

Isle of Arran Music School Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 July 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Isle of Arran Music School SCIO

Charity Number

SC047858

Address

Arran High School, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire, KA27 8NG

Current Trustees

Elizabeth Girbow (Chair)

Andrew Dickie (Vice Chair)

Mairi Duff (Secretary)

Claire Stagg (Treasurer)

Frances Coyle

Vik Steele

Structure, Governance and Management Constitution

The charity began as a community group on 29 May 2017. The Charity is now a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO) and was registered in its current legal form on 25 October 2017. The assets of the community group were transferred to the SCIO on 25 October 2017. The charity has a two-tier structure, with Members and Trustees.

Appointment of Trustees

The role of Trustee is open to all members of the organisation. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting. At each AGM, the members may elect any willing member to be a charity trustee. At each AGM, all trustees shall be up for election or re-election. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of six trustees.

Charitable Purposes and Objectives.

The organisation's purposes are to advance the musical education of young people living on the Isle of Arran; to promote our national heritage and culture; and to increase public exposure to, appreciation of, and involvement in music and the performing arts.

This will be done by:

- Encouraging participation, nurturing talent and providing musical tuition and activities which support or enhance existing provision by the North Ayrshire Council Music Service.
- Providing opportunities for young people on Arran to come together to participate in, experience, learn from and enjoy musical performance opportunities of the highest standards.
- Providing young people with the opportunity to engage with, learn and perform traditional Scottish music and associated instruments.
- Providing opportunities for young people to engage with professional musicians and performance through attending concerts, shows and the like (on Arran and beyond) and participating in workshops.
- Working with the wider community to engage new audiences by encouraging their attendance at and participation in music rehearsals, concerts and community music making.

Activities

Weekly structured lessons in:

- Highland Bagpipes
- Snare/Tenor/Bass Drumming
- Clarsach

Achievements and Performance

- Schools Pipeband Rehearsal
- Successful Pipe Band season in 2024 with prizes at minor competitions and placing fifth at Scottish Championships in Dumbarton in July 2024.
- Performance Pipe Band were first in their category at Scottish Schools National Championships in March 2025.
- Mid-season success in placing second at UK Championships in Edinburgh in July 2025.
- Successful graded exams for Clarsach
- SQA passes for Bagpipes, Drums and Clarsach.
- Successful Summer School for Pipes & Drums in 2024.
- Concert and Ceilidh in November 2024 were well attended with great feedback.

- Planned Summer school in August 2025 and Awards Ceremony in October 2025.
- Planned Small Pipes Club using pipes on loan from SSPDT in August 2025.
- Other ad hoc events including musical events, fundraising activities and educational activities to better the participants of the charity.

Financial Review

We are proud to offer free tuition to young people across the Isle of Arran in Pipes, Drums and Clarsach, thereby removing any financial barrier to participation.

Reserves Policy

- Our plan for 2025-26 is to build and maintain a separate reserve fund of £10,000 to ensure that any financial commitments can be met easily. We are already actively seeking funding for year 9 of the charity and onwards.

Plans for Future Period

- Year 8, 9 and 10 funding pledge confirmed from SSPDT.
- Target of 10% of funding through family and community monthly contributions to continue, taking into account the increase in tuition costs.
- Further develop Leaders in Music Leadership who can then achieve an extra SQA.
- Continue a Ceilidh Band rehearsal in conjunction with Fiddle Club.
- Seeking the possibility of local sponsorship for sustainability.
- The fundraising and administration position to continue.
- The continuation of bagpipes, snare drumming, tenor drumming and clarsach tuition with possible expansion of one or more areas depending on funding to accommodate demand.
- Continuing to work in partnership with the SSPDT
- Continuing to work in partnership with the island schools and their Heads Teachers to deploy tuition and high-quality musical experiences.