

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
Registered Charity 802214
Annual report 2023-24

Friends of the Abbey JMI School
c/o Abbey CE VA Primary School
Grove Road
St Albans AL1 1DQ

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Trustees Report

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Charitable Purpose

The object of the Friends is to advance the education of pupils at the Abbey CE VA Primary School by:

- Developing effective relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school; and
- Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

Activities during the year

This year, the Friends has engaged in various fundraising events and activities to support the school. Efforts have been made to enhance communication with parents through email newsletters, social media updates, and online parent meetings. These efforts have helped in securing the necessary funding for the Learning Hub.

Notable events this year were:

- *Welcome Back Barbecue!*

This early-evening barbecue event at the school included a bar and a large cinema screen. It was popular, bringing people together at the start of the academic year and raising £1,997.

- *A brand new event, Chinese New Year Fair!*

A Chinese New Year fair was chosen over a Christmas fair to celebrate the school's diverse cultures, raising £2,767.

- *Auction Party!*

Following last year's smaller event, a more formal gathering was held at St Albans Rugby Club with food, drink, music, dancing, and an auction. Although a very impressive £4,768 was raised, there were difficulties faced with ticket sales. The auction itself remained the most profitable fundraiser of the year, and it will continue to be scheduled for the upcoming year with a reconsideration of the accompanying social event.

- *The popular Summer fair!*

The summer fair remained one of the most attended events of the year, benefiting from favorable weather conditions. This was the first event organised by the new Chair, Rebecca Murduck, who maintained the successful format from previous years but also introduced a 'stage' for this year's event. This allowed children, external performers, and members of St Albans Cathedral clergy to perform throughout the event. The magician's performance was popular among the younger children. The event raised £4,139.

- *Other events*

A variety of fundraising events were organised, including school discos, movie nights, bake sales, and uniform sales. A new concept of a Christmas Fun Day for the children to enjoy a day of crafts and fun within school hours including a Santa's Grotto and an after school mince pie and refreshments with parents bought in £917. This enabled the Chinese New Year Fair to take place in early February to celebrate the whole school community and took a little pressure off the busy festive period and raised an impressive £2,767 as outlined above.

The first wreath making event took place in December which was hugely successful and raised £971.

As The Learning Hub was the biggest fundraiser there was a 'Sponsored Signature' initiative for a framed artwork with sponsors names to be added to the wall of the new space. This raised an extra £1,457.

The Friends' committee also continued to play a role as an informal sounding board for the Head for discussing other school issues with the parent body, contributing towards our first object.

Grants received

During the course of the financial year two grants were awarded to the Friends. One of these was from the Shanly Foundation which will be used to improve musical equipment and facilities at the school and the other from Hertfordshire Community Foundation. This was awarded for Ukueles again to enhance the school music lessons and give the opportunity for every child to learn an instrument.

Donations to the school

The Friends donated £72,620 to the school this year, mainly for the Learning Hub. The now-complete space allows children to read, study quietly, meet with teachers, and more. It has transformed an underutilised area, and the Friends are proud to have funded this successful initiative. Other donations to the school were for the school to buy Ukueles for the children to be able to play in their music lessons. This donation was funded by a grant received from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

Financial position

At the end of the year, the Charity held £15,613. The cycle of giving has been such that we raise funds first, and then donate these to the school. Historically, our policy has been to keep around six months of fundraising expenses in reserve, to enable us to both continue with our planned cycle of events and take advantage of new as yet unplanned fundraising activities. Traditionally we raise a lot of funds in late June and July - and we only agree spending of these at the start of the next term.

The financial statements are prepared on a cash basis (i.e., without accruing for spending commitments or income pledged but not yet received). The money is held in an account at HSBC. The general cycle of raising funds to be donated to the school within twelve months means that the charity does not currently have an investment portfolio and therefore has no investment policy.

Future plans

With the Learning Hub complete, the next fundraising focus is a dedicated music room. This will be created by converting a storage area in the main hall. Currently, there is no specific room for music lessons, so this new space will be ideal for them. Additionally, efforts will be made to enhance the school's outdoor spaces, including the recently established forest school area.

Governance

The Friends are an unincorporated association, registered as a charity (802214) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Friends adopted the current constitution in 2018-19, following the model set out by Parentkind, the representative body through which we get our insurance as well as advice, resources, access to discounts and our voice at a national level to government. The advantage of adopting this model constitution is that it is pre-approved by the Charity Commission. The revised constitution also enables the Friends to register for Gift Aid.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

- Sasha Brooke-Williams (resigned 1 June 2024)
- Louise Abel (resigned 1 June 2024)
- Natalie McEvoy
- Rebecca Murduck (appointed 1 June 2024)
- Elizabeth Sitton (appointed 1 June 2024)

Public benefit

In carrying out their activities, the Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Safeguarding

The Trustees have adopted the School's safeguarding policy in full, save that (as a matter of law), concerns must be reported to the Trustees rather than to the School. The Trustees received no concerns in respect of safeguarding during the year.

Approved by the Trustees



Natalie McEvoy, Trustee

	Receipts £	Payments £	Total £
Fairs			
Chinese New Year	3,437.78	(670.59)	2,767.19
Summer	5,619.49	(1,480.84)	4,138.65
	9,057.27	(2,151.43)	6,905.84
Parent fundraising events			
Welcome back BBQ	2,556.47	(559.20)	1,997.27
Auction party	8,192.39	(3,424.28)	4,768.11
	10,748.86	(3,983.48)	6,765.38
Smaller events			
Uniform sales	59.48	-	59.48
Break the Rules Day	49.18	-	49.18
St Albans Fun Run	406.22	-	406.22
Christmas Fun Day	916.70	-	916.70
Wreath making	971.15	-	971.15
Nativity	40.31	(75.60)	(35.29)
Movie Night	666.79	(42.00)	624.79
Bake and ice cream sales	405.98	(63.61)	342.37
School discos	877.79	(690.30)	187.49
	4,393.60	(871.51)	3,522.09
Charitable income			
Sponsored signatures – The Hub	1,457.21	-	1,457.21
Treasy	68.50	-	68.50
Easyfundraising	101.83	-	101.83
Christmas Cards	235.20	-	235.20
Gift aid	468.19	-	468.19
Sponsored sports kits	150.00	-	150.00
Grant income	4,000.00	-	4,000.00
Miscellaneous giving	404.04	-	404.04
	6,884.97	-	6,884.97
Charitable giving			
Donations to school		(72,619.63)	(72,619.63)
		(72,619.63)	(72,619.63)
Governance expenses			
Bank charges		(86.24)	(86.24)
Parentkind membership including insurance		(174.00)	(174.00)
Just Giving subsidies		(72.00)	(72.00)
		(332.24)	(332.24)
Total	31,084.70	(79,958.29)	(48,873.59)

	£
Opening bank balance as at 1/09/23	64,486.46
Receipts	31,084.70
Payments	(79,958.29)
Closing bank balance as at 31/08/24	15,612.87

Balance sheet i.e. statement of assets and liabilities as at 31/08/24

Bank	15,612.87
	15,612.87

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School –
Registered charity 802214**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the receipts and payments accounts of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School for the year ended 31/08/2024.

Charitable Purpose

As the charity trustees of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Friends of the Abbey JMI School as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Elizabeth Heycock ACA

25th June 2025