutritious meals, quality education and a safe place to learn and grow for vulnerable children and young people in Ghana.

SCHOOL MEALS
MAKING A DAILY DIFFERENCE

Nutritious meals help our children concentrate, learn and thrive.

900 MEALS A DAY

Every single school day

PER MONTH

900 MEALS A DAY

× 20

(Average school days per month)

= **18,000** MEALS PER MONTH

PER YEAR

900 MEALS A DAY

× 200

(Average school days per year)

= **180,000** MEALS PER YEAR

THE IMPACT

180,000

moments of nourishment, care and opportunity to learn, grow and build a better future.

Thank you for helping us provide more than just a meal.
You are helping children build brighter futures.

Together, we can continue making a lasting difference.

Thank you!

Keeping Children Safe & in School – Our new Boarding Facility



One of the most important developments during 2025 was the opening of the Brightlingsea Academy boarding facility for children living in unstable or difficult situations. This intervention was aimed at our lowest-attending/lowest-performing students.

Over recent years, we had seen increasing numbers of children struggling to remain consistently in school because of housing instability, difficult family circumstances, flooding during the rainy season, and long journeys from informal settlements around Kumasi. Some children were regularly missing lessons simply because there was nowhere stable for them to stay.

The boarding facility was created to give some of our most exposed students a safer and more stable environment while continuing their education. Children staying at the facility are able to remain close to Brightlingsea Academy, access regular meals, attend school consistently, and take part in evening tuition sessions for students who have fallen behind academically.

The facility has also allowed staff to provide more day-to-day emotional support for children facing difficult circumstances at home. Staff in Ghana continue working closely with families to make sure children remain connected to their communities while also having somewhere safe and stable to stay during the school term.

Although the project is still in its early stages, we are already seeing a real difference in attendance, punctuality, and consistency in learning for some of the children now staying at the boarding facility.

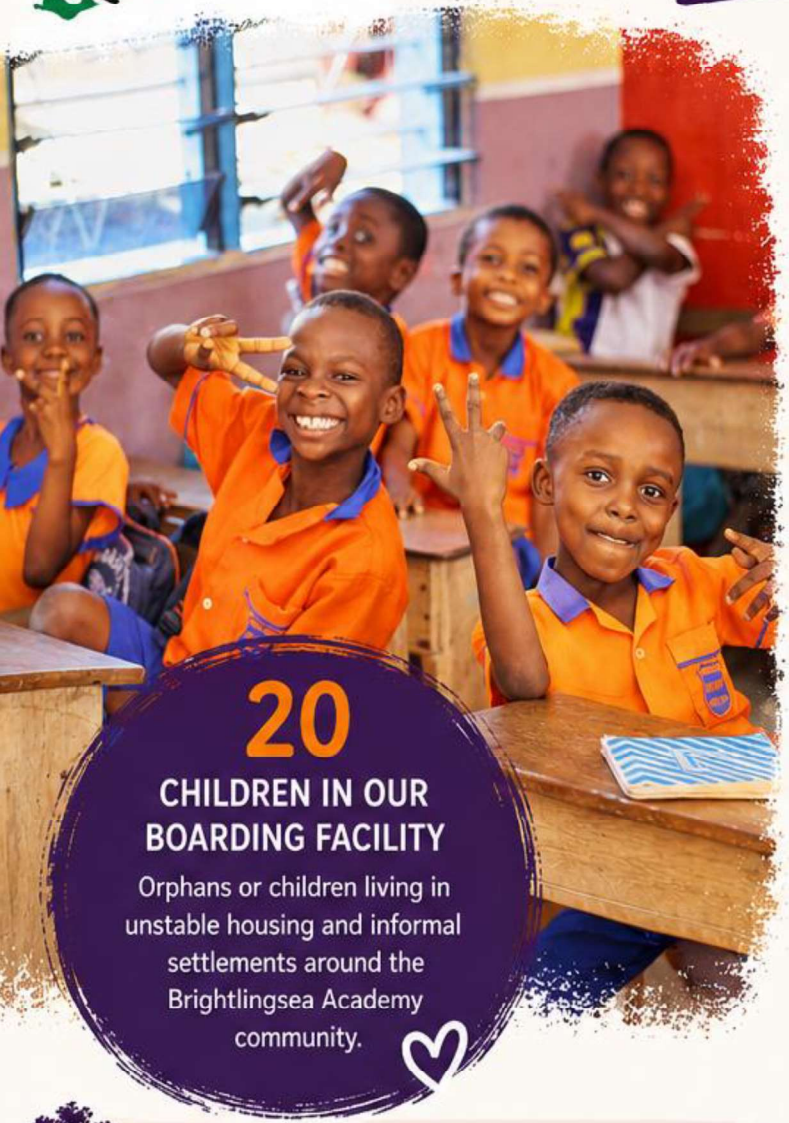
PORRIDGE & PENS™ — GHANA —

2025 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY

A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME

20 children are living in our boarding facility, supported with care, guidance and everything they need to thrive.

Our boarding facility provides safety, stability and opportunity for vulnerable children who have nowhere else to call home.



20

CHILDREN IN OUR BOARDING FACILITY

Orphans or children living in unstable housing and informal settlements around the Brightlingsea Academy community.

WHO THEY ARE

Orphans or children who were living in unstable housing or squatting in informal settlements around Brightlingsea Academy.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- ✓ Safe and secure accommodation
- ✓ Nutritious meals
- ✓ Extra evening tuition and academic support
- ✓ Learning materials and school supplies
- ✓ Pastoral care and emotional support
- ✓ Life skills and guidance

Here, I feel safe. I can learn, I have friends and I know I have a future.

THE IMPACT ON THEIR EDUCATION

BETTER ATTENDANCE

Children attend school regularly and are no longer forced to miss lessons due to unsafe or unstable living situations.

IMPROVED ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Consistent study, extra evening tuition and homework support lead to better understanding, stronger results and increased confidence.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Stability, care and encouragement help children feel secure, build self-esteem and have a positive mindset for learning.

BRIGHTER FUTURES

With education and support, children are developing skills, discovering their potential and dreaming bigger for their futures.



Many of these children were living in unsafe conditions with no stability, no quiet place to study and no certainty about their future.

Thank you for giving these children more than a bed – you are giving them stability, education and hope.

You are changing their tomorrow.

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Bridge to Brightlingsea



In 2025, Porridge and Pens completed construction of a bridge near Brightlingsea Academy to help children and local residents cross safely during the rainy season.

For many years, children and families had been forced to cross dangerous flooded riverbanks to reach the school and nearby communities. During periods of heavy rainfall, some children still attempted to cross deep water because they were so determined not to miss lessons.

In recent years, families and staff connected to Brightlingsea Academy have also noticed real changes in the community's flooding. Areas which would normally only become difficult to cross during the main rainy season are now flooding far more often, with water levels rising unexpectedly at different times of the year. For many of our children, this has made journeys to school increasingly difficult and worrying, particularly for families living close to the riverbanks and for parents trying to reach work safely.

The completion of the bridge has already made journeys much safer for both students and the wider community. For many families, it has reduced isolation during periods of flooding and made it easier for children to continue attending school consistently.

The project also reflected the close relationship between Porridge and Pens and the local community. Residents contributed labour and practical support throughout the construction process, and the local King donated the land needed to build the bridge for Brightlingsea Academy. We are incredibly grateful to the supporters and corporate donors who helped raise the funds needed to finally make the bridge possible. Our amazing corporate donors, The Childrensalon made the work possible through their in house fundraising & we remain incredibly grateful to them for the safe passage of over 500 children and local people every day in our school community.

Unfortunately, several other areas in the community continue facing similar problems with flooding and unsafe crossings, which we know may create further challenges in the future. We hope this project encourages continued partnership within the community so that more safe crossings can be developed over time.

PORRIDGE & PENS™
GHANA

2025 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS SUMMARY

A BRIDGE TO SAFETY & OPPORTUNITY

Building stronger futures together.

OUR NEW SCHOOL BRIDGE

Rising floods and extreme weather in rural Ghana are making daily journeys dangerous.

Thanks to the incredible support of **Childrensalon** and our local residents, we have built a strong, safe bridge that connects our community and protects lives.



500+ SAFER CROSSINGS EVERY DAY

For children going to school, parents going to work, and villagers accessing essential services.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

Heavier rains and flooding are now more frequent and severe in rural Ghana, cutting communities off and putting lives at risk.

LESS RISK, MORE PEACE OF MIND

The bridge greatly reduces the chance of children and adults falling into flooded water during the rainy season.

STRONGER ACCESS, BRIGHTER FUTURES

Reliable access to school, work and services means better attendance, more opportunity and stronger, healthier communities.

THANK YOU!

To **Childrensalon** and **our local residents** for working together to make this bridge a reality.

BEFORE:
Dangerous crossings.
Flooded paths.
Lives at risk.



NOW:
A safe bridge.
A connected community.
A better future for all.

This bridge is more than concrete and steel.
It is hope, opportunity and a safer tomorrow.
Together, we are building brighter futures.

Stronger together.
Safer today.
Stronger tomorrows.
Brighter futures.

Development of the Brightlingsea School Farm and Agricultural System



Throughout 2025, Porridge and Pens continued developing the Brightlingsea Academy school farm and agricultural projects as part of our longer-term hopes to strengthen food security within the school feeding programme.

Rising food costs across Ghana have continued creating real challenges for the charity, especially as so many children still rely heavily on school meals each day. Because of this, finding ways to grow more food locally has become increasingly important for the future of the project.

During the year, work continued on small crop-growing projects and early plans for poultry farming linked to the school farm. In time, we hope the farm will help contribute towards the feeding programme while also creating opportunities for practical agricultural learning and greater involvement from the local community.

Alongside food production, the charity also continued developing irrigation and water access through the school borehole project. The borehole has improved access to water for farming and has also helped support local families living close to the school.

Although the project is still in its early stages, the school farm remains an important part of our longer-term hopes for Brightlingsea Academy. We hope that over time it will ease some of the pressure created by rising food costs and help us continue providing meals for the children who rely on the school each day.

Our school farm now has catfish, which are being bred and cared for by our students and Sir Jacob. Hopefully, in 2026, we will see some catfish on the school menu or as a profit-making venture to raise money for our school feeding program. It's been a fantastic way for our class six students to learn about business/profit and loss, and we hope to trial it soon.







PORRIDGE & PENS™
— GHANA —

SCHOOL FARM

GROWING FOOD. FEEDING FUTURES.
A STEP FORWARD TO SUSTAINABILITY

We are growing more than crops. We are growing a **better future** for our children.

BY 2027, WE HOPE TO PRODUCE

30%

OF ALL FOOD PRODUCTS THROUGH OUR SCHOOL FARM





WHAT WE ARE GROWING


PLANTAIN


CASSAVA


MAIZE


ONIONS

PLUS OTHER HERBS AND VEGETABLES



to contribute to the feeding programme managed by our **teachers** and **parent volunteers**.

MANAGED TOGETHER

Our school farm is managed with the support of our dedicated **teachers** and **parent volunteers**.

- Stronger connection between school and community
- Building skills, teamwork and local ownership
- Reducing pressure on rising food costs
- Teaching children about farming, nutrition and sustainability

FEEDING FUTURES. NOURISHING HOPE.

Every plant we grow today helps feed our children, support our community and build a better tomorrow.



SUPPORTING OUR FEEDING PROGRAMME

Fresh, healthy and locally grown food helps provide nutritious meals for our children every day.

A STEP TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

Growing our own food reduces costs, builds food security and protects our children's future.

LEARNING. GROWING. THRIVING.

Practical learning opportunities help children develop valuable life skills for the future.

STRONGER TOGETHER, BRIGHTER FUTURES

Working together today for a more sustainable tomorrow.

Thank you!
to our teachers, parent volunteers and supporters for making this possible!

FROM OUR FIRST ONION HARVEST IN 2025 TO 30% OF OUR FOOD BY 2027!
TOGETHER, WE GROW HOPE. TOGETHER, WE FEED FUTURES.

Disability & hopes of the Paralympics 2028

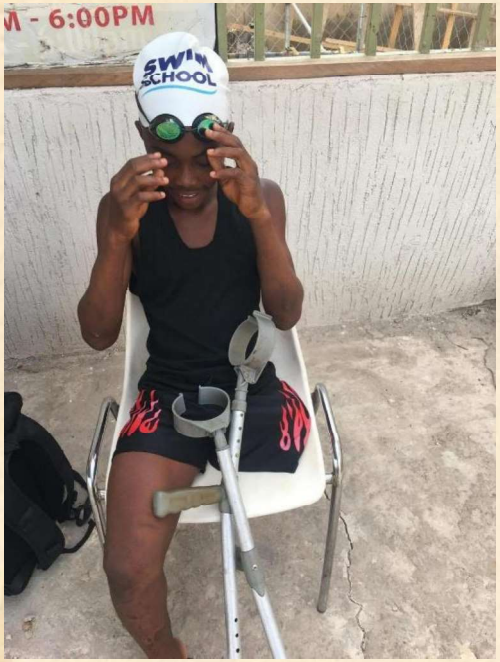


When we first met Akwasi, he was living with his mother and brothers in a small tin-roofed room within an informal settlement in Kumasi close to Brightlingsea Academy. The family survived on very little, with his mother, Anita, working long hours selling second-hand clothes in the market.

Akwasi had stopped attending school after losing his leg in a serious road traffic accident which nearly took his life. Following the accident, his mother became frightened that people within the community would view him differently because of his disability, and for a long time she kept him close to home.

Over time, we slowly built a relationship with both Akwasi and Anita and welcomed them into the Brightlingsea Academy community. Akwasi joined the school, and Anita later began working with us as one of the school cooks.

Life remained very difficult for the family. Each day during the rainy season, Akwasi still had to cross dangerous flooded riverbanks to reach school. To stop his prosthetic leg being damaged that we purchased him, his mother would often carry it separately while he swam the river. It is something many of us connected to the school will never forget seeing.



Tragically, Anita later passed away, leaving Akwasi and his brothers living alone. Since then, Brightlingsea Academy has continued supporting the boys through education, welfare support, and ongoing care from staff within the school community. Our headteacher is his legal guardian, like many other students at Brightlingsea Academy who have no one else.

From a very young age, Akwasi had taught himself to swim in the local river near his home. What had simply started as part of everyday life in the community slowly became something much bigger. During a school swimming trip, it quickly became clear that Akwasi had an extraordinary natural ability in the water knowing breast stroke, butterfly, back stroke and front crawl – without ever being taught to swim. Despite everything, he was stronger and more confident in the pool than any other student at the school.

Swimming completely changed Akwasi's confidence. For the first time, he found something he truly felt proud of. Today, he trains regularly at swimming pools in Kumasi with coaching support linked to the Ghanaian Olympic team, with the long-term hope of one day competing at the LA Paralympics in 2028.

Akwasi's story is a reminder of why Porridge and Pens exists. Sometimes, all a child needs is the opportunity to be seen differently and the chance for somebody to believe in their potential before they can begin believing in themselves.

For all of us involved in the charity, watching Akwasi grow from a frightened young boy isolated from education into a determined young athlete has been incredible. His story continues to remind us why long-term support, stability and belief in the young people we support matters so much.

Girl Power Educational Support

During 2025, Porridge & Pens supported 60 girls, young women and boys through the Girl Power educational support programme.

Support included school and university fees, accommodation support where needed, and regular welfare monitoring for students facing financial instability or difficult family situations. Throughout the year, Porridge & Pens continued supporting students across secondary school, vocational training, and higher education through scholarship support for young people who would otherwise struggle to continue their education.



During 2025, we reviewed how support could be delivered more sustainably as financial pressures continued to increase in both the UK and Ghana. This included exploring ways in which students progressing into higher education could access more support through government funding and student finance schemes available within Ghana itself, something new to Ghana.

Looking ahead, Porridge and Pens hopes to continue strengthening work with young people & their families through mentoring and practical guidance, recognising how important support from parents and carers can be in helping young people remain in education and build more stable futures for themselves.

Girl Power Support in 2026

As the charity moves into 2026, trustees have continued reflecting on how Girl Power's educational support can be delivered as sustainably and responsibly as possible during a time of increasing financial pressure and growing need.

Over the years, we have learned that most families genuinely want to do more to support their children's education where they can. In many situations, however, families are frightened of debt, unsure how student finance works, or worried about the stigma attached to applying for government support. Because of this, an increasingly important part of our work is helping students and families better understand the new support available to them and giving them the confidence to access it safely. Over recent years, government grants and student finance has become available to university students but the uptake of them is small, we want to work with our families identify the best routes for their children but continue to support those who desperately still need our help.

Part of this work includes exploring how students progressing into higher education can access greater support through government funding schemes, student loans, and other opportunities now available within Ghana itself. We hope this approach will gradually help reduce long-term pressure on Porridge and Pens while also allowing support to reach more young people who may otherwise struggle to continue their education in periods of short term crisis.

As part of this approach, the charity now reviews family situations on a much more regular basis, recognising how quickly circumstances can change for families in Ghana. Staff are increasingly working closely with students and parents through regular contact and two-weekly reviews to better understand what support families may be able to contribute towards a young person's education at different points in time. In some situations, even very small contributions made week by week can make an important difference towards long-term sustainability.

2026 Girl Power Change Makers Scheme

A new way of working – supporting young people and families to build brighter, more independent futures.



1. Working together

We build strong relationships with students and families through mentoring, regular contact and practical support.



2. Signposting and guidance

We help families understand and access government grants, student finance and other opportunities available in Ghana.



3. Family contributions

We encourage families to contribute what they can, even small amounts week by week – it all adds up and builds sustainability.



4. Two-weekly reviews

We review each family situation every two weeks as circumstances change quickly. Support is adjusted so students get the right help at the right time.



5. Targeted support

Porridge and Pens provides financial support only when it's needed most – to keep young people in education and reaching their potential.

Working together today for confident young people, stronger families and stronger communities.

Fundraising

Fundraising remained difficult in 2025, particularly for small charities working internationally. Rising costs in both the UK and Ghana, alongside increasing pressure on grant funding, continued to affect the wider charity sector throughout the year.

Despite this, the charity continued to receive support from grant funders, churches, schools, community fundraising efforts, and individual donations. Our online charity eBay shop also continued to play a major part in fundraising throughout the year, helping generate unrestricted income to support the running of both projects in Ghana.

We are also extremely grateful to our corporate donor, Childrensalon, who continued supporting the charity throughout 2025. Childrensalon also organised several fundraising events in support of Porridge and Pens during the year. Their support has made a real difference to the charity during an increasingly difficult fundraising climate.

During 2025, we also began exploring grant opportunities with Rotary International to support future development work at Brightlingsea Academy, which we are excited to continue as we move into 2026.

Thank You

As always, none of this work would be possible without the kindness and commitment of the people who continue to stand alongside Porridge and Pens.

We remain incredibly grateful to our supporters in both the UK and Ghana who continue to believe in the children and young people we work with, even as fundraising has become increasingly difficult for small charities. Every donation, fundraiser, and message of encouragement has helped us continue to support children through education, school feeding, and welfare support during another challenging year.

We would also like to thank our trustees, volunteers, and small UK team who continue to give their time and energy to the charity alongside work, family life, and other commitments.

Most importantly, we want to thank our Ghanaian staff and project teams, who continue to show extraordinary dedication to the children in their care each day. Their commitment to the Brightlingsea Academy, the boarding facility and the young people supported through Girl Power continues to make all of this work possible


A YEAR OF
AMAZING
FUNDRAISING
TOGETHER WE CHANGE LIVES IN GHANA
EDUCATION - FOOD - SHELTER
PORRIDGE & PENS
GHANA
porridgeandpens.org
DONATE HERE!
BRIGHTLINGSEA ACADEMY
GIRL POWER
BRIGHTER FUTURES
START UP
Pink Parrot
paint-your-own pottery
Friday 2nd May
Brightlingsea Parish Hall
1pm-4pm
Spring
Sale
All profits to
Porridge and Pens
Ghana
Cash and card accepted
PORTLAND
ATHLETIC DIVISION
1832
FUNKY MONKEY
GHANA
TO THE
WORLD
PORRIDGE & PENS
GHANA
Every day Porridge and Pens supports over 250 children
who are living in extreme poverty in Ghana.
We do this by providing education and food to
break the cycle of poverty.
HELP CHANGE A
CHILD'S FUTURE
CHILDRENSALON
@ultrachallenges
#gowerpeninsulachallenge
/UltraChallenge
GOWER
ULTRA

Registered Charity Details

Porridge and Pens Ghana
Registered Charity Number: 1166497

Principal Address:
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Independent Examiner

Edmund Carr LLP
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Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Charity Objectives

Porridge and Pens work with disadvantaged children and young people in Ghana by helping them access education, school meals and welfare support. Much of our work focuses on children affected by poverty, housing instability and safeguarding concerns, which place their education at risk.

Public Benefit

The trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning the charity's activities. Through Brightlingsea Academy and our Girl Power educational support programme, the charity supports children and young people living in poverty in Ghana through education, school feeding and welfare support.

Structure, Governance and Management

Porridge and Pens is a UK-registered charity working closely alongside project teams in Ghana. During 2025, the charity continued supporting Brightlingsea Academy and the Girl Power educational support programme.

The charity is overseen by a board of trustees, who are responsible for the organisation's governance and financial management. Trustees remain in regular contact with staff and project teams in both the UK and Ghana throughout the year.

The day-to-day running of the charity is supported by a small UK team, alongside Ghanaian staff who deliver support directly within the local communities we work in. Communication between the UK and Ghana remains an important part of our work, particularly around safeguarding, budgeting and project oversight.

New trustees are appointed by agreement of the existing trustees and are provided with guidance relating to their responsibilities under charity law.

Risk Management

The trustees continue to review risks faced by the charity throughout the year and take steps to reduce financial and operational risks where possible.

During 2025, one of the biggest challenges faced by the charity was the rapid decline in Ghana's exchange rate, alongside continued inflation. This placed significant pressure on food, staffing and project costs across both programmes.

Safeguarding remains an important area of focus for the charity, particularly as we continue to support children and young people affected by unstable housing, family breakdown and financial hardship.

As a small charity, we also remain aware of the ongoing challenges within fundraising and the importance of maintaining careful oversight of charitable spending.

Financial Review

The accounts show income in the year of £262,463 (2024 - £258,339) and expenditure of £238,432 (2024 - £284,674) resulting in net income of £24,031 (2024 – net expenditure £26,335). Total funds of the charity at 31 December 2025 were £65,831, of which £57,421 were unrestricted and £8,410 were restricted.

The charity continued to face a difficult fundraising climate in 2025, alongside rising operational costs in Ghana linked to inflation and exchange-rate instability.

Despite these pressures, Porridge and Pens continued to support children and young people through Brightlingsea Academy and the Girl Power programme, while also making significant progress during the year, including opening the boarding facility and completing the community bridge project.

The trustees remain committed to ensuring charitable funds are used carefully and directly support children and young people wherever possible.

Reserves Policy

Porridge and Pens aim to maintain unrestricted reserves of approximately £40,000. The trustees believe this amount would allow the charity to continue supporting core project work for around six months should there be a temporary reduction in income or unexpected financial pressures. Trustees review the reserves position regularly as part of the charity's ongoing financial monitoring.

Project Plans for 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we hope to continue strengthening the long-term sustainability of both our projects in Ghana while remaining focused on the children and young people who still need the greatest level of support.

At Brightlingsea Academy, this will include continuing to develop the school farm, food production projects, and poultry plans as we look for more practical ways to strengthen the feeding programme during a time of rising food costs in Ghana. The school will also continue focusing on keeping vulnerable children in education through school meals, welfare support, safeguarding, and boarding provision for children living in particularly difficult situations.

Within Girl Power, we are also continuing to reflect on how support can be delivered in a way which is both supportive and sustainable for the future. During 2026, we hope to further develop the new Girl Power Changemakers approach, which focuses on working much more closely with students and families through regular mentoring, practical guidance, signposting towards government support and student finance, and ongoing two-weekly reviews of each young person's situation.

Rather than relying on one fixed model of support, the programme is increasingly becoming more flexible and responsive to changing family circumstances. In many situations, families are able to contribute small amounts towards education costs at certain points in time, while at other times additional support may still be needed from Porridge and Pens. Through regular contact and closer relationships with families, we hope this approach will help young people continue their education while also building greater confidence, independence, and long-term stability within families themselves.

Alongside financial support where needed, we also hope to continue expanding mentoring and practical support for both students and parents, recognising that helping a young person remain in education often means supporting the wider family around them too.

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

This annual report was approved by the Trustees of the charity on 26/08/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

.....

G Weaver – Chair of Trustees

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2025

Registered Charity Number 1166497

EDMUND CARR LLP
Chartered Accountants
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025 which are set out on pages 2 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Alex Stone

.....

Alex Stone FCCA

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 0AW

26/08/2026

.....

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
INCOME from:					
Donations and legacies	2	89,174	126,344	215,518	213,094
Fundraising activities	3	46,853	-	46,853	45,222
Investments - bank interest		92	-	92	23
TOTAL INCOME		136,119	126,344	262,463	258,339
EXPENDITURE on:					
Raising funds: online shop and events		8,794	-	8,794	7,625
Charitable activities	4	105,201	124,437	229,638	277,049
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		113,995	124,437	238,432	284,674
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)/ NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		22,124	1,907	24,031	(26,335)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		35,297	6,503	41,800	68,135
Total funds carried forward		57,421	8,410	65,831	41,800

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

PORRIDGE & PENS GHANA

BALANCE SHEET

At 31st December 2025

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**8**		1,132		1,888
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**9**	1,238		2,962	
Cash at bank		67,597		39,981	
		68,835		42,943	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	**10**	4,136		3,031	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			64,699		39,912
NET ASSETS			65,831		41,800
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	**12**				
Unrestricted - general			57,421		35,297
Restricted			8,410		6,503
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			65,831		41,800

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 26/08/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Gregg Weaver

.....

G Weaver

Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 4 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Porridge & Pens is an unincorporated registered charity and meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

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

Incoming Resources
Donations are recognised when receivable.

Resources Expended
All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and includes VAT as the charity is not VAT registered. The majority of costs are attributable to specific charitable activities. Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the charity.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Fixed assets are shown at historical cost. Expenditure on tangible fixed assets is capitalised. the cost of other items is written off as incurred.

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment	25% straight line
Office equipment	25% straight line

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Debtors and creditors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2. DONATIONS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations	75,856	-	75,856	70,352
Gift aid	7,718	-	7,718	9,899
Grants	5,600	126,344	131,944	132,843
	89,174	126,344	215,518	213,094

3. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£		£	£
Online Charity Shop Sales	23,054	-	23,054	28,639
Other fundraising income	23,799	-	23,799	16,583
	46,853	-	46,853	45,222

4. CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Girl Power projects	41,787	40,430	82,217	117,016
Brightlingsea Academy projects	-	84,007	84,007	82,238
Brighter Futures	1,737	-	1,737	3,057
Project delivery staff costs	15,590	-	15,590	26,116
Other project costs	3,981	-	3,981	994
Direct project expenditure	63,095	124,437	187,532	229,421
Project support costs				
Staff costs	31,821	-	31,821	33,700
Depreciation	851	-	851	963
Printing, postage and freight	887	-	887	1,712
Insurance	796	-	796	796
IT and telephone	2,598	-	2,598	2,823
Rent and Rates	1,192	-	1,192	3,129
Travel	331	-	331	430
Project support costs	38,476	-	38,476	43,553
Governance costs (note 5)	3,630	-	3,630	4,075
Total cost of charitable expenditure	105,201	124,437	229,638	277,049

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	£	£
Fees payable to independent examiner: accounts and examination	2,620	3,380
Bank Fees	660	695
Consultancy costs	350	-
	3,630	4,075

6. STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Total staff costs were as follows:	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages & salaries	46,560	58,450
Employer pension contributions	851	1,366
	47,411	59,816

Particulars of employees:

The average number of employees during the year on a headcount basis was:

2025	2024
4	5

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the period.

Key management personnel remuneration in the year totalled £22,696 (2024 - £21,797).

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

No remuneration was paid to Trustees in the year (2024 - Nil)

No travel or subsistence expenses were paid on behalf of Trustees in the year (2024 - Nil).

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Computer £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2025	945	3,390	4,335
Additions	-	94	94
At 31st December 2025	945	3,484	4,429
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2025	140	2,307	2,447
Charge for year	236	614	850
At 31st December 2025	376	2,921	3,297
Net book value			
At 31st December 2025	569	563	1,132
At 31st December 2024	805	1,083	1,888

9. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Gift aid recoverable	1,238	802
Grants Receivable	-	2,160
	1,238	2,962

10. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	2,760	2,900
Other creditors	1,376	131
	4,136	3,031

11. RELATED PARTIES TRANSACTIONS

During the year L Weaver, wife of G Weaver (Trustee), was paid wages totalling Nil (2024 - £162) in her role as fundraising support officer.

12. FUNDS

	Current Year	Balance at 01/01/2025 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer	Balance at 31/12/2025 £
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	35,297	136,119	(113,995)	-	57,421
		35,297	136,119	(113,995)	-	57,421
	Restricted funds					
1)	Girl Power	-	40,430	(40,430)	-	-
2)	Brightlingsea Academy	6,503	85,914	(84,007)	-	8,410
		6,503	126,344	(124,437)	-	8,410

	Prior Year	*Balance at 01/01/2024 £*	*Incoming £*	*Outgoing £*	*Transfer*	*Balance at 31/12/2024 £*
	Unrestricted funds					
	General	*68,135*	*136,798*	*(169,636)*	-	*35,297*
		68,135	*136,798*	*(169,636)*	-	*35,297*
	Restricted funds					
1)	*Girl Power*	-	*32,800*	*(32,800)*	-	-
2)	*Brightlingsea Academy*	-	*88,741*	*(82,238)*	-	*6,503*
		-	*121,541*	*(115,038)*	-	*6,503*

Restricted Funds

1) Girl Power: Supporting around 60 girls, young women and their families from informal settlements and low-income families. Funding covered school places, meals mentoring, and safe shelter where needed, helping them avoid child labour, abuse, or homelessness while progressing through education and training. It also provided small business grants and mentoring to students' parents.

2) Brightlingsea Academy: Running a community primary school for around 450 children, providing two daily meals (over 150,000 meals served in 2024) and free education without corporal punishment, teacher salaries and teacher training. It also provided small business grants and mentoring to students' parents.

13. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS (between restricted and unrestricted funds)

Current year	Tangible fixed assets £	Other net assets £	Total £
Restricted	-	8,410	8,410
Unrestricted	1,132	56,288	57,421
	1,132	64,698	65,831

Prior year	*Tangible fixed assets £*	*Other net assets £*	*Total £*
Restricted	-	*6,503*	*6,503*
Unrestricted	*1,888*	*33,409*	*35,297*
	1,888	*39,912*	*41,800*

14. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	1,041	1,872
Within two to five years	-	-
	1,041	1,872