

"For families facing real hardship, your kindness has brought not only relief but dignity, hope and reassurance that they are not alone" (Headteacher)

The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

31 March 2026

Company Limited by Guarantee

Registration Number: 00085235 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration Number: 210920

Catholic Children's Society

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

President	The Archbishop of Westminster
Vice President	The Archbishop of Southwark
Board of Trustees	Fr David Reilly (Chairman) Ben Andradi John Gibbs (Treasurer) Catherine Kerr Frances McCarthy Lucy McLynn (Vice Chair) John O'Donnell Anthony O'Halloran Michael Pittendreigh Fr Graham Stokes Michael Tose
Chief Executive Officer and Secretary	Gregory Brister
Principal address and registered office	73 St Charles Square London W10 6EJ
Telephone	020 8969 5305
E-mail	info@cathchild.org.uk
Website	www.cathchild.org.uk
Company registration number	00085235 (England and Wales)
Charity registration number	210920
Hon. Education Adviser	Peter Ward
Auditor	Buzzacott Audit LLP 130 Wood Street London EC2V 6DL

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

Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc Old Brompton Road Branch 29 Old Brompton Road London SW7 3JE
Investment managers	Charles Stanley & Co Limited 25 Luke Street London EC2A 4AR Killik & Co LLP 46 Grosvenor Street Mayfair London W1K 3HN
Solicitors	Bates Wells LLP 20 Queen Street Place London EC4R 1BE
Surveyors	Pinders Professional and Consultancy Services Limited Pinder House Central Milton Keynes MK9 1DS

The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) ("CCS") is a registered charity offering a range of services for children and families in need. We are one of the largest providers of mental health services to schools in London. Through our 'Connect-Ed' services we provide early intervention counselling, play and creative arts therapies on-site in over 70 primary, secondary and special schools, helping to build children's resilience and improve their life chances. To complement this, we deliver specialist mental health training for hundreds of school staff and parents/carers each year. We also help disadvantaged children and families through our family centres and Crisis Funds. In addition, our Post Adoption and Aftercare Team supports adopted adults, adoptive parents and birth families who are seeking help and advice in relation to adoption, as well as those formerly in our care. Our services are provided for children and families of all faiths and none; our sole aim is to help those in greatest need so they can overcome the challenges they face and have hope of a brighter future.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

During 2025/26 CCS:

- Supported 14,679 individuals.
- Worked with 79 schools to provide counselling and therapy services for pupils experiencing mental health difficulties, supporting 2,744 individuals (compared to 74 schools in 2024-25).
- Provided food, gifts and other material support for 2,818 children and parents/carers experiencing severe hardship over Christmas, including women and children who had been trafficked.
- Continued the expansion of our mental health training programme, helping 7,392 school staff, parents/carers and pupils develop new skills to support young people's mental health and wellbeing.
- Awarded emergency grants via our Crisis Funds to help 651 children and parents/carers who were facing a crisis in their lives, including families facing homelessness and fleeing domestic abuse.
- Provided our Post Adoption and Aftercare Service to 387 individuals with 94% of respondents to our survey rating the quality of the service as 'Outstanding'.
- Supported almost 600 children and families through our early years work, helping to give disadvantaged children aged 0-5 the best possible start in life.

Chairman's introduction Year to 31 March 2026

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck by the words of Pope Leo XIV in his recent encyclical: the common good is "the social expression of the dignity recognised in every person". This belief inspires everything we do at the Catholic Children's Society.

Every day we encounter children and families facing challenges that can seem overwhelming: financial hardship, mental health difficulties, social isolation and a lack of opportunity. Behind each story is a child whose dignity deserves to be recognised and nurtured, and whose future matters.

Throughout 2025/26 our work has focused on creating the conditions in which children can thrive. We have expanded our early years work, helping young children build the foundations for their future learning and development. Our Connect-Ed counselling and therapy service has continued to grow, supporting more young people to develop the confidence and resilience they need to achieve their potential at school and beyond. We have also provided training and consultations for hundreds of school staff and parents/carers, helping to strengthen the support networks that are so vital to children's wellbeing.

Alongside this, we have supported many families facing acute hardship. Through our Crisis Funds, we have not only provided practical help; we have shown families that they matter, that they are valued and that they are not alone during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

What continually inspires me is the courage and determination shown by the families we support. Despite the challenges they face, we see daily examples of resilience and hope: children discovering new confidence, skills and aspirations, and parents finding renewed strength. These moments remind us why our work matters.

Pope Leo emphasises that the common good "can only be achieved, nurtured and protected by our collective efforts". I am very aware of how true this is. None of our work would be possible without the kindness and commitment of many staff, volunteers, funders, schools, parishes and supporters. I am deeply grateful to all who contribute to our shared mission. As the quotes from children and families throughout this report highlight, together we can achieve so much.

I would like to recognise the contribution of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who served as CCS President for 17 years and showed unwavering support for our work throughout that time. I am also indebted to Archbishop Richard Moth for kindly taking on this role, following his appointment as Archbishop of Westminster. I look forward to working with him, together with our supporters and staff, as we continue in our mission to build a society where dignity and hope lie at the heart of our communities.

Father David Reilly
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The trustees, who are the directors for the purposes of company law, present their statutory report, including the Strategic Report, together with the financial statements of The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) ("CCS") for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 35. They comply with the charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable laws and the requirements of 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).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

CCS is a company limited by guarantee (Company No. 00085235) and a registered charity (Charity No. 210920). The company was incorporated on 13 July 1905 and its governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company registered as a charity with the Charity Commission on 24 September 1963.

Trustees and senior management

The present Board consists of 11 members, eight of whom are male and three of whom are female. One member of the Board is BAME. New members are recruited on the basis of contacts and knowledge of potential recruits from within the Board's existing membership and senior executive staff.

There is an induction programme for new members and regular training events for the Board. In line with the Charity Governance Code, there is an annual review conducted by the Board of its membership, means of recruitment, appointment, induction and training. An external independent review of Board governance is scheduled to take place every three years.

The full Board meets at least four times each year as does its Finance Committee. There is a Remuneration Committee which meets as and when required and a Safeguarding and Risk Committee. The Chief Executive Officer of CCS is answerable to the Board and acts under authority delegated by the Board.

The following trustees were in office throughout the period and up to the date of approval of this report (except where indicated):

Trustees	
Fr David Reilly	
Ben Andradi	
John Gibbs (Treasurer)	
Catherine Kerr	
Frances McCarthy	
Lucy McLynn (Vice Chair)	
John O'Donnell	
Anthony O'Halloran	
Michael Pittendreigh	Appointed 26 June 2025
Fr Graham Stokes	
Michael Tose	

Company Secretary
Gregory Brister

Senior management team

Name	Position
Gregory Brister	Chief Executive Officer
Sara Baynes	Head of Partnerships and Communications
Orla Morris	Head of Finance (resigned 01.07.25)
Jana Ponnambalam	Head of Finance (appointed 01.04.26)
Suzanna K Waring	Head of Fundraising
Michelle Hegarty	Head of Services
Matthew Hickey	Head of Fundraising – Maternity Cover (02.01.25 to 31.12.25)

Remuneration of key management personnel

CCS has a Remuneration Committee, which meets as and when required and is comprised of the CCS Treasurer and one trustee with an HR specialism. This Committee sets the pay for all staff. The CEO and Head of Finance are also in attendance for the meeting, but do not participate in discussions regarding their own remuneration.

In determining CCS's remuneration policy, the Remuneration Committee takes into account all factors which are deemed necessary. The objective of the policy is to ensure that the Chief Executive Officer and staff team are provided with appropriate incentives to encourage enhanced performance and are, in a fair and responsible manner, rewarded for their individual contributions to the success of the charity. The appropriateness and relevance of the remuneration policy is reviewed annually including reference to comparisons with other charities ensuring CCS remains sensitive to the broader issues e.g. pay and employment conditions elsewhere.

The trustees consider that they, together with the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Finance, Head of Partnerships and Communications, Head of Fundraising and Head of Services comprise the key management of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

None of the trustees received any remuneration from the charity in respect of their services during the year (2024/25 – £nil). There were no out of pocket travelling expenses reimbursed to trustees during the year (2024/25 – £nil). The Chief Executive Officer of CCS received remuneration in accordance with their contract of employment as well as a car mileage allowance. Further details of the remuneration payable to the key management personnel are provided within note 10 to the attached financial statements.

The charity has purchased insurance to protect it from any loss arising from the neglect or defaults of its directors and officers and to indemnify the directors or other officers against the consequences of any neglect or default on their part. The insurance premium paid by the charity during the period totalled £100 (2024/25 – £100) and provides cover of up to a maximum of £5 million (2024/25 – £5 million).

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The trustees recognise the importance of safeguarding all those with whom CCS works. To this end, all trustees, staff and volunteers working with children undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance before appointment and thereafter at least every three years. The majority of staff are now registered with the DBS Update Service and their status is reviewed annually. In addition, up to date written references are also required as are original copies of certificates and qualifications. CCS employs appropriately qualified staff for all posts and provides them with regular training. It follows the child protection procedures produced by the London Safeguarding Children Partnership and statutory guidance such as Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Charity Governance Code

The CCS trustees recognise the importance of good governance and are broadly in compliance with the seven principles of the Charity Governance Code outlined in the Code for larger charities.

Fundraising statement

CCS seeks to secure funds from a range of sources including charitable trusts, local authorities and individuals through our in-house team. We do not contract external professional fundraisers to conduct this function, nor do we have a commercial participator.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adhere to its Code of Fundraising Practice. There has been no failure to comply with this Code. The Chief Executive Officer and the Head of Fundraising both hold a Diploma in Fundraising from the Chartered Institute of Fundraising.

Whenever individual supporters conduct fundraising activities on our behalf a dedicated member of staff within the fundraising team monitors these activities, regularly communicating with the supporter (via phone, email and mail) to provide advice and support. Neither CCS, nor any individual acting on our behalf, has received any complaints about fundraising.

We recognise it is vital to ensure that our fundraising activities and approaches are reasonable and only targeted at those who are sympathetic to our work and want to hear from us. It is also essential we protect vulnerable people from feeling pressured into giving. To this end:

- All our fundraising communications provide information on how, via one simple step, individuals can opt out of future communications or manage their communication preferences;

- We immediately action any requests to cease receiving fundraising communications;
- We have a supporter CRM that captures different communication preferences so supporters can choose how they hear from us; and
- We do not undertake street, door-to-door or telephone fundraising.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in 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);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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.

Each of the trustees confirms that:

- So far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditor is unaware; and
- The trustee has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

EMPLOYEES

The charity is an equal opportunities employer and continues to apply objective criteria to assess merit. In line with employment legislation and the Equality Act 2010 it aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, sex or sexual orientation. In addition, the above applies to the issue of religion or belief except in respect of the post of Chief Executive Officer, which, by decision of the Board, is to be filled by someone practising the Roman Catholic faith.

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed regularly to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation.

CCS pays its staff at least the London Living Wage.

VOLUNTEERS

The trustees very much value the contribution made by our volunteers to the work of CCS. A great amount of time, the value of which is impossible to quantify for the purpose of these financial statements (and is therefore excluded), was donated by 29 (2024/25 – 35) volunteers throughout the period. Activities undertaken included assisting with administration, community fundraising, our Christmas Gift Appeal and Christmas card sales.

PUBLIC BENEFIT: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The trustees confirm that in setting the objectives and planning the work of the charity for the year, they have given careful and serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Charity's Objects

The objectives for which CCS is established are: to promote in such charitable ways as shall seem fit the material, mental and spiritual welfare of children, young persons, adults who were beneficiaries of CCS as children or young persons, adults who were (or who have family members who were) in foster, adoptive or residential care as children or young persons, and families with children and/or persons in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster and elsewhere and whether or not of the Roman Catholic faith and in particular (but without in any way limiting the generality of the foregoing) to provide and assist in providing for such persons accommodation (whether in property belonging to CCS or otherwise and whether or not in the United Kingdom) and also clothing, education and training, advice and counselling.

These objects inform our organisational vision, mission and values:

Vision: Our vision is a world where every child and family facing disadvantage get the support they need to achieve their potential, creating a better society for all.

Mission: Our mission is to bring hope and positive change to children and families. Through complementary and creative early intervention services we seek to build resilience and improve children's life chances. We work with families of all faiths and none and in partnership with diverse communities.

Values: Our work is informed by Catholic Social Teaching and the core values of integrity, compassion, inclusion and partnership. By being true to these values we promote the common good, helping disadvantaged families to participate fully in society and achieve their potential.

- *Integrity*: We treat everyone with dignity, kindness and respect.
- *Compassion:* We make special efforts to support those who are economically and socially disadvantaged.
- *Inclusion:* We work with children and families of all faiths and none. We provide inclusive services and want our beneficiaries and staff to reflect the rich diversity of the communities we serve.
- *Partnership:* We empower families to harness their potential and make positive, lasting changes in their lives by working collaboratively and in partnership.

CCS seeks to further our objects via the following services:

- Connect-Ed School Counselling and Therapy Services
- Connect-Ed Mental Health Training
- Connect-Ed Rise
- Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme
- Early Years Provision: St Mark's Stay and Play
- Early Years Provision: St Francis Nursery and Family Centre
- Crisis Funds
- Christmas Gift Appeal
- Pathways Post Adoption and Aftercare
- Pastoral Awareness

These activities and achievements are outlined over the following pages. A summary of achievements during the year can be found on page 3-4 of this Annual Report.

The Charity's Activities

Connect-Ed School Counselling and Therapy Services

Connect-Ed is the delivery arm of the mental health services CCS provides in schools. In 2023, the NHS digital survey of children and young people's mental health in England found that one in five children aged 8-16 years had a probable mental disorder. These challenges at such an early age can negatively impact children's education, their ability to form healthy relationships and the quality of their family relationships. Mental health difficulties experienced during childhood and adolescence can go on to dramatically impact outcomes later in life, affecting future earnings, physical health and even life expectancy.

The aim of our Connect-Ed service is to provide early intervention and prevention through professional therapeutic support for children and young people who experience social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Through this service we help pupils come to terms with the sources of their distress and develop greater emotional resilience. This ensures they are in a much stronger position to engage with learning and achieve their full potential.

We differentiate ourselves from other organisations by primarily employing qualified and experienced mental health professionals to deliver this work. This means our staff can conduct clinical assessments and work with complex cases. As a result, children and young people, as well as parents and school staff, benefit from expert support which can make a lasting difference to children's lives. We have a dedicated Connect-Ed website which provides further information about this service at www.ccsconnected.org.uk.

Connect-Ed Mental Health Training

We deliver bespoke training sessions and workshops for schools. Through these sessions we aim to equip school staff, parents/carers and young people with new insights and skills to support vulnerable pupils with mental health needs.

Connect-Ed Rise

In September 2025 we launched a new programme, *Connect-Ed Rise*. This involves providing training for school staff so they can deliver support groups for children who have, or who are at risk of, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Our qualified therapist delivers the first full programme of six sessions at each school, with designated staff shadowing them throughout. This model ensures school staff gain practical experience of delivering the programme with the support of an experienced mental health professional. By taking this approach, we ensure high quality delivery is embedded from the outset. Schools are then able to confidently deliver the programme independently, providing them with a sustainable resource that can go on benefitting pupils long into the future.

Connect-Ed Rise draws on tools, theories and techniques from the Creative Arts Therapies. The core principles of the PACE attitude© (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy) are embedded throughout. It provides children with practical tools to help regulate their emotions, grow in confidence, develop healthy relationships and build resilience. Several programmes have been developed, including supporting children with: anxiety; peer relationships; bereavement; loss, separation and transitions; self-esteem; and settling into a new country.

This initiative represents another way in which we aim to enhance the ability of school staff to identify and support vulnerable pupils, ensuring more children and young people are able to thrive at school and achieve their full potential.

Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme

We provided Rainbows training for school staff, enabling them to deliver support groups for pupils who have experienced a significant loss in their lives. This area of our work ended in July 2025, with the launch of our new *Connect-Ed Rise* programme in September 2025 (see above).

Early Years Provision: St Mark's Stay and Play

This parent and toddler drop-in, located in North Kensington, is funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It supports parents and their young children living in or near Dalgarno Ward (formerly St Charles Ward), an area of high economic deprivation and close to Grenfell Tower. Through this work we aim to provide a stimulating range of educational play activities for children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers.

Early Years Provision: St Francis Nursery and Family Centre

St Francis Family Centre (St Francis) is located in Poplar Ward within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. This borough has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country (Indices of Deprivation 2025). Through our nursery and family activity programme we provide vital support for deprived children and families.

Our aim at St Francis is to enhance disadvantaged children's cognitive, language and social skills ensuring they are able to make a successful transition to school, progress well and achieve their full potential. We also work closely with parents/carers, empowering them to embrace their role as their children's first and most important educators.

Crisis Funds

CCS operates three Crisis Funds across the Diocese of Westminster, the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. These funds provide direct material assistance for families facing a crisis and we aim to respond to requests for support within 24 hours. Through this initiative we are able to help alleviate the suffering experienced by many children and families who often have nowhere else to turn. Every penny donated to these funds goes directly to families in need. In addition, a fourth Crisis Fund was established in 2017 to assist those families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. This fund has supported counselling and therapy to children and families as well as providing financial assistance and holiday activities for children and their parents.

Christmas Gift Appeal

Each year at Christmas we distribute gifts, food and toiletries to families who are living in poverty and would otherwise struggle a great deal over the Christmas holidays. This helps to relieve some of the strain they are under and enables them to enjoy their time together at a time of year that would otherwise be very challenging.

Pathways Post Adoption and Aftercare Services

CCS is registered with Ofsted as an Adoption Support Agency (ASA). The Post Adoption and Aftercare Team works with adult adoptees who are seeking help, advice or counselling in relation to their adoption. This service extends to the person's adopters and birth family. In addition, this team offers a similar range of services in respect of those formerly in our care and their families. The aim of this work is to help adopted adults, and former residents of our children's homes, achieve a greater understanding of their origins and reasons for separation, using the sensitivity, skills and knowledge of the workers and the records which CCS holds.

Pastoral Awareness

CCS produces a range of materials and teaching resources for schools, as well as coordinating events. These help children develop an understanding of what it means to promote the Common Good and enhance pastoral awareness.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

Connect-Ed School Counselling and Therapy Services

Over the course of the year we delivered therapeutic services for pupils in 79 schools (both faith-based and community) across the Diocese of Westminster and Archdiocese of Southwark (2024/25 – 74). These included primary, secondary and special schools. In total our Connect-Ed counselling and therapy service worked with 2,744 individuals (2024/25 – 2,704).

Outcomes achieved for pupils during the year included:

- Improved emotional wellbeing.
- Less disruptive, anti-social and aggressive behaviour.
- A reduction in depression and anxiety.
- Improved social skills and peer relationships.
- Improved confidence and self-esteem.
- Stronger family relationships.
- Enhanced ability to engage with learning.

We collect feedback from children, parents/carers and school staff on an ongoing basis to measure the impact of this work and a sample is included below:

Children:

"It has really helped having someone to talk to privately that understood what I am going through".

"I have loved coming to therapy and feel much happier".

Parents/carers:

"My son is a lot calmer… I've noticed he has become more confident".

"My daughter loves having play therapy, thank you… it really helped her… She gets less overwhelmed at home now".

School staff:

"The pupil's attendance is no longer been a problem and he doesn't show any more anxiety symptoms about school".

"She has improved peer relationships, is more confident… It has really helped her, having a safe space to share her feelings. She is thriving now".

Connect-Ed Mental Health Training

A key strategic focus has been promoting a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Over the last year we have delivered training sessions, workshops and assemblies for 7,392 school staff, parents/carers and pupils (2024/25 – 7,146).

Many school staff had never accessed mental health training before, despite working on a daily basis with children with complex mental health needs. Topics covered included:

- Supporting children through bereavement and loss;
- Emotional regulation;
- Trauma informed practice;
- Behaviour as communication;
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE); and
- Supporting the mental health of children with SEND.

Feedback from school staff has included:

"Really helpful understanding different types of attachment…Lots of ideas for the toolkit".

"Showed me how to strengthen trauma informed approaches in my classroom".

"All of it was very interesting and informative… it will change the way we respond to the children… Gave lots of strategies".

Connect-Ed Rise

Since launching *Connect-Ed Rise* in September 2025 we supported 75 individuals across 12 schools.

One Headteacher stated:

"I've been nothing but impressed with the quality of the service… The children really engage with it, and they love it. It is such a useful intervention for our school".

Another said:

"Taking part in the Connect-Ed Rise interventions has had a highly positive impact on our school… It has also been hugely beneficial for the staff delivering the programme. They have received high-quality professional development and have developed their confidence and expertise".

Children have also been very positive about attending the groups:

"On Monday, I never wanted to go to school, now I do!" (Pupil, Anxiety Intervention)

"Fun to do and makes me happy" (Pupil, Self-Esteem Intervention)

"I had a lot of fun and learned a lot" (Pupil, Peer Relationships Intervention)

Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme

We have provided Rainbows training for 31 staff (2024-25 – 394) from across 17 schools (2024-25 – 62). This has ensured schools can offer structured support for pupils who have experienced a bereavement or loss in their lives, helping them feel less alone with their grief and process their feelings in a safe and supportive environment. Feedback on the training has included:

"One of our pupils sadly lost her dad in June. She needed a lot of emotional support, became withdrawn from her friends and started to struggle academically. After Rainbows, she now needs less support outside of lessons and is making excellent progress".

"One group consisted of four children each bereaved of one or both parents. All gained a great deal from knowing they were not alone in their situation and were able to share freely their thoughts and experiences knowing that the other children were going through similar experiences."

This project ended in July 2025, and we launched our *Connect-Ed Rise* programme in September 2025. This has broadened and developed our approach, and we now provide training for schools to support children experiencing a range of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in addition to bereavement and loss.

Early Years Provision: St Mark's Stay and Play

Families in North Kensington face multiple disadvantages. Many families live in cramped accommodation with no outdoor space. Wards in this area also have some of the highest rates of child poverty in the capital and significant educational inequalities exist.

At St Mark's Stay and Play we aim to give local children the best possible start in life. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where children in their early years can socialise and take part in fun educational activities and run around in our large outdoor play area. We also provide an opportunity for parents/carers to socialise, make new friends and access parenting support.

This is a universal service, funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. It therefore plays an important role in supporting community cohesion and giving children and families from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to meet and have fun together. The Grenfell Tower Fire highlighted the inequality that exists in this area and our Stay and Play is an important setting where everyone is welcome and the rich diversity of our community is celebrated.

During 2025/26 we worked with 394 individuals (2024/25 – 354). Feedback from families included:

"The staff are so warm and engaging and creative, each day is a new adventure for the children. We feel lucky to be part of it."

"Me and my daughter love coming… the staff have helped me a lot with support as a young mother."

"All my family are up north, so being able to come here and spend time with other mums means so much to us. The massive outdoor space is great since myself and most of the other parents live in flats."

"It helped my daughter learn how to share and socialise with other children…the staff are so friendly and helpful. We'd be lost without it."

Early Years Provision: St Francis Nursery and Family Centre

Tower Hamlets has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country. By providing a stimulating environment in which to learn and play, we have helped children thrive and be better prepared to make a successful transition to school and achieve their full potential.

During 2025/26 we focused on expanding the reach of this service, building our capacity to double the number of nursery spaces available. This included successfully completing internal building works to increase the size of our nursery. We are now open 50 hours per week, a 33% increase compared to our previous operating model.

During this period of growth, maintaining the quality of our offer has remained paramount and feedback from parents/carers has continued to be extremely positive:

"The nursery has really helped with my son's special needs. He is going to school in September, and I was really worried about how he would cope. The nursery has been brilliant…I feel much happier about him starting school."

"Having my son at your nursery has been brilliant, he has learnt so much… I have also been helped when I have been going through difficulties and really appreciate that both of us get lots of help."

Our family activity programme was also a great success. For many children, this was the first time they had ever left inner London. One parent said:

"We had such a happy day together. I have never heard my children laugh so much."

Crisis Funds

Crisis Fund (Westminster): Our Crisis Fund has continued to be an effective way of providing immediate practical help for children and families in crisis throughout Westminster Diocese. All applications have been responded to within 24 hours and this support has provided a life-line for many families when they have had nowhere else to turn.

Crisis Fund (Southwark): A separately ring-fenced fund has been established for use within the Archdiocese of Southwark. Money for this is raised from fundraising activities that have taken place in parishes and schools in Southwark itself, ensuring income raised in Southwark is spent on beneficiaries from the same area.

Crisis Fund (Arundel & Brighton): CCS established a separately ring-fenced fund for use within the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. Money for this is raised from fundraising activities which take place in parishes and schools within the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton itself, ensuring income raised in Arundel & Brighton is spent on beneficiaries from the same area.

Crisis Fund (Canon Flood): Following a resolution passed by the board of trustees in July 2022, funds from the Canon Flood Trust have been used to create a Canon Flood Crisis Fund. This has ensured we have additional resources available to support families across Westminster, Southwark and Arundel & Brighton.

Over the course of the year our Crisis Funds helped a total of 651 individuals (2024/25 – 675), distributing over £100,000 in emergency support. Issues addressed during the year have included supporting families fleeing domestic abuse and helping families avoid homelessness. We have also continued to help meet families' basic needs. For example, providing beds for children who have been found to be sleeping on the floor or cookers so destitute parents can provide their children with a warm meal.

Feedback received from Headteachers who have accessed our Crisis Funds to support children in their schools has included:

"When I informed the mother she broke down in tears. This grant is going to make a huge difference for her and her children at a time when they need it most".

"This is life changing and will save this family".

"For families facing real hardship, your kindness has brought not only relief but dignity, hope and reassurance that they are not alone".

Parents have also expressed how valuable this support has been:

"This support has been such a lifeline. The past few months have been so hard, but you gave us hope when we needed it most. Knowing that people cared - and wanted to help – has meant the world to us".

Grenfell Crisis Fund

This special Crisis Fund created in 2017 in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower Fire is ring-fenced to provide services and funds to those affected by this tragedy. As well as those who were in the tower on the night of the fire, there were hundreds of local residents who witnessed first-hand the events which unfolded and whose lives have, as a consequence, been affected. The shell of the tower remains a constant reminder not only of the fire itself but of the lasting impact it will have on a generation of children and young people who live with it every day. Over the last year the fund has helped support our counselling services delivered in schools in North Kensington that were impacted by the fire, providing important mental health support for children and families in this community.

Christmas Gift Appeal

Alongside our Crisis Funds, at Christmas we supported 2,818 children and parents/carers (2024/25 – 3,339) by providing food and gifts that were generously donated by our supporters, including parishes, schools and individuals.

Almost £60,000 worth of items were distributed via 85 schools to help disadvantaged families facing severe hardship over Christmas. We also provided support via the Medaille Trust for mothers and children who have been trafficked.

This initiative further ensured we could alleviate the pressures faced by families living in poverty:

"*I cannot put into words how grateful I am. I am a single parent with two children who have additional needs, and after losing my job this year I was so worried about how I would manage at Christmas. Being able to give my children gifts on Christmas Day has lifted such a huge weight from my shoulders."* (Parent)

"*This year has been incredibly difficult. After a house fire, we spent many months living in one small hotel room with our two young children, with very limited facilities and little sense of normal family life. Now that we have been rehoused, knowing that our children will have gifts to open on Christmas morning means more than we can say."* (Parent)

"Our families have been deeply touched by the kindness shown to them. Many parents shared how reassured and valued they felt, and some were moved to tears." (Headteacher)

Post Adoption and Aftercare Services

During 2025/26 we supported 387 individuals (2024/25 – 401) through our Post Adoption and Aftercare Service. We have continued to reduce waiting times and feedback from service users has been extremely positive with 94% of respondents to our feedback survey rating the quality of the service we delivered as 'outstanding'.

Feedback included:

"The Social Worker was exceptional in the face-to-face meeting to share details of my adoption. She was very considered in the imparting of information, and I felt emotionally very cared for and comfortable."

"Excellent all round personal care and attention, very well explained throughout. All staff have been very kind and helpful."

"The Social Worker was supportive and understanding at every level".

"The care and attention shown towards me by my Social Worker was the best aspect of the service. This has been a very emotive process, and I have felt fully supported and respected throughout".

Pastoral Awareness

Through our work with schools we seek to encourage children and young people to show concern for and support local children and families in need. In this way we help children gain a better understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and how to promote the Common Good.

We engaged with over 100 schools during the year, delivering assemblies and providing presentations and resources. We also held our Nativity Service at Westminster Cathedral which was attended by 2,800 children from schools across London and Hertfordshire.

Financial Review

Results for the year

The total income for the year to 31 March 2026 was £3,365,207 (2024/25 - £2,949,689). The principal funding sources were donations and legacies and income from charitable activities. The total expenditure for the year to 31 March 2026 was £3,021,559 (2024/25 – £2,901,497). The principal area of charitable expenditure related to our Connect-Ed School Counselling and Therapy Services.

In 2025/26 a surplus of £343,648 was achieved before realised and unrealised gains and losses on investments (2024/25 – surplus of £48,192). Net realised and unrealised gains on our investments amounted to £468,893 (2024/25 – losses of £118,383)

The Board's reserves policy is to have general funds, which it terms "free reserves" sufficient to meet one year's unrestricted expenditure. At the end of 2025/26 this sum stood at £2,465,142 (2024/25 – £2,133,177) which is based on total funds of £7,858,062 (2024/25 – £7,045,521) less the restricted and designated funds of £651,302 (2024/25 – £687,327) and £4,741,618 (2024/25 – £4,225,017) respectively.

CCS's free reserves at the year-end were the equivalent to approximately 10 months' unrestricted expenditure based on the forecast for 2026/27, slightly below target. In determining the appropriate level of reserves the trustees have taken into account the need to provide a degree of security for direct charitable activities. Not least of these are the long-term functions of the Post Adoption and Aftercare Service. This work is demanding of skilled resources and heavy in terms of caseload; 2025/26 saw us involved in supporting almost 400 individuals. This is an enduring commitment as, by law, we must keep records for between 75 years and 100 years and offer a post adoption service throughout the lives of any of those involved in the adoption process.

Most of the administrative and support costs needed to enable this service to function effectively are not funded from statutory income and have to be met from CCS's own funds. The continued cost of our Post Adoption and Aftercare Service in 2025/26 was £273,467.

Investment policy and performance

The Trustees have adopted a general statement of an ethical investment policy.

The Charity's ethical investment policy is based on Catholic teaching and reflects a number of Papal encyclicals including *Laudato Si'* and more recently *Fratelli Tutti* both from Pope Francis. Essentially this means respect for life, respect for the dignity of the person, Catholic teaching on war and peace, economic justice and protecting the environment. Increasingly there is scrutiny of corporate responsibility in all these areas including ESG (environmental, social and governance) screening.

Under Charity Law and Church teaching CCS's investments are managed in accordance with CCS's ethical investment policy on a discretionary basis by Charles Stanley & Co Limited and Killik & Co. The trustees must seek to obtain the best financial return possible whilst also maintaining CCS's ethical investment policy which is based on not having substantial holdings in companies that are involved in the sale of tobacco, armaments, fossil fuels and artificial means of contraception, gambling, or the artificial creation of human life. The judgement and decisions to invest or disinvest reflect the Church's teaching which promotes the dignity and sanctity of human life and the importance of society in general.

The Board has a Finance Committee comprising five members of the Board who monitor the performance of the charity's funds and receive regular valuations and updates of the portfolios which are reviewed at each committee meeting. This Committee meets at regular intervals and once a year with representatives of the investment management companies. The Board, which is fully informed of the Finance Committee's deliberations, is content to maintain the holdings to allow for flexibility in meeting the charitable demands of CCS.

The market value of investments held was £7,048,102 at 31 March 2026 (2025 – £6,140,439). The yield on listed investments is about 4% based on the average market value, which is considered satisfactory. Net realised and unrealised gains on our investments amounted to £468,893. The trustees regularly review our portfolio of investments with our investment managers.

The charity's fixed assets

Acquisitions and disposals of fixed assets during the year are recorded in notes to the financial statements.

Plans for the future

Introduction

Our work has continued to grow in terms of both reach and impact. The overarching strategic aims which will guide our work over the years ahead include:

- **Quality:** Focus on maintaining and deepening the quality of our work.
- **Capacity:** Build capacity to achieve our goals.
- **Growth:** Expand existing services/develop new services to help more children/families.
- **Learning:** Involve staff/service users in the development of our services, consulting with them to support continuous improvement.



Connect-Ed School Counselling and Therapy Services

We will extend the reach of this service and work with more schools. We have seen a 13% increase in our provision over the last year and now deliver 106 days of counselling/therapy per week. Over the coming year, we plan to continue our ambitious growth strategy to ensure more children can benefit from this support, with a target of increasing provision to 124 days per week by September 2026. Alongside this, our focus will remain on quality. We will be rolling out the use of our 'whole school assessment tool' to help more schools develop an effective whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. We will also be developing our management capacity, ensuring we continue to support our team of over 50 mental health professionals to work to the highest professional standards.

Connect-Ed Mental Health Training

Mental health training has been a significant growth area for CCS and will continue to be a key focus over the year ahead, ensuring more school staff have the knowledge and skills to support children experiencing mental health difficulties. An important element of this will include providing training for Mental Health Leads in schools, ensuring they are supported to develop and implement an effective whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

Training for parents/carers will also be delivered to more schools, ensuring all key adults in children's lives have a strong understanding of how to support children experiencing difficulties and promote their positive mental health.

Connect-Ed Rise

We will continue delivering training to schools, equipping them with the skills and confidence to run support groups for children who have experienced, or who are at risk of experiencing, ACEs. Ongoing support and training will be provided for 'school facilitators' (who run our *Connect-Ed Rise* groups), ensuring they continue to build their skills and can provide the best possible support for the children in their care.

Early Years Provision: St Mark's Stay and Play
We will offer a full range of fun indoor and outdoor activities, supporting the wellbeing and healthy development of children in their early years. We will also seek to further strengthen our partnerships with local services, including Early Help, speech and language therapists and the local children's centres. By working collaboratively in this way we hope to offer holistic support for children and families and give children the best possible start in life.

In addition, we will link this service with the wider expertise within our organisation, adding value to our offer. This will include running support sessions for parents/carers, helping them develop new skills and approaches to enhance their children's communication skills and their social and emotional development.

Early Years Provision: St Francis Nursery and Family Centre
Over the coming year we will offer children and families early years education of the highest quality. From September 2026 we will work with children from the age of nine months, providing important support for children and families at this crucial developmental stage. We also plan to recruit a qualified teacher as our Wellbeing and Practice Lead, enhancing our capacity to build a stimulating and engaging curriculum that meets each child's individual needs.

Crisis Funds
We will ensure that our Crisis Funds provide immediate practical help for families in crisis. Every penny donated to our Crisis Funds will be given out via emergency grants. We will also explore opportunities to work in partnership with other organisations who may wish to set up similar initiatives in other parts of the country, sharing our learning and offering guidance and support.

Christmas Gift Appeal
We will work with individuals, parishes and schools to increase donations, enabling us to support even more disadvantaged children and families over Christmas.

Post Adoption and Aftercare Services
We will ensure the service is compliant with the National Minimum Standards for Adoption Support Agencies 2011 (updated 2014), as required by Ofsted. We will also strive to offer service users high quality provision, in keeping with our 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating, and reduce waiting times. In addition, we will build capacity by further developing our electronic database to help enhance our ability to quickly locate and retrieve files from our archives.

Pastoral Awareness
We will seek to engage with more schools across Westminster Diocese, Arundel & Brighton Diocese and the Archdiocese of Southwark. Developing engaging and differentiated teaching resources will be an important part of this work, encouraging pupils to learn more about Catholic Social Teaching and inspiring them to work together to promote the Common Good.

Principal risks and uncertainties

In compliance with The Charities Act 2011, CCS's Trustees undertake an annual risk assessment of the charity.

The trustees, in assessing risk, consider the following risk areas: governance and management; IT and cyber security; operational; safeguarding; financial; external; reputational; health and safety; and compliance with laws and regulations. These are assessed using a scoring system for severity of impact and likelihood of occurrence. An overall gross risk score is calculated and established ranging from 1-8: (Low), 9-17 (Medium) and 18-25 (High).

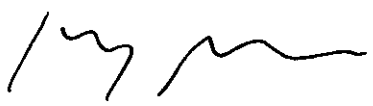
The 2025/26 risk assessment identified no high retained risks. There were 11 medium retained risks spread across:

- Operational Risks including the potential loss of key managers, breaches of GDPR and pandemics impacting service delivery - Mitigated by staff training and business continuity planning;
- IT and Cyber Security Risks including damage to IT systems, loss of data, virus and/or ransomware – Mitigated through robust IT security systems, cyber security training for staff and annual penetration testing;
- Safeguarding Risks due to the complex needs of children and adults supported by CCS – Mitigated through staff training, weekly safeguarding meetings, strong oversight at senior management and governance level, clear policies/procedures and strong monitoring systems;
- Financial Risks e.g a fall in the value of investments, loss of income – Mitigated by regular review of our investment strategy, a diverse portfolio of income streams and sustaining an appropriate level of free reserves;
- External Risks such as allegations concerning non-recent abuse or past practice – Mitigated through maintaining appropriate insurance and retaining detailed records, in line with data retention policies.

In all risk areas, policies and procedures are in place which are monitored and reviewed regularly to mitigate potential risk to the charity.

In recent years significant unforeseen risks have emerged, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and invasion of Ukraine, which resulted in a substantial fall in the value of our investments. These have subsequently largely recovered but we are mindful of this potential volatility. Our current level of free reserves will help mitigate some of this risk.

The Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Lucy McLynn
Vice Chair

Date: 24/09/2026

Independent auditor's report to the members of The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and statement of cash flows, the principal accounting policies and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, including the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, and includes the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the trustees' report, which is also the directors' report for the purposes of company law, and includes the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities contained in the trustees' report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the Senior Statutory Auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, data protection legislation, anti-bribery, safeguarding, employment, and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- reviewed journal entries to identify unusual transactions;

- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates set out in the accounting policies were indicative of potential bias; and
- used data analytics to identify any significant or unusual transactions and identify the rationale for them.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of trustee meetings; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Buzzacott Audit LLP

Gumayel Miah (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Buzzacott Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

Date: 24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Statement of financial activities – incorporating the income and expenditure account

Year to 31 March 2026

	Notes	**Un-restricted funds £**	**Restricted funds £**	**2026 Total funds £**	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Income from:							
Donations and Legacies	1	**1,170,946**	**453,664**	**1,624,610**	888,421	371,603	1,260,024
Charitable Activities	2	**810,748**	**246,672**	**1,057,420**	783,132	237,379	1,020,511
Investments	3	**209,917**	**351**	**210,268**	224,122	558	224,680
Other Trading Activities	4	**29,619**	—	**29,619**	34,145	—	34,145
Other sources	5	**443,290**	—	**443,290**	410,329	—	410,329
Total income		**2,664,520**	**700,687**	**3,365,207**	2,340,149	609,540	2,949,689
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	**235,003**	—	**235,003**	288,088	—	288,088
Charitable Activities	7	**2,049,844**	**736,712**	**2,786,556**	1,915,536	697,873	2,613,409
Total expenditure		**2,284,847**	**736,712**	**3,021,559**	2,203,624	697,873	2,901,497
Net income (expenditure) before investment gains (losses)		**379,673**	**(36,025)**	**343,648**	136,525	(88,333)	48,192
Net gains (losses) on the revaluation and disposal of listed investments	13	**468,893**	—	**468,893**	(118,383)	—	(118,383)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds		**848,566**	**(36,025)**	**812,541**	18,142	(88,333)	(70,191)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward at 1 April 2025		**6,358,194**	**687,327**	**7,045,521**	6,340,052	775,660	7,115,712
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2026		**7,206,760**	**651,302**	**7,858,062**	6,358,194	687,327	7,045,521

All recognised gains and losses are included in the above statement of financial activities.

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		**775,633**		743,300
Investments	13		**7,048,102**		6,140,439
			7,823,735		6,883,739
Current assets					
Debtors	14	**211,601**		285,341	
Cash at bank and in hand		**386,089**		354,135	
		597,690		639,476	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	**(563,363)**		(477,694)	
Net current assets			**34,327**		161,782
Total net assets			**7,858,062**		7,045,521
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted funds	16		**651,302**		687,327
Unrestricted funds					
. General funds	17	**2,465,142**		2,133,177	
. Designated funds	17	**4,741,618**		4,225,017	
			7,206,760		6,358,194
			7,858,062		7,045,521

Approved by the trustees of The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster), Company Registration Number 00085235 (England and Wales) and Charity Registration Number 210920, and signed on their behalf by:

Lucy McLynn
Vice Chair

Date: 24/09/2026

Statement of cash flows Year to 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	**336,488**	(68,526)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest from investments		**210,268**	224,680
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(77,132)**	(3,474)
Proceeds from the disposal of fixed assets		**1,100**	—
Proceeds from the disposal of investments		**1,000,758**	2,270,317
Purchase of investments		**(1,361,959)**	(2,818,867)
Net cash used by investing activities		**(226,967)**	(327,344)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**109,523**	(395,870)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2025	B	**424,953**	820,823
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2026	B	**534,476**	424,953

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2026

A Reconciliation of net income (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2026 £	2025 £
Net income (expenditure) for the year (as per the statement of financial activities)	**812,541**	(70,191)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	**44,799**	48,368
(Gains) on disposal of fixed assets	**(1,100)**	—
Net (gains) losses on disposal and revaluation of listed investments	**(468,893)**	118,383
Dividends and interest from investments	**(210,268)**	(224,680)
Decrease in debtors	**73,740**	45,347
Increase in creditors	**85,669**	14,247
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**336,488**	(68,526)

B Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	**386,089**	354,135
Cash held by investment managers	**148,387**	70,818
Total cash and cash equivalents	**534,476**	424,953

The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) did not have any borrowings or finance lease obligations at any point during the period of report. Therefore, no additional disclosure is provided in relation to the changes in net debt.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are laid out below.

Basis of preparation
These financial statements have been prepared for the year to 31 March 2026 with comparative information presented in respect of the year to 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies below or the notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

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

The financial statements are presented in sterling and are rounded to the nearest pound.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement
Preparation of the financial statements requires the trustees and senior management to make significant judgements and estimates.

The items in the financial statements where these judgements and estimates have been made include:

- the estimation of the useful economic life of tangible fixed assets;
- the estimation of the amount receivable in respect of legacies where the charity has been notified of its entitlement; and
- the basis on which the support costs are allocated across the various categories of charitable expenditure.

Assessment of going concern
The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these financial statements. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these financial statements.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern and that it will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity has entitlement to the income, the amount of income can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or where the donor or funder has specified that the income is to be expended in a future accounting period.

Donations

Donations are recognised when the charity has confirmation of both the amount and settlement date. In the event of donations pledged but not received, the amount is accrued where the receipt is considered probable. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacies

Legacies are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the legacy, the executors have established that there are sufficient surplus assets in the estate to pay the legacy and any conditions attached to the legacy are within the control of the charity.

Entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, but the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measurable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title of the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Gifts in kind

Donated goods are recognised at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably in which case a derived value, being the cost of the item to the donor, is used. An equivalent amount is included as expenditure except where the donated good is a fixed asset in which case the corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the charity's accounting policies.

In accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 the value of volunteer time is not recognised.

Grant and fee income
Grants and fee income from government and other agencies have been included as income from charitable activities where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use, for example monies for core funding.

Investment income
Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. All expenditure is stated inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure comprises direct costs and support costs. All expenses, including support costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. The classification between activities is as follows:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure associated with raising funds for the charity. This includes investment management fees, staff costs associated with fundraising, and an allocation of support costs.

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs associated with furthering the charitable purposes of the charity through the provision of its charitable activities. Such costs include direct and support costs in respect of the provision of post-adoption and aftercare services, community services, counselling and therapeutic services and pastoral awareness.

Allocation of support and governance costs
The majority of costs are directly attributable to specific activities. Office costs and property-related costs are apportioned by staff members. Governance costs (which comprise the costs associated with the public accountability of the charity (including audit costs) and costs in respect of its compliance with regulation and good practice) are also apportioned by staff members.

Tangible fixed assets
All assets costing more than £2,000 for computers and £1,000 for other assets, and with an expected useful life exceeding one year, are capitalised at cost.

Functional freehold property
Freehold properties used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these financial statements at cost at the date of acquisition together with the cost of additions and improvements to date. Functional freehold properties are depreciated at a rate of 2.5% per annum on a straight line basis in order to write the buildings off over their estimated useful economic life to the charity.

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.

Functional leasehold property
Property leases used for the direct charitable work of the charity are included in these financial statements at their cost at the date of acquisition and are depreciated over the term of the lease on a straight line basis in order to write the lease off over its term.

Other tangible fixed assets
Other tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost and depreciated at the following annual rates in order to write them off over their estimated useful lives:

- Equipment 10-20% per annum based on cost
- Computers 33.3% per annum based on cost

Fixed asset investments
Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains (or losses) on investment assets are calculated as the difference between disposal proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value where the investment is acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value at that date. Realised and unrealised investment gains (or losses) are combined in the statement of financial activities and are credited (or debited) in the year in which they arise.

Cash held by the investment manager for re-investment is included as a component of fixed asset investments.

Debtors
Debtors are recognised at their settlement amount, less any provision for non-recoverability. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash receipt where such discounting is material.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand represents such accounts and instruments that are available on demand or have a maturity of less than three months from the date of acquisition. This excludes cash held by the investment manager for re-investment which is included as a component of fixed asset investments as noted above (but deemed to be a cash and cash equivalent given that the cash is accessible at short notice).

Deposits for more than three months but less than one year have been disclosed as short term deposits. Cash placed on deposit for more than one year is disclosed as a fixed asset investment.

Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at the amount the charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt. They have been discounted to the present value of the future cash payment where such discounting is material.

Fund structure
General funds represent those monies which are freely available for application towards achieving any purpose that falls within the charity's charitable objects.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects and funds which represent the value of fixed assets which cannot be realised without compromising the ongoing activities of the charity.

Restricted funds comprise monies raised for, or their use restricted to, a specific purpose, or contributions subject to donor imposed conditions.

Leased assets
Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Pension costs
Contributions to the group personal pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities when they become payable.

1 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Grants	—	**348,169**	**348,169**	5,200	265,700	270,900
Donations and appeals	**551,167**	**98,592**	**649,759**	563,007	105,903	668,910
Legacies	**619,779**	**6,903**	**626,682**	320,214	—	320,214
	1,170,946	**453,664**	**1,624,610**	888,421	371,603	1,260,024

The charity received gifts in kind totalling £60,924 (2024/25 – £68,510) which have been included within unrestricted donations above. These include donated goods for use by the charity such as gift vouchers.

2 Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Services to schools and local authorities	**810,748**	**246,672**	**1,057,420**	783,132	237,379	1,020,511
	810,748	**246,672**	**1,057,420**	783,132	237,379	1,020,511

Nursery Education Grant fees of £96,625 (2024/25 – £71,847) were received from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

3 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Listed investments	**205,000**	—	**205,000**	218,620	—	218,620
Bank interest receivable	**4,917**	**351**	**5,268**	5,502	558	6,060
	209,917	**351**	**210,268**	224,122	558	224,680

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Sales of Christmas cards	**29,619**	—	**29,619**	34,145	—	34,145
	29,619	—	**29,619**	34,145	—	34,145

5 Income from other sources

	Unrestricted funds £	**Restricted funds £**	**2026 Total £**	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Rents receivable	**348,205**	—	**348,205**	316,651	—	316,651
Caretaker services to tenants	**13,526**	—	**13,526**	13,459	—	13,459
Conference room hire	**5,800**	—	**5,800**	3,430	—	3,430
Recoverable utility costs	**64,828**	—	**64,828**	74,319	—	74,319
Other general income	**10,931**	—	**10,931**	2,470	—	2,470
	443,290	—	**443,290**	410,329	—	410,329

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	**Restricted funds £**	**2026 Total £**	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Staff costs (note 10)	**100,403**	—	**100,403**	105,581	—	105,581
Advertising and promotion	**37,374**	—	**37,374**	32,220	—	32,220
Investment manager's fees	**45,699**	—	**45,699**	63,690	—	63,690
Other trading activities	**19,092**	—	**19,092**	18,592	—	18,592
Other direct costs	**8,032**	—	**8,032**	5,275	—	5,275
Allocation of support costs (note 8)	**24,403**	—	**24,403**	62,730	—	62,730
	235,003	—	**235,003**	288,088	—	288,088

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	**Restricted funds £**	**2026 Total £**	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £
Post Adoption & Aftercare	**241,564**	**31,903**	**273,467**	186,045	25,000	211,045
St. Mark's Stay & Play	**25,373**	**49,025**	**74,398**	23,623	44,696	68,319
St. Francis Family Centre	**246,738**	**31,034**	**277,772**	278,274	20,742	299,016
Crisis Funds	—	**102,498**	**102,498**	—	102,447	102,447
Connect-Ed Mental Health Services	**1,458,238**	**467,708**	**1,925,946**	1,310,007	433,739	1,743,746
Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme	—	**26,154**	**26,154**	—	51,974	51,974
Pastoral Awareness	**67,448**	—	**67,448**	87,195	8,698	95,893
Connect-Ed Rise	**10,483**	**28,390**	**38,873**			
Family Support Services	—	—	—	30,392	10,577	40,969
	2,049,844	**736,712**	**2,786,556**	1,915,536	697,873	2,613,409

8 Support costs

	Basis of allocation	Raising funds £	Post adoption and after care services £	St. Mark's Stay & Play £	St. Francis Family Centre £	Connect-Ed Mental Health Services £	Pastoral awareness £	2026 Total £
Finance, human resources and general office management and administrative support	Staff No's	**10,112**	**20,876**	**7,828**	**15,657**	**248,552**	**3,914**	**306,939**
Marketing & Communications	Staff No's	**3,099**	**6,397**	**2,399**	**4,798**	**76,169**	**1,200**	**94,062**
Premises costs, equipment & utilities	Staff No's	**5,910**	**12,201**	**4,575**	**9,151**	**145,266**	**2,288**	**179,391**
Legal and professional fees	Staff No's	**2,021**	**4,173**	**1,565**	**3,130**	**49,683**	**782**	**61,354**
Depreciation	Staff No's	**1,476**	**3,047**	**1,143**	**2,285**	**36,277**	**571**	**44,799**
Governance costs	Staff No's	**1,785**	**3,684**	**1,382**	**2,763**	**43,865**	**691**	**54,170**
2026 Total		**24,403**	**50,378**	**18,892**	**37,784**	**599,812**	**9,446**	**740,715**

In 2025/26 we changed to basis of allocation to staff numbers as this better reflects the relative scale of operations within each department. Finance, human resources and general office have also been merged with management and direct administrative support to streamline reporting.

	Basis of allocation	*Raising funds £*	*Post adoption and after care services £*	*St. Mark's Stay & Play £*	*St. Francis Family Centre £*	*Connect-Ed Mental Health Services £*	*Pastoral awareness £*	*2025 Total £*
Finance, human resources and general office	*Staff No's*	*6,805*	*17,014*	*6,805*	*17,013*	*204,159*	*3,403*	*255,199*
Management	*Usage & Staff Time*	*10,240*	*5,120*	*5,120*	*5,121*	*22,529*	*5,120*	*53,250*
Marketing & Communications	*Staff Time*	*2,173*	*4,031*	*1,292*	*4,054*	*35,507*	*1,187*	*48,244*
Direct administrative support	*Staff Time*	*2,741*	*5,080*	*1,630*	*5,099*	*12,187*	*1,493*	*28,230*
Premises costs, equipment & utilities	*Usage & Floor Space*	*20,854*	*23,844*	*6,052*	*28,456*	*50,696*	*9,495*	*139,397*
Legal and professional fees	*Usage & Staff No's*	*16,592*	*7,180*	*757*	*1,893*	*34,377*	*379*	*61,178*
Depreciation	*Usage & Staff No's*	*497*	*1,243*	*497*	*21,088*	*21,052*	*248*	*44,625*
Governance costs	*Support Cost Split*	*2,828*	*3,907*	*1,470*	*3,788*	*25,389*	*1,253*	*38,635*
2025 Total		*62,730*	*67,419*	*23,623*	*86,512*	*405,896*	*22,578*	*668,758*

9 Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds

This is stated after charging:

	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Staff costs (note 10)	**2,340,725**	2,167,194
Auditor's remuneration (including VAT)		
- Statutory audit services	**20,340**	16,950
Depreciation	**44,799**	48,368

10 Staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2026 Total £	2025 Total £
Wages and salaries	**1,913,076**	1,825,498
Social security costs	**216,510**	158,134
Other pension costs	**176,127**	162,392
	2,305,713	2,146,024
Recruitment costs	**10,855**	5,085
Agency staff costs	**14,185**	16,085
Redundancy costs	**9,972**	—
	2,340,725	2,167,194

Payments to agency staff during the year reflect the need to cover staff annual leave and sickness.

The average number of employees during the year, analysed by function, was as follows:

	2026 Number	2026 FTE	2025 Number	2025 FTE
Raising funds	**3**	**3**	2	2
Charitable activities	**76**	**41**	74	39
Indirect support	**9**	**8**	8	6
	88	**52**	84	47

FTE = Full time equivalents

In addition to the above, a great amount of time, the value of which is impossible to quantify for the purpose of these financial statements, was donated by 29 volunteers throughout the period (2024/25 – 35). Activities undertaken included assisting at events, fundraising, general office duties and supporting with our Christmas Gift Appeal.

The number of employees who earned more than £60,000 during the year (including taxable benefits but excluding employer pension contributions) was as follows:

	2026	2025
£60,001 to £70,000	**2**	2
£70,001 to £80,000	—	1
£80,001 to £90,000	**1**	1

The key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis comprise the trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total remuneration (including taxable benefits and employer's pension contributions) of the key management personnel for the year was £382,924 (2024/25 – £345,506).

No trustee received any remuneration in respect of their services during the period (2024/25 – £nil).

No out of pocket travelling expenses were reimbursed to trustees during the year (2024/25 – £nil).

11 Taxation

The company is a charity under the Finance Act 2010 (schedule 6, paragraph 1) definition. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains within categories covered by the Corporation Tax Act 2010 (part 11, chapter 3) or the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (section 256), to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

No direct tax charge arose in the period (2025 – no charge).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land, buildings and leases £	Equipment unrestricted £	Equipment restricted £	**Total £**
Cost				
At 1 April 2025	1,095,326	290,864	66,798	**1,452,988**
Additions	71,997	5,135	—	**77,132**
Disposals	—	(177,898)	(13,902)	**(191,800)**
At 31 March 2026	1,167,323	118,101	52,896	**1,338,320**
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2025	379,630	281,545	48,513	**709,688**
Charge for year	33,682	7,375	3,742	**44,799**
Disposals	—	(177,898)	(13,902)	**(191,800)**
At 31 March 2026	413,313	111,022	38,353	**562,687**
Net book values				
At 31 March 2026	754,011	7,082	14,542	**775,633**
At 31 March 2025	715,696	9,321	18,283	**743,300**

It is likely that the open market values of the charity's freehold land and buildings are substantially higher than their book values based on cost. The amounts of such differences cannot be ascertained without incurring significant cost, which, in the opinion of the trustees, is not justified in terms of the benefit to the users of the financial statements.

13 Investments

	2026 £	2025 £
Listed investments		
Market value at 1 April	**6,069,621**	5,639,454
Additions at cost	**1,361,959**	2,818,867
Disposals proceeds	**(1,000,758)**	(2,270,317)
Net gains (losses) on the disposal and revaluation of listed investments	**468,893**	(118,383)
Market value at 31 March	**6,899,715**	6,069,621
Cash held by investment managers for re-investment	**148,387**	70,818
	7,048,102	6,140,439
Cost of listed investments excluding cash held by investment managers	**6,366,429**	5,838,509

14 Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Fees from schools and local authorities	**9,236**	37,156
Other debtors	**102,716**	48,177
Investment income due	**40,000**	51,250
Loans to employees	**6,538**	11,162
Legacies receivable	**15,000**	33,000
Prepayments and accrued income	**38,111**	104,596
	211,601	285,341

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
PAYE	**20,357**	19,487
National insurance	**25,186**	19,871
Other creditors	**75,521**	96,546
Accruals	**49,412**	31,510
Deferred income	**392,887**	310,280
	563,363	477,694

Deferred income consists of monies received for the next financial year for school counselling £270,013 (2024/25 – £194,744), St Francis Family Centre £6,856 (2024/25 – £5,438), Rainbows Bereavement Programme £nil (2024/25 – £19,862), Connect-Ed Rise programme £20,279 (2024/25 – £nil) and rental income for eight tenants (2024/25 – eight tenants) amounting to £95,435 (2024/25 – £90,236) and St Mark's Stay and Play £304 (2024/25 - £304). All deferred income balances brought forward from the previous year were released in full to income in the year ended 31 March 2026.

16 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trusts to be applied for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2025 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers, gains and losses £	**At 31 March 2026 £**
Bishop Harvey Memorial Garden	12,517	—	(3,960)	—	**8,557**
Canon Flood Trust/Crisis Fund	152,968	351	—	—	**153,319**
Crisis Fund Arundel & Brighton	206,567	24,712	(19,239)	—	**212,040**
Crisis Fund Southwark	146,084	38,258	(31,585)	—	**152,757**
Crisis Fund Westminster	91,395	29,591	(51,674)	—	**69,312**
Crisis Fund Grenfell	29,284	14,000	(42,802)	—	**482**
North London Schools	10,000	—	(5,833)	—	**4,167**
Rainbows	6,209	22,182	(26,154)	(2,237)	—
Connect-Ed Rise	—	28,390	(28,390)	2,237	**2,237**
School Counselling	—	419,073	(419,073)	—	—
St Francis Family Centre (Aircon)	27,792	—	(3,742)	—	**24,050**
St Francis Family Centre (Holidays)	—	6,030	(1,123)	—	**4,907**
St Francis Family Centre (Lease)	—	20,000	(526)	—	**19,474**
St Francis Family Centre (General)	—	21,683	(21,683)	—	—
St. Mark's Stay & Play	4,511	44,514	(49,025)	—	—
Pathways Post Adoption and Aftercare Services	—	31,903	(31,903)	—	—
	687,327	700,687	(736,712)	—	**651,302**

	At 1 April 2024 £	*Income £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers, gains and losses £*	*At 31 March 2025 £*
Bishop Harvey Memorial Garden	*12,517*	—	—	—	*12,517*
Canon Flood Trust/Crisis Fund	*152,410*	*558*	—	—	*152,968*
Crisis Fund Arundel & Brighton	*196,040*	*21,175*	*(10,648)*	—	*206,567*
Crisis Fund Southwark	*134,422*	*48,809*	*(37,147)*	—	*146,084*
Crisis Fund Westminster	*110,127*	*35,919*	*(54,651)*	—	*91,395*
Crisis Fund Grenfell	*68,351*	*31,862*	*(70,929)*	—	*29,284*
North London Schools	*7,560*	*10,000*	*(7,560)*	—	*10,000*
East London Schools	*9,549*	*27,313*	*(36,862)*	—	—
Meditation with Children	*8,698*	—	*(8,698)*	—	—
Rainbows	*8,717*	*49,466*	*(51,974)*	—	*6,209*
School Counselling	*25,158*	*143,044*	*(168,202)*	—	—
St Francis Family Centre	*31,534*	*17,000*	*(20,742)*	—	*27,792*
St. Mark's stay & Play	—	*49,208*	*(44,697)*	—	*4,511*
Pathways Post Adoption and Aftercare Services	—	*25,000*	*(25,000)*	—	—
Family Support Services	*10,577*	—	*(10,577)*	—	—
Pinner and Southall/Ealing Cluster	—	*150,186*	*(150,186)*	—	—
	775,660	*609,540*	*(697,873)*	—	*687,327*

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

(a) Bishop Harvey Memorial Garden

This fund consists of monies received towards a memorial garden, its upkeep and maintenance in memory of Bishop Harvey, former Administrator and Chairman of the Catholic Children's Society (Westminster).

(b) Canon Flood Trust/Crisis Fund

This fund (also known as the Charles Bernard Flood Trust) was established in 1964 with the object of providing financial assistance to employees and former employees of CCS or their dependants. In light of the cost-of-living crisis and the challenges faced by many families, in July 2022 the board of trustees passed a resolution to allow funds from this trust to be used to provide emergency support for children and families in crisis.

(c) Crisis Fund Arundel & Brighton

This fund is used to support children and families in poverty within the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton. Funding was received towards the fund from individuals, parishes and schools.

(d) Crisis Fund Southwark

This fund is used to support children and families in poverty within the Archdiocese of Southwark. Funding was received towards the fund from individuals, parishes and schools.

(e) Crisis Fund Westminster

This fund is used to support children and families in poverty within the Diocese of Westminster. Funding was received towards the fund from trusts, individuals, parishes and schools.

(f) Crisis Fund Grenfell

This fund is used to support children and families affected by the Grenfell Tower Fire, including delivering mental health services in three schools. These mental health services are part-funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC).

(g) North London Schools

This fund consisted of monies received for school counselling and therapy work from Nationwide Building Society.

(h) Rainbows

This fund consists of monies received towards the cost of a Rainbows Registered Director who delivered training workshops to teachers on how to facilitate support groups for children experiencing bereavement and loss.

(i) Connect-Ed Rise

This fund consists of monies received to support our Connect-Ed Rise programme, training school staff to facilitate support groups for children and young people who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

(j) School Counselling

This fund consists of monies received to deliver school counselling and therapy services.

(k) St Francis Family Centre

These four funds consist of monies which are to be applied to meet the capital, maintenance and operational costs of the centre.

(l) Pathways Post Adoption & Aftercare Services

This fund consists of funding received from the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) to contribute towards the statutory element of our Post Adoption service.

17 Unrestricted funds

The income funds of the charity include the following designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes:

	At 1 April 2025 £	Income and investment losses £	Expenditure £	Transfers between funds £	**At 31 March 2026 £**
Designated funds					
Tangible fixed assets fund	725,017	—	(87,394)	103,995	**741,618**
Property repairs fund	500,000	—	—	—	**500,000**
Pathways Post Adoption and Aftercare Fund	3,000,000	131,502	(241,564)	610,062	**3,500,000**
	4,225,017	131,502	(328,958)	714,057	**4,741,618**
General funds	2,133,177	3,001,911	(1,955,889)	(714,057)	**2,465,142**
	6,358,194	3,133,413	(2,284,847)	—	**7,206,760**

	At 1 April 2024 £	*Income and investment losses £*	*Expenditure £*	*Transfers between funds £*	*At 31 March 2025 £*
Designated funds					
Tangible fixed assets fund	*765,809*	—	*(40,792)*	—	*725,017*
Property repairs fund	*500,000*	—	–	—	*500,000*
Pathways Post Adoption and Aftercare Fund	*3,000,000*	*119,545*	*(186,045)*	*66,500*	*3,000,000*
	4,265,809	*119,545*	*(226,837)*	*66,500*	*4,225,017*
General funds	*2,074,243*	*2,102,221*	*(1,976,787)*	*(66,500)*	*2,133,177*
	6,340,052	*2,221,766*	*(2,203,624)*	—	*6,358,194*

The purposes for which the funds have been set aside are as follows:

(a) Tangible fixed assets fund

The tangible fixed assets fund represents the net book value of the charity's unrestricted tangible fixed assets. A decision was made to separate this fund from the general fund of the charity in recognition of the fact that the tangible fixed assets are essential to the day-to-day work of the charity and as such their value should not be regarded as funds that would be realisable with ease, in order to meet future contingencies.

(b) Property repairs fund

The property repairs fund has been established to provide funds to help meet the cost of major repairs to CCS's properties. During the year CCS did not spend anything on significant property repairs and maintenance (2024/25 – £nil).

(c) Pathways Post Adoption & Aftercare Fund

The trustees have created a designated fund of £3,500,000 to help meet the costs of the non-statutory component of our Post Adoption work; the statutory component of this service is part-funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total 2026 £**
Fund balances at 31 March 2026 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	741,618	34,015	**775,633**
Investments	2,909,040	4,000,000	139,062	**7,048,102**
Current assets	(105,876)	—	703,566	**597,690**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(338,022)	—	(225,341)	**(563,363)**
	2,465,142	4,741,618	651,302	**7,858,062**

	General funds £	*Designated funds £*	*Restricted funds £*	*Total 2025 £*
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	—	*725,017*	*18,283*	*743,300*
Investments	*2,501,373*	*3,500,000*	*139,066*	*6,140,439*
Current assets	*(50,125)*	—	*689,601*	*639,476*
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	*(318,071)*	—	*(159,623)*	*(477,694)*
	2,133,177	*4,225,017*	*687,327*	*7,045,521*

19 Liability of members

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10.

20 Related party transactions

During the financial year 2025/26 five trustees (2024/25 – five) donated a total of £348 (2024/25 – £12,301) which included £112 (2024/25 – £101) relating to purchases of Christmas cards. One member of key management personnel received a staff loan of £3,000. At the year end the total value of the loan outstanding stood at £900 (2024/25 - £3,000). There were no other related party transactions during the period (2024/25 – none).