

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Year ended 31 December 2024

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Registered Number: 306491

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Managing Trustees:

Juliet Nightingale
Kyle Laidler
Reverend Brendan Martin

The Managing Trustees are the Incumbent of the Benefice of Frant with Eridge and the Churchwardens for the time being, of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Albans, Frant.

Custodian Trustee:

The Chichester Board of Finance

Independent Examiner:

Duncan Hardy
Hazelhurst
Down Lane
Frant
TN3 9HP

Office Address:

St Alban's Church Office
Church Lane
Frant
Tunbridge Wells
TN3 9DX

Telephone: 01892 750638

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Year ended 31 December 2024

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trust is administered and managed by the Managing Trustees, subject and in conformity with a Scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners dated 12th April 1990.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees remained the same from 2023 and met on 22 September 2025

The property, 11 Great Durgates Close, Wadhurst, which is owned by the Trust and brings in rental income, with the money being used for the charitable purposes of the Trust, continued to be managed by the Tunbridge Wells Agent Belvoir. The property is let on a Shorthold Tenancy Agreement to Dudley Joiner and Thelma Joiner. The rent was £1,675 which was increased in October 2024 to £1,750. In June 2024 an inspection of the property was carried out, who reported that it was being well cared for by the tenants and was in good order. Work was required on the conservatory roof and a new microwave.

A reverter trust fund had been held in trust by Chichester Diocese and as the result of the reverter being overturned, the money was reinvested as part of the trust. The capital sum of £129,599.62 was returned by the Diocese to the trust on 9 May 2024 and was immediately invested with CCLA Fund Managers, resulting in the receipt of interest.

To 'match' with the inclusion of the reverter in the Trust accounts, the property, 11 Durgates is also being brought into the Trust accounts. The property was valued as at the 23rd October 2025 by Doorknobs Property Management Letting and Sales Specialists and a reasonable view was taken to assess its value as at the 31 December 2024 at £680,000.

As explained below, while the status of the Trust and its relationship with the Church, the School and the wider community is being discussed and a final position as to the use of the reverter and the property has not been concluded, from a financial and usage point of view, it seems sensible, to include the property as an asset of the Trust.

The Trust has legal ownership of the property and accordingly, it is not recognised in the accounts of the Diocese or anywhere else.

While the Trustees await the conclusion of discussions with the local community together with the Diocese, the property will remain accounted for in these financial statements

The income of the trust exceeds the expenditure of the trust in the knowledge and expectation that the funds will be used as a contribution towards the building of a new preschool at Frant School.

THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST

The Frant School Trust is run and managed by The Rector of Frant Church, and the two churchwardens, with Chichester Diocese as Custodian Trustees.

There is need to finalise the legality of the trust following the vesting of Frant School and School House:

“The vesting of the land and buildings known as Frant School and the School House property and the maintenance of its status as a school and the management of School House, is still in the process of change with the sale of School House & the cessation of the school. The changes will be presented to the Charity Commission in due course to assess their accordance with the Charity Commission Scheme.”

This has been in process since 2010 and thanks to Diocese help, we have been able to finalise the reverter which no longer applies which means we are now in the position to present changes following the cessation of Frant School to the charity commission for a long term solution to the Frant School Trust.

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The Frant School Trust owned and managed the old Frant School including the land and School House until 2010 when the school was sold by our Trustees (Churchwarden Jane Emler oversaw that) and the school was moved to the new site.

The Trustees would like to look at a long term solution for the Trust:

- Firstly the Trustees of the Frant School Trust acknowledge that the Trust was set up in the 19th Century, effectively out of the education work which Frant Church had already begun. Frant School was set up in 1816 and the old school built in 1852 and it was much later that a trust was set up in order to effectively run and manage the school in the days before diocese involvement, or county involvement, or indeed school governors.
- Secondly the assets of the old school and school house held in the trust came about by generous local giving. The people of Frant parish wanted to invest in the education of their children and so through the Church began the school, and then built the school and School House. The fact that this is historic Frant money for the education of the parish means the current trustees are totally committed for the continued assets and money to be used for education within Frant as outlined in our charitable purposes:

“(1) in providing at the school of the charity such special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the local education authority as the managing trustees may from time to time be agreed between the school governors and the managing trustees after consultation with the local education authority. (2) in otherwise promoting the education of children and adults who are resident in the parish of Frant.”

The trustees are looking at the most effective way to ongoingly manage the trust moving forward. We are actively pursuing the idea that the Frant School Trust is effectively subsumed back into the Frant Church as a restricted fund within the PCC, whilst retaining the same charitable purposes for the trust. This is for a number of reasons:

- 1) The Frant School Trust originated out from Frant Church and as such shares three of the key trustees with Frant PCC.
- 2) Since the Frant School Trust and Frant Church PCC share the same Trustees it has led to confusion about the nature of the trust – effectively everyone thinks grants from the trust are coming from the Frant Church PCC and not a separate trust, despite trying to be clear about this. By bringing Frant School Trust as a restricted fund into the PCC would in effect create what many think is the case already.
- 3) The burdensome nature of running the Frant School Trust for the Frant School Trustees is onerous when as Rector and Wardens we are also already running Frant Church PCC. The trustees believe that greater transparency, oversight, governance and scrutiny of the fund would be achieved by having the trust under the PCC with the oversight and publicity that is available through the Annual Meeting of the Church.
- 4) By bringing the Frant School Trust into a restricted fund of Frant Church PCC it would increase oversight of and management of the assets, as well as our ability to publicise how the trust assets are being used in the parish for education through the Church Annual Meetings and the ability of the church for wider publishing of reports and accounts that enables.

Therefore the Trustees have liaised with the custodian Trustees, The Diocese of Chichester, and instructed Edward Conner Solicitors to act on behalf of the Trustees to pursue a way forward for the ongoing work of the trust, including the ongoing income from the house, 11 Durgates Close, in order to continue to meet the charitable aims of the Trust for education in Frant for future generations.

TREATMENT OF FUNDS FOLLOWING INCLUSION OF REVERTER AND THE PROPERTY

Until such time as all matters relating to the Trust have been satisfactorily resolved all funds will carry the title ‘Restricted’, meaning that all Custodian Trustees must agree through meeting as to the use of the funds to satisfy the objects of the Trust.

EXPENDITURE MADE BY THE TRUST 2024

1) Frant Preschool

The trustees are keen to support and expand the work of Frant School, and as such have undertaken preliminary work to see whether it might be possible to build a preschool on the School site, and under the management and governance of the school.

This was taken forward by the Rector (who is ex officio governor) along with the one of the acting executive head of Frant School and the governors. A small working party was put together to take this proposal forward.

Frant School Trust have made initial investments towards the Preschool including professional fees for an architect to do drawings for the preschool and planning permission for the proposal.

The preschool would benefit in a number of ways:

- Frant Nursery was closed a number of years ago, and there is a need for local provision.
- To enable seamless transition for Children into reception class at school which we believe will be beneficial for their education.
- To enable parents to drop off younger children at the similar time/place as school children.
- To ensure pupil intake into reception as we believe if we have them in younger, they will stay at the school into reception, ensuring a full cohort each year which is necessary for the ongoing funding the school requires.
- To increase our mission and service to our community as a Church to support younger families.

2) The Youth and Families Minister

The reason we have supported the work of the Youth and Families Minister was that it was a very effective way of enabling education in Frant to young people and across ages:

- Helping with Frant School assemblies and lessons.
- Helping to support the school at lunchtimes.
- Helping with the school residential trip.
- Running Forest School Activities for the school, which was especially good for those children who struggled with friendships and education generally, learning team building, boosting confidence and teaching new skills.
- Running the Church Holiday Clubs in the year with over 30 children attending, where children are taught Forest School Skills, archery, group activities, and about the Bible.

- Running the village Youth Club, which is one of the few activities that pulls in youth across the village, and as part of that teaches the children about the Bible and how to live well.
- Helping with the Little Fishes toddler group, teaching the children songs and bible stories.

This has been a big investment for the trust, and has shown real benefit for the Frant community for education. There will be very few children in the village who have not been positively impacted by the good work of the Youth and Families Minister.

3) The Frant Friendship Group

This group works among older people within the parish of Frant, for exercise classes, and trips to the education and benefit of the group.

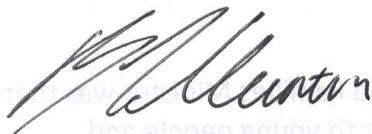
4) Leavers Bibles

Every year the Trust pays for a Bible for every child leaving Frant School.

During the year grants were made for the following:-

Frant Primary School Leavers Bibles	137.61
Frant Friendship Group	750.00
St Albans Church grant towards Children and Families Minister	9256.34
Frant Preschool Preperatory work (Architect plans)	1578
Frant Preschool Preperatory work (Architect plans)	1800
Frant Preschool Compliance Building Control	810
Total	£14,331.95

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



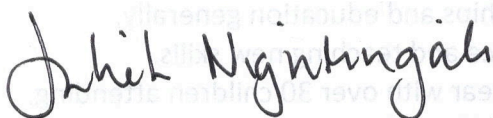
The Reverend Brendan Martin

29 October

2025

Juliet Nightingale

2025



29th October 2025

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES


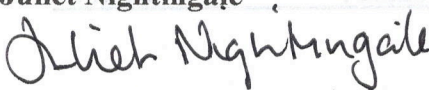
Year ended 31 December 2024

	This Year £	Last Year £
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Incoming resources		
Rents receivable	20,325	19,700
Diocesan Reverter	3,677	7,481
Interest receivable	1,181	1,200
Total incoming current resources	<u>£25,182</u>	<u>£28,381</u>
Resources expended		
Grants for charitable purposes	14,332	13,214
Property outgoing (note 2 and 4)	5,842	8,012
Professional charges (note 5)	600	1,472
Total resources expended	<u>£20,774</u>	<u>£22,098</u>
Net incoming resources for the year	£4,408	£6,283
Capital - Reverter	£129,599	0
- - Durgates Property	£680,000	0
Balance at 1 January 2023	<u>£68,007</u>	<u>£61,724</u>
Balance at 31 December 2024	<u>£882,014</u>	<u>£68,007</u>

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2024

	This Year £	Last Year £
Fixed Assets		
11 Durgates	680,000	0
Current assets		
Cash funds		
CCLA Investment Fund	183,677	
Bank balances	19,626	<u>69,385</u>
Total cash funds	£203,303	£69,385
Debtors	1,564	1,057
Rents in arrears	-	-
Total current assets	£204,867	£70,442
Current liabilities		
Creditors and provisions	(2,853)	(2,435)
Total current liabilities	£(2,853)	£(2,435)
Net current assets	£202,014	£68,007
Funds		
Restricted funds	£882,014	£68,007
Approved by the Trustees:		
 The Reverend Brendan Martin 		
Dated 29.10.2025		2025
Juliet Nightingale 		
Dated 29th October 2025		2025

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Year ended 31 December 2024

Notes to and forming part of the Accounts

(1) Land and Buildings

The following properties are owned by the Trust and vested in the Custodian Trustee:-

Land together with the buildings known as 11 Great Durgates Close, Wadhurst, which was purchased in September 2011 and which will form the basis of rental income for the future years.

(2) No Trustee, nor any person connected therewith, was in receipt of any remuneration or expenses from the Trust during the year.

(3) The Trust does not have any employees.

(4) Property costs reflect expenses incurred net of refunds and sums due from persons for whom costs have been incurred by the Trust

(5) Professional charges represent cost incurred satisfying the Trusts compliance requirements. Should there be the risk of extra costs being incurred a provision is made, which is periodically adjusted when actual costs have been incurred

continued

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Year ended 31 December 2024

Report of the Independent Examiner

Report to the trustees of Frant School Trust on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages two to five inclusive.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees of the charity are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The trustees of the charity consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (The Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act)
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Year ended 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Duncan Hardy
Hazelhurst
Down Lane
Frant
TN3 9HP

Dated

29/10/2025

2025

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Registered Number: 306491

FRANT SCHOOL TRUST

Year ended 31 December 2024

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 December 2024

INDEX

Page 1 Trustees and administration

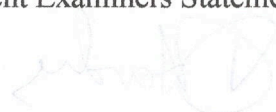
Page ~~2~~ Report of the Trustees
2-6

Page ~~3~~ Statement of Financial Activities
7

Page ~~4~~ Balance Sheet
8

Page ~~5~~ Notes to the accounts
9

Page ~~6~~ Independent Examiners Statement
10-11



Signed

Duncan Hardy
Hazelhurst
Down Lane
Frant
TN3 9HP

2025

20/10/2024

Dated