

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: SC046171

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2025

CT:

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC046171

Principal Office: 61 Dublin Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6NL

Website: <http://www.scen.info>

Trustees

S Macaulay - Chair

J Chittleburgh – Treasurer

J Brodie

J Guo

A Huang

J Presly

M Healy (appointed 25 September 2025)

Bankers

Bank of Scotland

104 George Street

Edinburgh

EH2 3DF

Independent Examiner

Findlay Paul CA

MHA

6 St Colme Street

Edinburgh

EH3 6AD

Accountants

CT

61 Dublin Street

Edinburgh

EH3 6NL

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 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 trust deed, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and 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 published in October 2019.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity was established on 3 December 2015.

The purpose of the Scotland China Education Network is the advancement of education through the promotion of the learning of Chinese language and culture in Scottish schools. SCEN works with a network of schools, universities, national agencies, commercial organisations, and associations which are keen to provide opportunities for children, students, and young professionals to learn Chinese and about China. It supports local authorities, headteachers, representatives of universities and national agencies in supporting the study of Chinese language and culture across Scotland. SCEN responds to the needs and the issues raised by all sectors,

1. to support the learning of Chinese language and culture in Scottish schools.
2. To support Local Authorities, Headteachers, Schools, and national agencies in Scotland, in their efforts to introduce Chinese into schools in Scotland and develop connections with China in Scotland's schools.
3. To work with the Higher Education sector, to support their teaching work in Chinese and about China, research into the teaching and learning of Chinese.
4. To respond to the needs and the issues raised by all sectors, including the wide range of commercial and business interests.
5. To support the relationship between the Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classroom Hubs in Scotland.
6. To link with government bodies in Scotland, UK and China, especially through education links.

SCEN partners include:

- Local Authorities and their Schools
- Individual schools
- The Confucius Institutes in the Universities of Edinburgh, Heriot Watt, Aberdeen and Glasgow
- The Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools at the University of Strathclyde and associated Confucius Hub schools
- Swire Chinese Language Centre in Scotland
- China Britain Business Council for Scotland (CBBC)
- Universities and Colleges
- Chinese Community Schools
- The Scottish Government, and relevant national agencies
- The Cross Party Group on China at the Scottish Parliament
- The Scottish Qualifications Authority (and successor body)
- Education Scotland (and successor body)
- The General Teaching Council for Scotland
- The Scottish Churches China Group
- Professional Organisations
- Plus committed individuals

A review of our achievements and performance

1. Developing the work of SCEN in challenging times

Since it was set up in 2006, at no time has the role of SCEN in promoting the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture in schools.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Twenty years later, in 2026, this role remains all the more important and challenging in a continuing turbulent political, economic and educational climate.

Currently there is a particularly challenging for all Modern Language learning and teaching in schools, and this has had a specific impact on Mandarin as the relative newcomer to the suite of languages offered in schools to certificate level. In part this is the legacy of the period of Covid lockdown (initially in 2020) the impact of which on schools and young people and their learning has yet to be fully addressed. In part it reflects government priorities in the post Covid period where Modern Language learning has not been a major priority. In part it reflects parental and student priorities in selecting subjects for the senior phase in secondary schools where a Modern Language option (including Mandarin) is often not prioritised. In part also it reflects many public perceptions of China today in the increasingly challenging geopolitical climate which affects us all. A further major constraint is the financial pressures on schools in a difficult economic climate.

The number of schools where Mandarin is taught is, from a low base, failing to grow and in 2026 a number of schools are stopping the teaching of Mandarin altogether. The main reason given is the cost of employing a teacher in a new subject area, where the teacher may be fully qualified to teach a single subject – Mandarin Chinese. One major source of external funding (Swire Trust) has ended almost all funding support and local authority (supported by authorities based in China) funding has remained static. There is, on the other hand a small number of new schools now starting to teach Mandarin. Also, innovative ways are being identified (mostly through the work of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's schools) to reach schools in new areas of the country through online teaching. Although SQA results (as of 2025) continue to show a year-on-year increase in students obtaining certificate results at all levels – these figures may well be distorted by the growing number of native speakers of Mandarin undertaking SQA assessment. Overall, after many years of growth in Mandarin teaching in schools the overall picture is not nearly as bright as had been hoped in the early years of development. The reality is that the vast majority of youngsters in Scotland are not able to access Mandarin as a subject in the school they attend. There remains little prospect of that changing in the immediate future.

It is within this context that the role of SCEN in arguing the importance of school students' being able to have access to Mandarin learning becomes all the more important. However, a challenging climate inevitably impacts on SCEN work and our ability to engage with the issue and to organise the number of events we would like.

2. SCEN Lecture and Social Event

SCEN worked closely through the year with students in the University of Edinburgh undertaking a degree course in Mandarin, who are organized in the China Futures Society (CFS). This culminated in a lecture event and social evening, bringing together friends of SCEN, students and lecturers in Edinburgh and other universities, held on 19 March at the University of Edinburgh. The lecture was delivered by Julia Herries, member of SCEN Advisory Council with considerable business experience of working in China, along with Francesca Leiper, among the first students in Scotland to acquire SQA qualifications in Mandarin, who has worked subsequently in China and at a Confucius Institute in Oxford. The event was well attended and emphasizes the importance of SCEN links with the University – one of the significant areas of growth of Mandarin language learning in Scotland.

3. SCEN Youth Summit and Chinese Speaking Competition

This was held on 28 November 2025 at the John MacIntyre Centre, University of Edinburgh. There were over 300 participants representing 15 schools from all parts of Scotland. Essentially two events were held in parallel – a Youth Summit where young people in schools showcased what they are learning both in terms of Mandarin language and about China along with a speaking competition graded for all ages of Mandarin learning in schools. There were also a small number of outside speakers involved in presentations (in person and online) – including from the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools and the Chinese Consulate in Scotland. The event was very well received.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

A review of our achievements and performance (continued)

4. School-Specific Events

Mearns Castle High School 15 January 2026.

Leading SCEN representatives attended an event in Mearns Castle High School on 15 January. This involved meeting with the cohort of S2 students who were then considering their subject options for Senior Phase in the school. SCEN personnel were able to put the case for considering the option of taking Mandarin to National exams and beyond. The particular formula for engagement was highly successful and could be a model for engagement in other schools in 2026-27. Other schools are currently expressing an interest in hosting a SCEN school-based event and this will be pursued actively by Trustees over the next months.

5. Cross-Party Group on China

This did not meet in 2025 -26. However, it is to be hoped that new Scottish Parliament, elected in May 2026, will move to reconvene the Group. This is against the background of improving governmental links between the UK and PRC in 2026.

6. Scottish Churches China Group

SCEN continues to be represented (by the Convener) on the Scottish Churches China Group, an ecumenical group representing several churches and other groups in Scotland with an interest in China. SCCG supports charitable work, mostly based in hospitals and care homes in China and in supporting professional development of health professionals working in China.

7. Subscribers to SCEN

There are (at June 2026) just over 400 subscribers to the SCEN Network. There have been new subscribers throughout the year and work is undertaken periodically to delete the names of subscribers who show no sign of activity over a period of time.

8. SCEN Meetings 2025 - 26

SCEN Trustees met online in 2025 on 25 September, 20 November and in 2026 on 12 February and 4 June. The next Trustee AGM and Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 24 September 2026.

SCEN Advisory Council met online on 14 November 2025 and on 23 January and 8 May 2026.

9. Future Funding of SCEN

The future funding of SCEN remains the outstanding challenge. Currently we are dependent on a single sponsor – together with much goodwill in the education community. We continue to strive to identify outside funding – crucially of such a nature to ensure our continuing independence of government or commercial bodies.

A Group of SCEN Trustees met on a number of occasions with a member of SCEN Advisory Council, David Campbell who has considerable business and banking experience in China. David drew up a list of companies to contact who are potentially open to supporting SCEN financially in the future.

Their responses are awaited.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

A review of our achievements and performance (continued)

10. Communications and Website

The SCEN website which has been developed over the past four years is an important resource as an informative, user friendly and accessible site. It has become an important source of information not only about SCEN but also about events hosted by our partner bodies. Work remains to be done to fully populate the site. Related to website development, SCEN continues to develop its presence on social media, such as WeChat, Instagram and X – mindful at all times of the sensitivities of such a development and also issues of child protection. All these developments are now led by the SCEN part time on line communications and administrative officer, Shen Yun in post since October 2023.

11. SCEN Updates

A SCEN Update, with information about SCEN and its work, including partner involvement, is published and disseminated on around 7/8 occasions through the school year.

Financial review

The net deficit of the Charity for the year was £8,942 (2024: deficit £5,061). The net assets at 31 December 2025 are £967 (2024: £9,909).

Risk management

Trustees undertook a comprehensive survey of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. They agreed a Key Risk Register, identifying potential risks in the following areas:

- Governance, Leadership and Management
- Operational Risks
- Financial Risks
- External Factors
- Compliance Risk (Law and Regulation)

In each case the potential impact was examined, and the steps taken to mitigate each risk identified and followed.

Reserves policy

The **Unrestricted reserves** showed a surplus of £967 (2024: £9,909) at the year end. They represent the unrestricted reserves arising from operating results. The trustees review the level of reserves to enable at least one year of operation without other funds.

Plans for the future

1. Continue to develop the online presence of SCEN through the new website, developing the safe use of social media for SCEN with a view to greater participation within SCEN.
2. Organise events to include:
 - a. conference events to include a Youth Summit and Speaking competition towards the end of 2026, preferably in the west of Scotland/ Glasgow area.
 - b. School specific events in at least two secondary schools (with participation from associated primary schools).
 - c. a conference or equivalent joint event on the Learning and Teaching of Mandarin in schools in Scotland.
3. Recruit an additional Trustee, with a school background and management experience (in terms of the revised SCEN constitution which allows for a maximum of 8 Trustees.
4. Identify future sources of funding for SCEN.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Structure, governance and management

SCEN was founded in January 2006 as an informal network. SCEN's application for Incorporation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in 2015 was successful. The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) was satisfied that SCEN meets the charity test and the legal requirements for being a SCIO, and entered it in the Scottish Charity Register on 3 December 2015. SCEN is now an incorporated body having charitable status under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Trustees of SCEN are appointed by election at the Annual General Meeting; the last election took place in September 2022. The present Trustees of SCEN have been chosen to provide a matrix of relevant skills, experience and association with the aims of SCEN with backgrounds in education, finance and business and experience of leadership and membership of charitable boards. New Trustees, when required, will be selected from those with the same matrix and background. They will be familiar through experience and demonstrated commitment to the work and activities of SCEN and will receive all appropriate documentation from OSCR and SCEN, as well as taking part in personal discussions with the Chair and fellow Trustees.

Jeremy Chittleburgh has intimated his retirement as SCEN treasurer in the course of 2026 – 27. His contribution to SCEN has been very significant and it is hoped that a successor can be identified soon – and that the link with CT accountants can be maintained.

The Trustees of SCEN follow the guidance of OSCR and its advice and document are brought to their attention at meetings. They have taken account of the Scottish Charity Regulator's *Targeted Regulation*, which came into effect on 29 March 2016.

SCEN Trustees meet at least three times a year.

Key management personnel remuneration

The key management personnel are the Trustees. They received no remuneration during the period.

Related party transactions

Transactions with related parties are set out in note 8.

Reference and administrative information

The reference and administrative details, including the names of the Trustees who held office during the year are set out on page 1.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and the provisions of the Trust deed.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Approved by the trustees on 21 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



S Macaulay - Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

I report on the financial statements of Scottish China Education Network for the year to 31 December 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and independent examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) (the Regulations). The charity Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (a) to (c) of the Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the financial statements as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeks 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 I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of 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 44(1)(a) of the Act and Regulation 4 of the Regulations, and
 - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the Regulationshave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Findlay Paul

**Findlay Paul CA
For and on behalf of MHA
6 St Colme Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6AD**

Date: 21 September 2026

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)****For the year ended 31 December 2025**

		Unrestricted Funds	
		31	31
		December	December
	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Income and endowments from:			
Donations		8,708	5,000
Bank interest received		122	94
Other interest receivable		3	107
		-----	-----
Total income		8,833	5,201
		-----	-----
Expenditure on:			
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Education	3	17,775	10,262
		-----	-----
Total expenditure		17,775	10,262
		-----	-----
Net (expenditure)/income being net movement in funds		(8,942)	(5,061)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward		9,909	14,970
		-----	-----
Total funds carried forward	7	967	9,909
		=====	=====

All the results relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK**BALANCE SHEET****As at 31 December 2025**

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Other Debtors		313	2,607
Cash at bank and in hand		1,929	10,154
		-----	-----
	5	2,242	12,761
Current liabilities			
Creditors falling due within one year	6	1,275	2,852
		-----	-----
Net current assets		967	9,909
		-----	-----
Net assets		967	9,909
		=====	=====
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds:			
General Fund	7	967	9,909
		-----	-----
Total charity funds		967	9,909
		=====	=====

Approved by Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



 S Macaulay - Chair

Date: 21 September 2026

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 December 2025****1. Accounting policies****Basis of preparation**

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 the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The financial statements are presented in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

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

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have assessed the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements.

Funds

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Trustees are satisfied there is entitlement to the income, it is probable that it will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK

NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting policies (Continued)

Donated services and gifts in kind

Donated services and gifts in kind are recognised as income where the charity has control over the item or service, it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the charity, and the value can be measured reliably. Such income is recognised at the fair value of the benefit received.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial 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.

2. Information regarding employees and members

No remuneration was paid to the Trustees, and no staff members were employed during the period. No employees therefore received salaries greater than £60,000.

The Trustees were reimbursed £Nil (2024: £Nil) of expenses during the period.

3. Charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Events and conference costs	9,120	3,054
Support and governance costs (note 4)	8,655	7,208
	-----	-----
	17,775	10,262
	=====	=====
 4. Support and governance costs	 2025	 2024
	£	£
Website	4,305	4,230
Accountancy fees	2,870	1,899
Independent examiner's fee	1,141	1,047
Travel expenses	339	-
Bank charges	-	32
	-----	-----
	8,655	7,208
	=====	=====

SCOTLAND CHINA EDUCATION NETWORK**NOTES to the FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)****For the year ended 31 December 2025**

5. Analysis of current assets	2025	2024
	£	£
Other Debtors	313	2,607
Cash at bank	1,929	10,154
	<u>2,242</u>	<u>12,761</u>
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

Debtors related to unrestricted funds.

Cash at bank balances all related to unrestricted funds.

6. Analysis of current liabilities	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and other creditors	1,275	2,852
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

Current liabilities related to unrestricted funds.

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Income £	Ex- penditure £	Balance at 31 December 2025 £
7. Movement of funds				
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	9,909	8,833	(17,775)	967
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>
	Balance at 1 January 2024	Income	Ex- penditure	Balance at 31 December 2024
Unrestricted funds				
General Fund	14,970	5,201	(10,262)	9,909
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

The General Fund represents funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the charity's constitution, aims and objectives.

8. Related party transactions

During the year, the charity incurred accounting fees of £2,870 (2024: £1,899) payable to CT, a firm in which Jeremy Chittleburgh is a member. Jeremy Chittleburgh has agreed to pay these fees personally and has waived any right to reimbursement by the charity. The payment is therefore treated as a donation to the charity.

At the year end, other creditors and accruals included £nil (2024: £1,581) relating to accountancy fees payable to CT. No amounts were owed to Jeremy Chittleburgh at the year end (2024: £nil).