

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A
Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/members of

Charity Name

FRIENDS OF THE STEINER ACADEMY MEREFORD

On accounts for the year ended

3 0 0 9 1 6

Charity no (if any)

1 1 3 5 9 9 0

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective responsibilities of trustees
and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees 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
- to 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.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

(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;
- 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed

Harding

Date

25/07/2017

Name

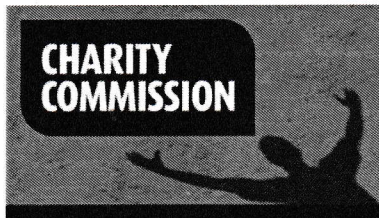
DEBORAH HARDING ACMA CGMA

 Relevant professional qualification(s)
or body (if any)

 CIMA
10 1-95CN9

Address

 ROSEMARY VILLA
ROSEMARY LANE
MADLEY
MR2 9LS



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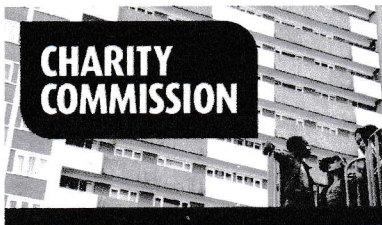
DEBORAH HARDING. ACMA CGMA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)

CIMA.
10 1-9SCN 9.

Address

ROSEMARY VILLA
ROSEMARY LANE
MADLEY
NR2 9LS



Receipts and Payments Accounts

Charity name FRIENDS OF THE STEINER ACADEMY MEREFORD

Charity number (if any) 1135990

For the period from (start date) 01/10/15

to (end date) 30/09/16

Section A

Receipts and payments

A1 Receipts

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
DONATIONS	37,354			37,354	38,855
FUNDRAISING	25,957			25,957	20,959
SCHOOL SHOP	10,111			10,111	8,956
BANK INTEREST	2			2	14
HOLDING FUNDS	427			427	-
Sub total	73,851			73,851	68,784
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc					
Total receipts	73,851			73,851	68,784

A3 Payments

FUNDRAISING COSTS	6,711			6,711	4,402
INSURANCE	96			96	96
PROFESSIONAL FEES				-	1,080
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	728			728	-
SHOP EXPENDITURE	10,152			10,152	6,685
DONATIONS TO SCHOOL	50,698			50,698	56,520
Sub total	68,385			68,385	68,783
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc					2,280
Total payments	68,385			68,385	71,063
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,466			5,466	-2,279
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	46,056			46,056	48,334
Cash funds this year end	51,522			51,522	46,056

Section B

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £
CASH AND BANK	51,522		
Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	51,522		

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
SHEPHERDS HUT	2,000		
CUPBOARDS	280		

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B5 Liabilities


Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print name

Date of approval



M.C. Yawny

26.7.17

Chair's Report for Friends of Steiner Academy Hereford

Oct 2015 to Sept 2016

It has been another busy year for the Friends PTA. In September we hosted the Open Forum which began with an informal get together over soup and cake at 6 followed by a talk and discussion lead by Tessa Bella Lovemore on community building and conflict resolution. The feedback was very positive and it is hoped that we can continue to attract guest speakers to enrich our understanding of the philosophy that underpins our children's education.

In October there was a very successful Hedge Festival(previously known as the Food Festival). Building on the success of last year the organising committee included talks on all things food and farming gardening but also talks and workshops on health and healing, as well as music from various local groups. The day was very busy and attracted a lot of people from outside the school community.

The usual various fundraising activities were allocated to specific classes such as Bonfire Night for Class 5 and the Summer Fair for Class 4. Class 1 had another successful Easter Market. The Market is now an established fundraiser. In keeping with the festivals Class 3 held a Harvest Supper, and in the early summer term class 2's May Festival welcomed in the new season. The Advent Fair was held in the Shire Hall once again and was successful in terms of the money raised. However we have received notice that the rent to be charged is to double for succeeding years as refurbishment works have been completed which accounted for a discount in previous fairs. So future profit will be affected by this. Thanks must go once again to our resourceful community under the direction of Clare McGowan, assisted this year by Joana Clayton.

Following The Advent Fair was the Advent Market held in Birch Hall and co-ordinated by class 9 which was again well attended and popular with parents and families and a few local residents.

There have been issues with damage to school property, minibuses were damaged and there was some petty vandalism to the outdoor classroom during the summer break. A new minibus was bought in April 16 to replace the one damaged by vandals. This was also bought by Friends PTA through fundraising. We are extremely fortunate in that our parent body is able to continue to be so supportive. Minibuses are essential for class trips as SAH provides significantly more out of classroom activities and offsite visits than many other schools.

There have also been minor damage to toilets during some fundraising events and it is recognised that more work is needed to ensure that we have enough people to steward events so that they can be enjoyed by all and the hard work put in is not wasted in repairs.

While last years' open mic night was very successful the school has raised concerns that children were not supervised sufficiently by parents so for the time being these kind of events are not happening which is a shame.

Over the summer the Trim trail was put in the upper school field, this was requested by the pupils' School Council and was funded by Friends as was the bread oven in Katherine's(Melanie's) Kindergarten.

Arts Alive events continue to be supported by various classes providing refreshments. It was another successful year for open day. This year Open Day was again successfully held alongside a Celebration of Work from 1-6 which was very much enjoyed and appreciated.

May fair was a lovely day once again organised by class 2. However next year it has been decided to take this community event out of the hands of a specific class and entrust it to a committed band of enthusiasts.

Friends provided catering and children's activities for the Garden Festival at Hellens Manor in June. Once again a team lead by Jo Ockwell and parents from class 4 and 7 put in a lot of work and the kitchen went very well and smoothly, kindergarten parents took on children activities there was also plant stall which ran successfully.

A group of Kindergarten Parents organised a promise auction in May that surpassed everyone's expectations and raised over £4500. Huge thanks must go not only to the parents who worked so hard to make it a success but also to all the people who donated the 'promises'.

The donation scheme continues to be supported by approximately a third of parents with whatever they can afford, amounts ranging from £5 to £90 a month. The important point being that it is regular amount that can be relied upon for budgeting purposes. Thanks as ever to all Parents who contribute. It is recognised that we need to constantly engage with all parents, new and old, stressing the importance of these contributions for the school and the richness of our children's education.

Friends have also been working with Brendan O'Keefe, the business manager, on encouraging those eligible for free school meals to make applications as this attracts significant additional funding for 6 years after first successful claim.

The allocation of fundraised money was kept at 80% to school, 15% emergency funds and 5% to other Steiner education initiatives, although during this financial year no funds were allocated to any other projects. The actual figure transferred to the school during this financial year was just under £51,000 and any residual funds will be carried forward into the following year.

Friends continues to retain funds for the option of supporting an emergency or supporting other Steiner Education projects. As agreed, £12,000 was donated from Friends funds towards the school, from fundraising activities. Gifts made by parents, and the gift aid, are donated to school on a quarterly basis. The Charity Checkout account has the capacity to raise funds online, both for the school and external charities if we so choose.

Most classes managed to achieve their fundraising targets at £500 per class and £1000 by Kindergarten, and it was agreed that these targets (to be donated to school) would be met before classes fundraised for individual class projects.

Classes continue to provide food for Workdays, although on a reduced basis, one a term and a Monday morning for those unable to make the Saturday. We thank everyone for their much appreciated participation in this contribution to supporting the community spirit and beautiful grounds. A significant task this year was to sand and improve the exposed beams in the reception and foyer area which has made a huge difference.

We have been excited to support a new D of E initiative at the school for 14/15 year olds and have funded the registration fee and thanks go to Kirsten Hopkins, Ian Young, Maggie Setterfield, Harry Rouse, and others. We had 32 register for this opportunity with a high completion rate.

Class Reps continued to be run as a crucial link between classes, parents and Friends, a sometimes endless task of involving parents in the needs of their individual classes and the perpetual fundraising. Often class reps reported the difficulties of engaging parents in their classes for various class activities and they need strong support from the parents of each class. Thanks go to Helena Trethowan, class rep lead, and all the class reps for the invaluable work they do.

Friends PTA continues to take a proactive role in meeting with prospective new parents at open days and mornings with the intention of not only answering questions but also stressing that parents are expected to get involved in all aspects of the school as much as they possibly can, as this not only supports the school but importantly the experience of the child through their educational journey.

Thank you once again to the tireless efforts of those parents who throw themselves into the healthy social life of our school and to our committee for their ongoing support .

Mike Young (Chair)