

St Paul's Schools Foundation



Trustee's Annual Report & Financial Statements 2025

Charity Commission Number 312749

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Trustee's Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Mercers' Company, the Trustee of the Charity, presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's Scheme of Management, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Introduction, objects and activities for public benefit

The St Paul's Schools Foundation (the Charity) is responsible today for Dean John Colet's original endowment, created in 1509, for the establishment of St Paul's School. Until 2007, the Charity was responsible for St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls' School. In 2007, each of St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls' School were established as separate registered charities in their own right.

Today, the Charity continues to benefit students at these two schools, whilst also supporting education for boys and girls across Greater London through grant making. Over the past year the Charity has maintained its grant making programme.

The object of the Charity is:

to promote in Greater London the education (including social and physical training) for boys and girls and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing to assist in the conduct and maintenance of schools in or near to Greater London for boys and girls.

The Scheme provides as follows:

Application of Income

Subject to payment of the expenses aforesaid the trustee shall apply the income of the charity in the following ways and order of priority:-

- *in providing the yearly Apposition Dinner;*
 - *in applying a yearly sum of not more than £750 or such other sum as the trustee may from time to time determine in such charitable purposes as the trustee shall in its absolute discretion think fit with Greater London;*
 - *in making payment to either School on application by the same to be applied for the purposes of the Schools;*
 - *if insofar as income is not required as aforesaid the trustee may apply the same as its discretion to promote in Greater London the education of boys and girls in furtherance of the object of the charity.*
-

The Trustee confirms that it has complied with its duty under Section 17 Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives, in planning future activities and in setting the grant making policy.

2024/25 Overview

The Charity is one of several charities that contributes to the people-based Philanthropy Framework co-ordinated by the Trustee with **four major funding programmes**. This framework reflects the intentions of the participating charities' benefactors.

The four programmes aim to tackle disadvantage by focusing on individuals, families, and communities and supporting organisations that help people to reach their potential in several ways including: by inspiring a love of learning; strengthening self-belief and wellbeing; and creating opportunities to live a balanced, rewarding and varied life.

The Charity contributes to the **Young People & Education programme**. This programme has several interrelated strands of work. There are three Special Initiatives: Early Years (reducing the attainment gap), supporting the Transition from Secondary Education to work or a positive destination, and Literacy and Oracy (supporting disadvantaged children to read and write for pleasure to change lives). The programme funds work to improve young people's mental health and wellbeing and to promote School Leadership. There is also a strand of work (part-funded by the Charity) which can be accessed by London-based Schools and Colleges associated with the Trustee.

In addition to funding distributed through the **Young People & Education programme**, the current grant making policy is to make funds available for: bursaries for disadvantaged pupils who would not otherwise attend St Paul's Girls' School and St Paul's School and other ad-hoc grant requests aligned to the Young People & Education programme from schools/organisations/charities which promote the education of boys and girls within Greater London.

At the time of application, grantees submit a plan for how they will evaluate the success of their work. Each of the grants awarded are monitored through annual progress reports (which include an update on how they are progressing towards achieving the outcomes set at the time of application) as well as other material supplied by grantees such as videos and external impact reports. These formal reports are supplemented by informal conversations with grantees throughout the year.

The Charity is the sole funder for the second phase of **the Literacy and Oracy Special Initiative**, which was launched through an open funding window in 2023. Both cohorts of grantees have now been selected.

In accordance with the Scheme, the Opposition Dinner was held for the 2024 leavers from the two St Paul's Schools in September 2024.

During the 2024/25 financial year the Trustee approved new terms for the lease of land in Osterley, for the Brentford Football Club training facility.

Details of the grants made during the year are set out in this report together with the impact of funding awarded in earlier years.

In 2024/25, the Charity awarded:

10 NEW GRANTS

totalling

£1,845,847

of this amount.....

£1.43m went to support Literacy and Oracy initiatives

£160k went to Associated Schools and Colleges

£180k went to support Bursaries at the St Paul's Schools

£80k went to Mental Health & Wellbeing initiatives

Young People & Education Programme

Special Initiative
Literacy and Oracy

Where? Greater London

Who? The Literacy & Oracy Special Initiative is focused on organisations working with children of primary and secondary school age to develop as independent readers and writers.

Building on the success of Phase 1 of the Literacy and Oracy programme, the Charity became the lead funder for Phase 2 launching in 2023/24 with the recruitment of Cohort 1. The programme funds charities working with children in London to develop literacy skills, by promoting reading

and writing for pleasure. In 2024/25, cohort 2 was recruited, awarding **6 grants** totalling **£1,425,847**. The cohort of grantees works with a learning partner to draw out common themes. The Open University is the learning partner.



Spotlight grantee 2024/25

Write Back delivers 10-week storytelling programmes for young people aged 13–16, building self-esteem and creativity. In partnership with local schools, the Find Your Voice programme promotes storytelling for young people in Barking & Dagenham and celebrates their writing.

The stability provided by the four-year grant has enabled Write Back to:

- change and upskill its trustee board
- onboard trustees with expertise in fundraising and HR
- grow the staff team from 0 to 3 part-time employees
- strengthen and expand governance
- programme delivery ahead of schedule and run additional programmes for areas in need
- launch ambitious pilot project within schools in Summer 2025
- deliver additional projects commissioned by the local authority

Outcomes and Impact:

- 100 hours of storytelling programmes
- 50 young people's work printed and celebrated
- 80% of beneficiaries saw self-esteem improved by 16%
- 6 anthologies of young writers published
- 90 young people supported through storytelling programme
- 100,000 words published by young writers
- 90% of beneficiaries with identified low self-esteem saw 50% improvement
- 300 young people supported through assemblies and workshops in partner schools

"There's just a confidence that I see from [the young people] that comes from growing up but I think it also comes from their ability to recognise their voice within themselves, feeling the confidence of expressing it and blossoming into themselves." – *Stephanie Zuccaro, English teacher and Subject Leader*

Associated Schools and Colleges

Where? Support is given to the following London schools: Holy Trinity and St Silas CofE Primary School, Culloden Primary School, The Hall School, Bute House School, Hammersmith Academy, The Royal Ballet School, St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls School.

Who? Young people aged 3 to 18 years

Through the programme each school or college can apply for funding for up to two projects for £80,000, over three years. The grants are for work that is aligned with one of the Young People & Education programme's other strands. Five associated schools and colleges are part way through their existing multi-year grant awards. The Trustee is pleased with the current progress of the live projects. In 2024/25, the Charity awarded **2 grants** totalling **£160,000**.



Spotlight grantee 2024/25

Holy Trinity & St Silas Primary School – awarded **£80,000** in June 2024 to support the continuation of the school's Mental Health and Wellbeing programme. The programme is delivered through a range of approaches, support and interventions that span the school community and impactful, positive mental health practices are embedded into daily interactions with pupils. There is targeted support relevant for children with complex needs, which has already seen positive outcomes. There is a buddy aspect to the programme, matching children together to support the growth of one another's social skills and help with the development of healthy and positive relationships and self-esteem. The programme also supports children to have a voice in the school and provides the older children with the opportunity to lead on projects linked to whole school development, for example on wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

Support to the St Paul's Schools

Bursaries

Where? St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls' School

Who? disadvantaged pupils who would not otherwise attend St Paul's Girls' School and St Paul's School

St Paul's School – awarded **£180,000** in February 2025 to fund bursaries. The school has a growing bursary programme which aims to make a St Paul's education affordable and

accessible for any boy who has passed the entrance exams but who would not be able to study at the school without financial support. To achieve this, the School provides needs-based financial support to families. The School covers the cost of additional activities (for example, educational trips that form part of the curriculum, music lessons, bus transport, iPads, examination fees, books and school uniform) for bursary funded pupils.

Grants Impact

The collaborative Philanthropy Framework places emphasis on developing relationships with and between charities. This, alongside the longer-term approach of the Framework means that it is starting to bring real change. All of the grant making programmes aim to have the following impact: to improve people's lives, strengthen organisations and contribute to societal change.

The Young People & Education programme recognises the importance of engaging expert organisations who can work with grantees to help them reflect on their work and practices and to provide opportunities and recommendations for improving leadership, systems, policies and practice.

When grants are awarded, the outcomes and impact that grantees aim to achieve are aligned to the three impact indicators within the Philanthropy Framework. In the year 2024/25, the reports submitted have shown that the Charity has contributed to:

Improving People's Lives

18 organisations reported developing people's skills

16 organisations reported improving people's wellbeing

7 organisations reported supporting people into employment

Breaking down the data further, this means that a total of **7,275** people have been supported, of which **3,430** people are being supported on a regular basis. In addition:



3,946 people feel better connected and less isolated



3,906 people's wellbeing has improved



4,924 people have developed their skills



157 people have been supported into employment

Strengthening organisations

- 16** organisations reported developing the skills of their staff and volunteers
- 14** organisations reported developing new partnerships with organisations
- 10** organisations reported expanding their services to reach more people or communities
- 6** organisations reported an improvement in financial stability
- 10** organisations reported being able to develop evidence bases



918 volunteers
were supported



907 leaders
reported their
abilities had
been developed



75 leaders
improved their
wellbeing

Contributing to Societal Change

- 11** organisations reported being able to raise awareness of a particular issue
- 11** organisations reported they had contributed to an external evidence base
- 7** organisations reported that they could now influence a change in practice beyond the organisation
- 2** organisations reported that they influenced local or national government policy

Funding Approach

The Philanthropy Framework coordinated by the Trustee goes beyond supporting our grant holders financially. The aim is to enable organisations to strengthen and improve their resilience by providing access to peer networking opportunities, training and support provided by expert organisations such as the Cranfield Trust and Media Trust. This approach is known as high engagement funding or Funder Plus. The Charity is pleased to fund this work for the benefit of the grantees within the different funding programmes.



As well as being a living wage employer, the Trustee and the charities of which it is trustee are Living Wage Funders, which means they encourage organisations to pay their staff the real living wage.



In 2022 the Trustee signed up to the Institute of Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) eight principles of open and trusting grant making.



The Charity's grants are published on 360 Giving, which aims to promote transparency in grant making and provide useful data to grantees about what is funded and by which funders.



This partnership approach is increasingly recognised as good practice and has been welcomed by grantees.



Financial Review

Funding Sources

The Charity generates income primarily from its own sources through:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Property investments	340	227
Stock market investments and interest	742	736

Investments

Investment property

An external valuation of the properties was undertaken in 2024 and revaluation gains of £950,000 recognised in that year. No external valuation was carried out this year; the Trustee undertook an internal valuation and considers that these values continue to be fair and reasonable.

Listed investments

Total net gains of £633,000 on stock market investments were experienced in the year (2024: £268,000).

The Endowment Fund portfolio produced a total return, after fees, of +6.5% over the year to 31 March 2025, marginally behind the CPI +4% target of +6.9%. Strong returns were seen in major asset classes, especially equities, driven by large US technology companies over 2024. Markets experienced a pullback in the first quarter of this year, largely due to rising geopolitical tensions and the re-emergence of protectionist trade policies.

The General Investment Fund portfolio produced a total return, after fees, of +4.5% over the year to 31 March 2025, ahead of the CPI +1% target return of +3.8%. We have seen strong headline returns from the major asset classes, particularly within the fixed income held via the Sarasin Income & Reserves Fund. Markets experienced a pullback in the first quarter of this year, largely due to rising geopolitical tensions and the re-emergence of protectionist trade policies.

Investment Fund	12 months to 31 March 2025	Since inception August 2023
Endowment Fund	6.5%	14.5%
Primary Comparator: CPI + 4%	6.9%	10.4%
Secondary Comparator: Sarasin Endowment Fund	4.4%	16.3%
General Investment Fund	4.5%	10.9%
Primary Comparator: CPI + 1%	3.8%	5.1%
Secondary Comparator: Sarasin Income & Reserves Fund	4.2%	12.4%

The Trustee continues to monitor the performance of the portfolios and the market.

Results for the year

Total income for the year was £1,082,000 (2024: £963,000); total expenditure for the year was £1,513,000 (2024: £859,000) and net gains on investments were £633,000 (2024: £2,218,000) resulting in net income for the year of £202,000 (2024: £2,322,000).

Financial position

Net assets at the end of the year were £33,073,000 (2024: £32,871,000). These were represented by endowment funds of £24,106,000 (2024: £23,580,000) and unrestricted funds of £8,967,000 (2024: £9,291,000).

Fundraising

The Charity does not conduct any fundraising activity.

Investment policy

In accordance with the Scheme, the Trustee has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, and property as appropriate to meet the objectives of the Charity.

The investment policies were reviewed during the year. The policies reflect the need to generate a sufficient financial return for the charity to fulfil its objectives, with an appropriate time horizon, while managing risk and reflecting the charities' stance on ethical investments.

The Endowment Fund is an income generating portfolio and capital cannot be used to supplement income. The portfolios are managed on a balanced risk approach for income growth and capital growth.

The performance of the investments is compared against relevant benchmarks (see Financial Review above).

The Charity has a policy of responsible investment, positively screening to invest in companies that can demonstrate socially responsible values and sustainable growth, and negatively screening companies or sectors that are not in line with the charitable objects of the Charity. As such, the following areas are excluded from its investments:

- tobacco
- gambling
- pornography
- high interest lending

The Trustee is satisfied that its policy and objectives are being met.

Risk management

The Trustee acknowledges its responsibility for the management of risks faced by the Charity. The Charity's Risk Register is reviewed at least annually by the Trustee's Charity Governance Committee and at least bi-annually by the Trustee's executive management to ensure that there is no material exposure and that there are procedures in place to mitigate such risks.

The Trustee has agreed clear lines of delegation and authority and the Trustee and its staff are involved in the recognition of risk in all their activities.

The principal risk faced by the Charity lies in the loss of asset value and performance of investments, mitigated by the regular review of the valuation by the Trustee's executive team and, where needed, reforecasting of budgets.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy was reviewed by the Trustee during the year and reflects the objectives, responsibilities, risk management, liquidity, and reporting and monitoring processes for managing the reserves.

The primary reason for holding the reserves for the Charity is to ensure that the conditional committed grants are fulfilled, and that the grant making budgets for next year are available to ensure the ability to plan for further grants to beneficiaries.

The free reserves of the Charity comprise the unrestricted funds less the unavailable assets and comprise the following:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Total unrestricted funds and free reserves	8,967	9,291
Reserves:		
Conditional committed grants	6,925	1,695
Next year's grant making allocations not otherwise covered above	168	575
Investment property allocations	-	93
Total allocated reserves	7,093	2,363
Excess free reserves	1,874	6,928

The Trustee is planning the utilisation of the excess free reserves in coming years for its grant making programme.

The Trustee reviews the levels of reserves annually.

Structure, governance and management

The Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Mercers of the City of London (more commonly known as The Mercers' Company), which is a body corporate formed by Royal Charter in 1394, is the Trustee of the Charity and is the controlling party. The Mercers' Company's governing body is the Court of Assistants. The Master Mercer was PLR Lane until July 2024, Dr DGM Powell from July 2024 and Ms AES Hohler from July 2025. The Clerk to the Mercers' Company is RM Abernethy.

The Mercers' Company acts as trustee for several charities and has established a governance committee for each charity. The members of the Charity's Governance Committee are:

Mrs XV Dennen (Chairman)

Mr CE Whittington

Mr RC Cunis JP

In addition to its routine business, during the year the Charity Governance Committee reviewed the provision of services to the Charity by the Trustee and together with the other charities who receive services from the Trustee, commissioned an external benchmarking report to establish value for money. The Charity's Governance Committee also delegated certain matters to a number of the Trustee's specialist committees:

Function	Delegated Body
Grant making	Young People & Education Committee
Oversight of investment property	Property Committee
Oversight of investment management	Investment Committee
Overview of risks and financial management	Audit Committee

The Charity is supported by the staff of the Mercers' Company, who are appropriately trained and qualified. These administrative services are provided under a service agreement. The following members of the Mercers' Company's senior management are involved in the provision of services:

Mr RM Abernethy (Clerk to the Mercers' Company)

Ms SMA Hedley-Dent (Deputy Clerk to The Mercers' Company)

Mr JRA Christie (Finance Director)

The Standard & Appointments Committee meets on a regular basis to keep the skills and composition of the committees and succession planning under review and, where needed, to recruit new members for their experience, empathy and knowledge in charity matters.

The Trustee applies the principles of the Charity Governance Code so far as is possible given that it is sole corporate trustee. The Trustee last undertook a self-assessment against the Charity Governance Code in 2023/24 and identified areas in which it can further improve its practice.

Our volunteers

The Charity relies on members of The Mercers' Company volunteering their time to sit on committees, review grant requests, visit applicants and grantees, and attend events involving beneficiaries. In keeping with recommended practice, an estimate of the numbers of hours that Committee members give to the Charity free of charge during the year has been undertaken resulting in approximately 109 hours of voluntary time.

Related parties

The Charity works closely with the Trustee and the other charities with which the Trustee is involved. Details of related parties and connected charities are given in note 11 of the financial statements.

Future Plans

Phase 2 of the collaborative **Philanthropy Framework** started on 1 April 2023 and will run until 31 March 2028. Data and evidence is now being collated to enable us to report in future years on three common impact measures: **Improving people's lives; Stronger Organisations; Contributing to societal change.**

The Charity will continue to contribute to the **Young People & Education Programme**, bursaries for the two St Paul's Schools as outlined above and more generally to the advancement of education within Greater London. In the latter category it is worth noting that the Charity expects to make a significant grant to Hammersmith Academy in the near future for the expansion of its site and will also be making additional educational grants (due to a commitment dating from 2016) to St Paul's Girls School.

Trustee's responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustee's Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

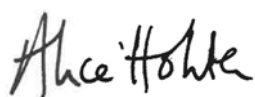
The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the income and expenditure of the Charity for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustee is 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 judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102, 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 Trustee is 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 Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. The Trustee is 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.

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



Ms AES Hohler

Master

13 November 2025



Mr RM Abernethy

Clerk to the Mercers' Company

Independent Auditor's Report

TO THE TRUSTEE OF ST PAUL'S SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

We have audited the financial statements of St Paul's Schools Foundation (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows, and the notes to the financial statements which include the principal accounting policies. 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 Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Charity 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 Trustee's 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 Charity'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 Trustee 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 Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustee is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustee's Annual Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- ◆ the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- ◆ sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- ◆ the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- ◆ we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustee

As explained more fully in the Trustee's responsibilities statement, the Trustee is 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 Trustee determines 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 Trustee is responsible for assessing the Charity'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 Trustee either intends to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

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.

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 engagement partner 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 Charity through discussions with those charged with governance and 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 Charity, including the Charities Act 2011 and the financial reporting framework referred to above; and
- ◆ we understood how the Charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of management and those responsible for legal and compliance procedures. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- ◆ making enquiries of management as to 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 financial relationships;
- ◆ tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- ◆ performed substantive testing of expenditure including testing the authorisation thereof; and
- ◆ assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias.

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

- ◆ reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; 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 Trustee 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 Charity's Trustee, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Charity's Trustee 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 Charity and the Charity's Trustee as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Buzzacott Audit LLP
Statutory Auditor
130 Wood Street
London
EC2V 6DL

14 November 2025

Buzzacott Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	31 March 2025			31 March 2024
		Unrestricted	Endowment	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income					
Investments	2	1,082	-	1,082	963
Total income		1,082	-	1,082	963
Expenditure					
<i>Raising funds</i>					
Investment management costs	3	(74)	(58)	(132)	(85)
<i>Charitable activities</i>	3, 13	(1,381)	-	(1,381)	(774)
Total expenditure		(1,455)	(58)	(1,513)	(859)
Gainson investments	5, 6	49	584	633	2,218
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		(324)	526	202	2,322
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		9,291	23,580	32,871	30,549
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March		8,967	24,106	33,073	32,871

All of the Charity's activities are derived from continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed above.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

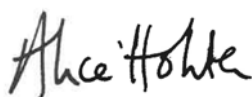
		31 March 2024		
		Unrestricted	Endowment	Total
		Funds	Funds	Funds
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Investments	2	963	-	963
Total income		963	-	963
Expenditure				
<i>Raising funds</i>				
Investment management costs	3	(47)	(38)	(85)
<i>Charitable activities</i>	3	(774)	-	(774)
Total expenditure		(821)	(38)	(859)
Gains on investments	5, 6	328	1,890	2,218
Net income and net movement in funds		470	1,852	2,322
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		8,821	21,728	30,549
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March		9,291	23,580	32,871

All of the Charity's activities are derived from continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed above.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

		31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	4	3,609		3,609	
Investment properties	5	5,488		5,488	
Quoted Investments	6	21,991		21,636	
Total fixed assets			31,088		30,733
Current assets					
Debtors	7	56		101	
Cash on deposit		4		4	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,193		2,144	
Total current assets		2,253		2,249	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(268)		(111)	
Net current assets			1,985		2,138
Total net assets			33,073		32,871
The funds of the Charity:					
Endowment funds	9	24,106		23,580	
Unrestricted income funds	9	8,967		9,291	
Total charity funds	9	33,073		32,871	

The attached notes on pages 25 to 38 form an integral part of these financial statements. The financial statements on pages 22 to 38 were approved by the Trustee on 13 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms AES Hohler
Master

13 November 2025



Mr RM Abernethy
Clerk to the Mercers' Company

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash used in operating activities	12	(971)	(650)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends received		658	639
Interest received		84	84
Purchase of investments		(12,466)	(22,208)
Increase in cash held by investment managers		(853)	(42)
Proceeds from the sale of investments		13,597	22,563
Net cash provided by investing activities		1,020	1,036
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the financial year		49	386
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		2,148	1,762
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	12	2,197	2,148

No separate statement of changes in net debt has been prepared as there is no difference between the movements in cash and cash equivalents and movements in net cash (debt).

Notes to the financial statements

1 Accounting Policies

ACCOUNTING BASIS

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 notes to these financial statements.

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

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following the SORP (FRS 102) rather than the previous withdrawn version which it replaced.

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

GOING CONCERN

The Trustee considers that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern and the financial statements of the Charity have been prepared on that basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease its operations and have concluded that the Charity's financial position means that this is realistic.

In making this assessment, the Trustee has considered the Charity's financial position, the value of investment assets held, future income and investment return levels, expenditure requirements and the liquidity of the Charity, considering the cost-of-living crisis, inflationary pressures and changing economic environment, and the risks faced by the Charity.

The Trustee is satisfied that the charity could absorb significant changes in investment value with no impact on its ability to continue as a going concern.

A rolling annual review of the Charity's detailed forecast financial position over a 5-year period is carried out.

For these reasons, the Trustee continues to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of the financial statements.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances prevailing. The main estimate and judgement relates to the investment property valuations.

INCOME

All income, comprising donations, rents and service charges generated from investment properties, interest on bank accounts and dividends from investment funds is reported on an accruals basis, when the Charity has entitlement, receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income relating to a subsequent financial year is carried forward as a creditor in the balance sheet and shown as deferred income.

EXPENDITURE

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to it, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Irrecoverable VAT is included with the underlying expense and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as incurred. Support costs relate to staff time and facility costs incurred by the Mercers' Company on behalf of the Charity and are allocated to the Charity on an accruals basis. Support costs have been allocated between activities based on estimated breakdowns of staff time and grant making activity. This includes time spent on the governance arrangements relating to the general running of the Charity.

GRANTS

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is conveyed to the recipient except in cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

INVESTMENT GAINS AND LOSSES

Unrealised gains and losses for the year reflect the movement in market values. Realised gains and losses represent the difference between proceeds on disposal and the market value brought forward (or cost if acquired in the year). Unrealised and realised investment gains or losses are shown net on the SOFA.

INVESTMENTS

Investments are stated at their fair value at the balance sheet date. Investment properties are re-valued externally every five years and internally by the Trustee in intervening years. The Trustee is of the opinion that this valuation is appropriate for the purpose of these financial statements. Cash held by investment managers is recognised as part of investments.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets represent the reversionary interest in the land at the two St Paul's Schools and land purchased during the year ended 31 August 2009. No depreciation is provided on land.

TAXATION

The Charity is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the Charity's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes. Accordingly, no provision is made for current or deferred taxation.

FUNDS

The Charity has two types of funds:

- ▲ Endowment – where the capital is held in perpetuity to generate unrestricted distributable income;
- ▲ Unrestricted – where the fund is not restricted as to use other than in furthering the objects of the Charity.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value, except for investments which are measured at fair value.

2 Income

Investment income was generated as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Rents from investment properties	340	227
Dividend income from endowment fund	406	439
Dividend income from general investment fund	252	209
Interest	84	88
	1,082	963

3 Expenditure

a) Analysis of total expenditure:

	Further notes	Grant making £'000	Governance & Support costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Investment management costs		-	6	126	132	85
Charitable activities	13	1,235	132	14	1,381	774
		1,235	138	140	1,513	859

	Grant making £'000	Governance & Support costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Investment management costs	-	3	82	85
Charitable activities	678	83	13	774
	678	86	95	859

b) Analysis of governance and support costs:

	Basis of apportionment	Raising funds £'000	Charitable activities £'000	Total 2025 £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Staff costs	Staff time	6	107	113	65
Office administration	Staff time	-	11	11	8
Audit fees	Expenditure	-	14	14	13
		6	132	138	86

	Basis of apportionment	Raising funds £'000	Charitable activities £'000	Total 2024 £'000
Staff costs	Staff time	3	62	65
Office administration	Staff time	-	8	8
Audit fees	Expenditure	-	13	13
		3	83	86

The Charity has no employees (2024: nil). The Mercers' Company, by way of a services agreement, provides staff and facilities to the Charity. There were no directly employed staff during the year (2024: nil). The Trustee has not received any emoluments or reimbursements during the year for acting as a Trustee (2024: nil). £11,392 (excluding irrecoverable VAT) (2024: £11,125) was charged to the SOFA for audit fees.

4 Tangible Assets

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Reversionary interest of land at St Paul's School, St Paul's Girls' School and Bute House Preparatory School for Girls	100	100
Freehold and leasehold interest in land at St Paul's School	3,509	3,509
	3,609	3,609

The operating land was leased to St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls' School on 1 September 2007 for 125 years at a rent of £1,000 per annum each, and at Bute House Preparatory School for Girls on 25 December 1997 for 125 years. As a consequence, their reversionary interest was valued at £100,000.

In 2009, freehold and leasehold interests in land were purchased at St Paul's School. The duties, obligations and responsibilities of the Schools as tenants of the Charity are defined by the terms of leases. As freeholder, any alterations to buildings at the Schools must be in accordance with the associated lease and approved by the Charity.

The net book values shown do not represent current open market valuations.

5 Investment Properties

The Charity's investment properties are as follows:

	1 April 2024	Revaluation	31 March 2025
	£'000	gains	£'000
		£'000	
Freehold property at market value	5,488	-	5,488
Historical cost	315		315

A full external valuation was done as at 31 March 2024 by CBRE Limited, who are a qualified independent firm of surveyors. There was a revaluation gain of £950,000 in the year ended 31 March 2024. No external valuation was undertaken this year. The Trustee undertook an internal valuation and considers these values continue to be fair and reasonable.

6 Quoted Investments

The changes during the year analysed by fund are as follows:

	1 April 2024	Purchases	Sales	Movement	Revaluation	31 March
	£'000	£'000	£'000	in cash	gains	2025
				£'000	£'000	£'000
General Investment Fund	7,134	1,946	(2,084)	(68)	33	6,961
Endowment Fund	14,502	10,520	(11,077)	921	164	15,030
	21,636	12,466	(13,161)	853	197	21,991
Historical cost	20,196					21,265

The total investment allocation at the year end was as follows:

	2025	
	£'000	%
Overseas Equities	15,712	71.4%
Fixed Income	2,127	9.7%
Alternatives	1,452	6.6%
Cash	2,700	12.3%
Total	21,991	100.0%

Holdings of more than 5% of total investments in investment portfolios were as follows:

Portfolio		2025	
		£'000	% of fund
General Investment Fund	Sarasin Income & Reserve Fund	5,328	76.5%
General Investment Fund	ICS Sterling Liquidity Fund	1,629	23.4%
Endowment Fund	Sarasin Responsible Corporate Bond Fund	986	6.6%

Net investment gains during the year on quoted investments totalled £633,000 (2024: £1,268,000).

7 Debtors

Debtors are made up as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Rent and service charges receivable	5	34
Dividends receivable	50	29
Prepayments and accrued income	1	38
	56	101

8 Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

Creditors are amounts falling due within one year and are made up as follows:

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Rent received in advance	86	52
Mercers' Company	32	-
Other creditors	150	59
	268	111

9 Analysis of Funds

Endowment Funds

The endowment funds were established at the time the Charity was created. The Charity was endowed by John Colet, Dean of St Paul's, in 1509 on the founding of the St Paul's School. The investments are held to generate income and are applied in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

The net assets by funds are as follows:

	Unrestricted	Endowment	2025
	funds	funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Tangible assets	-	3,609	3,609
Investment properties	-	5,488	5,488
Quoted investments	6,961	15,030	21,991
Net current assets/(liabilities)	2,006	(21)	1,985
	8,967	24,106	33,073

	Unrestricted funds £'000	Endowment funds £'000	2024 Total funds £'000
Tangible assets	-	3,609	3,609
Investment properties	-	5,488	5,488
Quoted investments	7,134	14,502	21,636
Net current assets/(liabilities)	2,157	(19)	2,138
	9,291	23,580	32,871

10 Grant Commitments

The Charity had the following commitments at the year end totalling £6,925,449 in respect to charitable grants, subject to various conditions (2024: £1,695,173):

		2026 £	2027 £	2028 £	2029 & beyond £
Bursary Programme	St Paul's Girls' School	60,000	-	-	-
	St Paul's School	60,000	60,000	60,000	-
Literacy & Oracy Initiative	Action for Refugees in Lewisham	50,000	40,000	40,000	-
	CARAS (Community Action for Refugees and Asylum	45,000	50,000	-	-
	Company Three Theatre Ltd	47,489	48,669	-	-
	Create Arts	71,834	73,989	76,209	-
	First Story Ltd	52,663	55,236	-	-
	Intergenerational Music Making	15,000	15,000	15,000	-
	Ministry of Stories	75,153	79,177	87,402	-
	Read for Good	75,000	75,000	75,000	-
	The Open University	44,000	44,000	44,000	-
	The Reading Agency	75,000	75,000	75,000	-
	Theatre Peckham	71,009	60,407	-	-
	United Kingdom and Europe World Literacy	54,019	23,512	-	-
	West Ham United Foundation	37,500	37,500	-	-
	Write Back	15,000	15,000	-	-
Associated Schools Mental Health & Wellbeing Programme	Culloden Primary Academy	50,000	-	-	-
	Hammersmith Academy Trust	26,666	-	-	-
	Holy Trinity & St Silas C E Primary School	26,667	26,666	-	-
	Royal Ballet School	26,666	-	-	-

Associated Schools	Holy Trinity & St Silas C E Primary School	26,667	26,666	-	-
Aligned Funding	St Paul's School	20,000	-	-	-
	St Paul's Girls' School	33,333	-	-	-
	Royal Ballet School	26,650	26,700	-	-
	Hammersmith Academy Trust	25,000	-	-	-
Other	Hammersmith Academy Trust	1,600,000	-	-	-
	St Paul's Girls' School	560,000	660,000	440,000	1,250,000
		3,270,316	1,492,522	912,611	1,250,000

11 Related Parties and Connected Charities

The following related parties and charities have common management and are therefore regarded as connected:

Becket House Limited (dormant)
 Charity of Sir Richard Whittington
 Charter 600 Charity
 Earl of Northampton's Charity
 Longacre Estates Limited (dormant)
 Longmartin Investments Limited
 Longmartin Properties Limited
 Maiden Trading Limited (dormant)
 Mercers' Company Housing Association
 Mercers' School Memorial Trust (incorporating The Merrett Bequest)
 The Mercers' Charitable Foundation
 The Mercers' Company

The principal address of the above entities is:

6 Frederick's Place
 London EC2R 8AB

Transactions with related parties where The Mercers' Company is sole member, nominates governors, appoints governors to the entity or there is common management and so are considered connected are as follows:

Entity	2025 £	2024 £
Grants to St Paul's School	70,000	70,000
Grants to St Paul's Girls' School	213,333	93,333
Grant to Holy Trinity and St Silas C E Primary School	53,334	50,000
Grants to Hammersmith Academy Trust	51,667	56,667
Grant to The Hall School	-	10,000
Grant to Culloden Primary Academy	50,000	60,000
Grant to Royal Ballet School	53,317	51,667
Grant to Bute House Preparatory School for Girls Limited	25,000	25,000
Rent charged to St Paul's School	1,000	1,000
Rent charged to St Paul's Girls' School	1,000	1,000
Rent charged to Bute House Preparatory School for Girls Limited	90,000	91,625
Administration costs allocated by The Mercers' Company (note 3)	123,552	72,268

Of the Mercers' Company allocated administrative costs of £123,552 (2024: £72,268), £32,489 was due to the Company at the balance sheet date (2024: nil). There were no other related party transactions requiring disclosure (2024: none).

12 Reconciliation of Net income To Net Cash Used In Operating Activities

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Net income for the reporting year (as per statement of financial activities)	202	2,322
Adjustments for:		
Gains on investments	(633)	(2,218)
Interest receivable	(84)	(88)
Dividends receivable	(658)	(648)
Change in debtors	45	1
Change in creditors	157	(19)
Net cash used in operating activities	(971)	(650)

ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash at bank and in hand	2,193	2,144
Cash on deposit	4	4
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,197	2,148

13 Grants

Listed below are all charitable grants made during the year for the promotion of education:

		2025 £
Associated Schools	Hammersmith Academy Trust	25,000
Aligned Funding	Holy Trinity & St Silas C E Primary School	26,667
	Royal Ballet School	26,650
	St Paul's Girls' School	33,333
	St Paul's School	20,000
Associated Schools Mental Health & Wellbeing	Bute House Preparatory School for Girls	25,000
	Culloden Primary Academy	50,000
	Hammersmith Academy Trust	26,667
	Holy Trinity & St Silas C E Primary School	26,667
	Royal Ballet School	26,667
Bursary Funding	St Paul's Girls' School	60,000
	St Paul's School	50,000
Literacy & Oracy	Action for Refugees in Lewisham	70,000
	CARAS (Community Action for Refugees and Asylum	45,000
	Company Three Theatre Ltd	46,343
	Create Arts	69,742
	First Story Ltd	50,971
	Intergenerational Music Making	15,000
	Ministry of Stories	32,341
	Read for Good	75,000
	The Open University	44,000
	The Reading Agency	75,000
	Theatre Peckham	90,124
	United Kingdom and Europe World Literacy	52,899
	West Ham United Foundation	37,500
	Write Back	15,000
Other	St Paul's Girls' School	120,000
Total grant making (2024: £675,853)		1,235,570

Legal & Administrative Information

LEGAL STATUS

The Charity has registered number 312749 and is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 28 August 2007, having replaced the previous scheme of October 1995.

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

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London EC2R 8AB

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