Registered Charity No. SC014611
Company No. SC054504

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

REPORT and ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2025

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

REFERENCE and ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Company Number	SC054504
Registered Charity Number	SC014611
Registered Office	Coates Hall 25 Grosvenor Crescent Edinburgh EH12 5EL

Directors
The following Directors served during the year:

Chair	Katrina Heathcote (to 7 October 2024). Resigned 8 November 2024. Fiona Akers (from 8 October 2024)
	Stephen Bell. Appointed 10 June 2025. John Conway Ken Fairbrother. Resigned 31 October 2025. Alistair Mackie Jamie Munn Nigel Munro. Appointed 10 June 2025. Joan Parr. Appointed 10 June 2025. John Reid. Appointed 7 October 2024. Resigned 8 November 2024. Kenneth Simpson. Appointed 10 June 2025. Susan Tomes. Appointed 10 June 2025. Janine Watson

Senior Staff

Headteacher	Dr Kenneth Taylor
Bursar & Company Secretary	Dr JoAnna Ruth Collings
Interim CEO	John Reid. Resigned 19 September 2024.
Honorary President	John Wallace CBE
Honorary Vice-Presidents	Gavin Gemmell CBE Evelyn Glennie DBE Steven Isserlis CBE Sir James MacMillan CBE Jerzy Maksymiuk Steven Osborne OBE

REFERENCE and ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION (continued)

Bankers	Virgin Money 83 George Street Edinburgh EH3 2ES
	Bank of Scotland 104 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3DF
Auditor	CT Audit Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor 61 Dublin Street Edinburgh EH3 6NL
Solicitors	Brodies LLP 58 Morrison Street Edinburgh EH3 8BP
Investment Manager	Rathbone Investment Management Ltd 10 George Street Edinburgh EH2 1PF

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

At the beginning of another academic year, it gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to look back at the highlights of last year, and look forward to what comes next.

Once again, last year, the school achieved the highest standards in music and in the broader curriculum it offers. We were delighted that the school's success was recognised when, for the third year in a row, it was named Scottish Independent Secondary School of the year for Academic Excellence in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2025. Exam results following the May/June 2025 exam diet have been similarly impressive.

Also worth noting is that, for the first time in many years, the school underwent a full Joint Inspection by Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate in October 2024. This involved a detailed review of the whole of the school's provision both educational and pastoral. The inspection reports were published in early 2025. Across the board, the reports were extremely positive, with praise not only for the extraordinary commitment of the pupils and the outstanding teaching staff, but also for the learning environment in the school and the supportive relationships between staff and pupils and between pupils and their peers. The full reports can be read on the school's website.

I am also very pleased to be able to report that in this new academic year, the school starts with 72 pupils, an increase of 9 pupils over last year's numbers. Since Covid, applications from suitable pupils have been lower than hoped. So this increase to 72 pupils for this year, which takes the school close to its optimum number, is very welcome and I believe is testament to the hard work which has gone into raising the school's profile and improving the admissions process.

In terms of music performance, the amazingly high standard achieved by our pupils has been on show at an array of different concerts, competitions and other events. While it is difficult to pick one event for special mention, I would like to highlight the performance given in June 2025 by the pupils participating in our new vocal programmes. The performance comprised short staged extracts from a number of operas. The standard of performance was astonishing and the audience was delighted with this new addition to the school's offering. We look forward to seeing the new vocal programmes develop.

All that the school achieves is achieved through the talent, hard work and commitment of our pupils but also through the skill, enthusiasm, inspiration, encouragement and support provided by our excellent staff, for which we thank them.

Meantime, the Board continues in its work of oversight and challenge, while offering strategic guidance. In November 2024, we were sad that both Katrina Heathcote (who had been Board Chair) and John Reid, retired from the Board. They both made an enormous contribution over a number of years and we thank them for their service to the school. With Katrina and John having retired, it was felt that the Board needed to appoint some more members with various skills that we lacked. We were therefore very pleased to welcome five new Board members in June 2025, namely Stephen Bell, Nigel Munro, Joan Parr, Kenneth Simpson and Susan Tomes. Each of these individuals has a wealth of experience and knowledge in their own fields, which are all very different, and we are confident that each of them will contribute an enormous amount to the work of the Board over the coming years.

The Board has been focussed over the last year on the need to stabilise and improve the school's operational financial position. While the school, of course, receives and depends on the government finance provided through the Aided Places Scheme as well as fees paid by parents, it has become increasingly difficult over recent years to meet rising costs and balance the books. While this a challenge, the Board remains committed to finding ways to improve the school's operational finances, and thereby provide a solid basis for a long and sustainable future. At the same time, the Board recognises that the school requires improved facilities and more space in order to enable it to continue offering the top class musical education it aspires to provide and to keep attracting the very best pupils. After the Calton Hill move did not progress, there was a proposal to build a new school in Edinburgh Park, at a cost of £45 million. For a number of reasons, not least the enormous price tag, the Board decided against that at the end of 2024, and is now committed to developing the new space and new and improved facilities the school requires in and around the current school premises at Coates Hall. The senior management are currently consulting within the school as to what is needed. Once that process is complete, the Board intends to work with senior management to develop plans as to how to achieve this. While the school was recently the beneficiary of some extremely generous legacies, we are very aware that any work of this kind will likely require a substantial fundraising campaign and its implementation will be dependent on the success of that campaign.

As we celebrate the school's past achievements and look forward with confidence and anticipation, I extend, on behalf of the Board, our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, patrons, friends and supporters, for your ongoing generosity to the school, without which none of this could have been achieved.

Fiona Akers
Chair
24 November 2025

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

The following is an edited version of the Headteacher's Speech at the Prize-giving at the end of session 2024/25.

Introduction

We are grateful to the many Donors and Trusts who generously continue to fund prizes and different aspects of school development. This includes gifts of musical instruments and equipment.

Our end of session concert in the Queens Hall, Edinburgh was highly successful – the playing and singing of the various groups was of a very high standard.

The Directors' Recital Prize is funded by the School's Directors and we thank them for their generous support. This year the competition attracted 12 entries and the final was adjudicated by Alistair Mackie, Susan Tomes and Jenny Jamison. Our Junior Recital prize attracted 14 entries and the Intermediate Recital Prize had 18.

Our Directors maintain a valuable overview of the School and in tandem with our Development Office, campaign to enlist financial support for the School. We are very grateful to the Directors for giving up their time for this service to the School.

Education and National Issues

We appreciate the support shown to the School by Scottish Government and we are continually grateful for the Scottish Government provision for the Aided Places Scheme.

We continue to link with the Choir Schools Association of Great Britain. The School is an active member of the Scottish Council for Independent Schools, the Boarding Schools Association and the UK Music and Dance Schools group of nine specialist schools. Robert Baxter represents the school in the Music Education Partnership Group and we are a member of the Young Music Talents in Europe association.

Many of our pupils have places in national ensembles including the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland and the National Youth Choirs of Scotland.

Session Developments

The session started with a roll of 63 pupils. Next session we will have 72 pupils, with a further pupil joining the School in January. The school always encourages pupils and former pupils alike to share their knowledge of the school with their fellow musicians and, where appropriate, to encourage them to audition here.

In January we launched our new website.

As ever there have been changes in the school's staff: Kenneth Simpson left at the end of Term 1 and Diane Keohane rejoined us as part time Teacher of English for the remainder of this session. Paula Gander joined us as teacher of art to cover Kate Gordon-Sheddon's maternity leave. Our Artistic Advisor William Conway left us at the February half-term and Margaret Aronson, Vreni Fry and Andrew Robb left us at Christmas. Our new Flute Teacher is Eilidh Gillespie and our new Teacher of Guitar is Michael McGeary (Junior). Lazlo Rozla and Sharron Griffiths returned to teach recorder and harp respectively and Halena Pritchard is our new Administrative Assistant. During this summer term Jackie Blaikie left us after 16 years of selfless service to the school.

In September 2024, four former pupils, Aaron Akugbo, Eve Boulos, Angela Hicks and Sofía Ros were appointed as School Ambassadors – Angela and Sofía have been featured in the School's Lines and Spaces publication.

The start of the year was a turbulent one with the Board considering a proposal to raise £40 million to build a new school at Edinburgh Park. This was eventually rejected and the School is working to develop a plan to improve facilities at our current location.

This session saw the introduction of the SMMS CIC Award (based on the School's values: Creative, Inclusive, Committed) which is presented to pupils who have demonstrated these values to a particularly high standard. There were three awards made this session.

Summary of School Year

Term 1

Before term started Helena Buckmayer, assisted by Anna Michels throughout, had staged a successful residential International Piano Summer School and Hilary Michael and Anna Michels ran a two-day Improvisation Short Course. The choristers sang throughout the Edinburgh International Festival. As well as their sung services, they gave a concert and sang a BBC Broadcast. The International Piano Summer School, several pupils and Mr Cameron gave three lunchtime concerts in the Cathedral and there were two recitals in Marchmont St Giles.

John Cameron launched SMMS On Tour and all of the Ambassadors were involved in the first of a series six concerts which was in the foyer at Kings Place, London, along with three current pupils and former pupils India Reilly and David Swan. The other venues were Kellie Castle, Rannoch Old Church, St Mary's Church in Haddington, a Strings Day at Harrogate Grammar and St Mary's Church in Melrose.

We received excellent exam results once again. Last session's results (2023/24) were amongst our very best from an SQA examination diet with a 100% pass rate and 81% at Grade A award across all levels which placed the school first for academic attainment in the Sunday Times Good School's Guide for the third successive year.

We commenced a partnership with St Columba's Hospice which featured an Assembly Presentation from them at the start of the year, followed by three performances at the Hospice throughout the session.

Our Vocal Programmes were launched successfully and have featured an innovative collaboration with Scottish Opera which is also engaging other young singers from across Scotland.

With the help of the Heads of School we ran two Virtual Open Mornings, one Instrumental Taster Day in term 1 and a Vocal Taster Day in term 2. Throughout the year Graham Coe has been in school training us in the use of recording equipment. The Eco Committee focused on the Daffodil Project and the Eco Halloween. We also received our new Eco-Schools Green Flag in October. The House Music Competition with a theme of 'Country' was won by Rosebery's rendition of Jolene.

After Half Term we enjoyed a full Joint Inspection from Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate. When the reports were published over three months later, it was clear the inspection process had been extremely positive. The results are available on our new website.

Performance Practice (PP) sessions included: Joe Houston on contemporary piano, an Ensemble including Andrew Somerville demonstrating work with fixed media, a Conducting Workshop from Mr Conway, and a talk on running an Orchestra from RSNO Chief Executive Alastair Mackie. There were nine Concert Trips, lunchtime concerts from Steven Osborne (times two), Susan Tomes, Fraser Kelman and Mr Cameron, Mr Sharp and Ms Michels, a Masterclass and Celebrity 6 visit from Lawrence Power, seven Chancel Concerts, a Patrons' Event celebrating the work of the Keyboard Department, a concert for the Polish Consulate and Music for World Aids Day in the Cathedral. The Chamber Choir sang at the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences. There were nine curricular trips including a Percussion Masterclass, a Theatre trip to Streetcar named Desire and a Primary Trip to Edinburgh Zoo's Film Festival. The Primary Class's Enterprise Project 'Festive Fun' raised £824 for Playground Equipment.

The Christmas Concert featured many groups and included performances Rameau and Praetorius from the Junior Orchestra, Quilter from the Choristers, Sibelius from the String Ensemble, Three Shakespeare Settings from the Choir, and the Senior Orchestra performed La Creation du Monde by Milhaud and the Faure Pavane. After term finished, the choristers continued with two Nine Lessons and Carols Concerts, and the Midnight and Christmas Day Eucharists.

Term 2

The term started with the Rush Hour Chamber Concert at Palmerston Place Church and the prelim diet for the senior school. We enjoyed lunchtime concerts from Simon Smith, Sofia Ros and Philip Sharp and Fiona Robertson, a PP Concert from Jack Liebeck and John Cameron, and, following three sessions at the concerto class for the Edinburgh Competition Festival, this competition was eventually won by senior pupil Ben-David.

We ran our own Lord Clyde Concerto Competition with 13 pupils providing 14 performances. We ran recital assessments with accompanying Masterclasses in Term 2 with the help of external musicians including: David Goodenough, Anneke Scott, Jack Liebeck, Mark O'Keefe, Lewis Banks, Paul Philibert, Morag Robertson, Alison Wells, Paul Chamberlain, Lauren Scott, Peter Dykes, Graham Scott and Helen Banks. For eight of these events our pupils were joined by local teachers and young musicians to observe the sessions and, in some cases, to receive a masterclass.

Staff and pupils travelled to hear the premiere of senior pupil Eva Smeddle's piece 'Nightmare in Argentina' with the Glasgow Chamber Orchestra. Seven pupils performed on the stage of the Usher Hall in our RSNO Showcase Concert.

The Spring Concert was an undoubted highlight and enjoyed the largest audience we have had for a Term 2 Concert for many years. The programme showcased the very best of the School's work, with a senior pupil organist joining the Senior String Ensemble in Respighi and the Cathedral Choirs joining our whole School Choir accompanied by two senior pianists and soloists Catriona Hewitson and Ross Ramgobin in a wonderful performance of the Brahms German Requiem in Brahms' own arrangement with piano duet.

During the term there were four concert trips. Lunchtime concerts included a Composers Concert and a Burns Songs Concert. PP sessions from Ms Michels and Miss Michael and John Kenny and four Chancel Concerts.

In January we enjoyed a Junior Ceilidh and a Burns Supper. The term also included Scottish Opera Costume fittings, Biology trips to the Botanic Garden, Heriot Watt University and the Anatomical Museum, and Advanced Higher History Trip to George Watson's College, a World Book Day trip to Waterstones (P5-S2), a visit from our Constituency MP Christine Jardine and a pupil led Concert 'Echoes of Spring' at Rosslyn Chapel.

Term 3

Right at the start of term, The Choristers sang services for Holy Week. Anna Michels accompanied a pupil in a 'Greyfriars at Noon' concert. A group of seven pupils supported the Douglas Academy Concerto Concert. We enjoyed a piano masterclass with Benjamin Frith and the SMMS Horn Day at the end of May. In June we held a Chamber Music Concert in Perth Concert Hall and a memorable Vocal Scenes concert at Stockbridge Parish Church.

Mr Cameron and Dr Taylor heard 44 recitals for DRP, IRP and JRP. The Junior and Intermediate Recital Prizes were adjudicated by Stephen Orton and the Sheila Tough Prize for Singing in a Foreign Language was adjudicated by singer Katy Thomson.

Performance Plus presented 'La Mer Reimagined' - an art and music event. Five singers took part in a weekend with Scottish Opera where four semi-staged scenes were produced and performed with other singers from around Scotland, four professional singers and with a professional team directing. We enjoyed a visit from Alexander McCall Smith who worked with senior pupils of English and the Primary Class and generously distributed several of his books. At the start of June we staged our Primary Dance.

In the penultimate week of term, on Monday we held the Leavers' Concert at Palmerston Place Church, Wednesday was Sport Day and our Leavers' Dinner took place on the Thursday.

We enjoyed lunchtime concerts from former pupil Layla Ballard and The Waverley Quartet, six Chancel Concerts and a lunchtime concert featuring the Junior Orchestra playing two Studio Ghibli tracks arranged by Thomas Peel. There were two concert trips, PP sessions from David Swan and Amy Firth and five Chancel Concerts.

In addition to this, there were a number of trips: S1 Biology to the Zoo, S1 Maths Activity Walk, S5/6 Bioinformatics, Boarders' Trip to South Queensferry, S2 Outdoor Learning Day, a German and Music Online Presentation, S2 Biology Trip to the Botanic Gardens, Primary Class to Lauriston Castle, Primary Maths Challenge and a Senior Linguistics Trip to Heriot Watt University. The Daffodil Project held numerous events including a trip to Edinburgh University. As result of the project six pupils and Mrs Holm were invited to the Royal Society, London to present their work to the public.

Through the year pupils raised £577.61 for four charities including around £350 for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Storm Damage Appeal.

Extra Curricular

Our many Eco-based Clubs, Running Clubs, Art Club, Science Club, Crochet Club, Chess Club and Volleyball Club, Viola Club, Piano Forum, Exploration Club and Debating and Public Speaking Club met regularly throughout the session.

Primary

The primary class started the new session with 14 pupils, three of whom were new. Over the year, one chorister has left and an instrumentalist has joined the school. The summer term has included a focus on the P7/S1 transition – the P7's enjoyed swimming and a trip to Ninja Warrior in Leith. The end of term Primary play 'Olivia' was performed to great acclaim. As part of the Scottish Castles topic they visited Lauriston Castle and completed a personal project on an ancient civilisation.

Choristers

The Cathedral has been developing singing projects around Edinburgh. There have been two 'Come and Sing' events, one 'Be a Chorister Afternoon' and a Chorister Audition afternoon. In June the choir visited Durham Choir for their annual joint Evensong with Durham Cathedral Choir.

The choir were in residence for two weeks in August during the Edinburgh Festival which included their annual BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong and a Choir Concert, as well as their normal pattern of services including the Valedictory Service. Next session we will have 14 choristers and two pre-probationers.

Saturday Music Classes and Engagement

SMC continued this session under the management of Philip Bartai. Young musicians are now being offered a much more rounded package of music making on Saturday mornings, with an increased amount of ensemble work. In December and June they produced two concerts at Palmerston Place Church to showcase their work.

Throughout this academic year, Mr Cameron, Miss Aitken, Mr Baxter, Dr Pearson, Ms Addinall and Mrs Minogue have worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the School and the work we all do here and of course that has included 'SMMS on Tour' (vide supra).

Leaving Pupils

Of the five leaving Chorister Pupils, two pupils are remaining at SMMS having successfully auditioned as instrumentalists earlier in the session. One pupil is leaving the school following his P7 year. This year we have four sixth year and one sixth year extension leavers. We have been so impressed with our sixth years' work in school and their support of younger pupils.

We have benefited from the contribution of our Head of School and Depute Head of School. Dr Taylor has particularly appreciated their suggestions and organisation of various events – including the Leavers' Concert, Lost Property, Charity Days and the Rosslyn Chapel Concert. Thank you to all those pupils who have made such a positive contribution to the school this year.

Leaving Staff

Dawid Pajak is leaving after just over four years with us. He can turn his hand to anything – steps to the dining hall, fixing the roof on Principal's House and various glazing repairs to give just three examples. We are going to miss his 'can do' attitude and strong work ethic.

Gavin Frost has been teaching here for 12 years. Although he is a Geography teacher he has happily turned his hand to RME and PE and has taught the Big History Project to S1 pupils as well as working as a Houseparent. We have always enjoyed seeing him working with his classes and we will miss him greatly. He is returning to Poland where he is starting a new teaching post.

Conclusion

The school's purpose is to enable young musicians to excel in a safe and supportive culture that is creative, inclusive and committed.

- Creative means fostering new and expressive work through inspiration, imagination and reflection
- Inclusive means helpful and cooperative within our community, welcoming and respectful to all
- Committed means dedicated to our work, responsible and reliable

Kenneth Taylor

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The Directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Objects and Activities

Charitable Objects

The School, which had its origins as the choir school of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, exists to provide high quality education for young instrumentalists, vocalists and composers, as well as the Cathedral choristers. Pupils come to the School at any stage up to S6. Most pupils proceed to higher education in music and enter the music profession, with many now pursuing international careers. St Mary's Music School is a national resource and an aspirational destination for talented musicians.

The objects of St Mary's Music School Trust Ltd as set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association are to promote the study, practice and knowledge of music and other musical, literary, artistic, cultural and educational purposes connected therewith, and for these purposes to establish, maintain and manage a school, both primary and secondary, for gifted children. St Mary's Music School provides pupils with a general education and enters them for normal educational examinations and also musical examinations, both theory and practical, and prepares pupils, where possible, for a career in music. St Mary's Music School also offers places for the choristers of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. Pupils gain a place on the basis of musical ability and potential, regardless of parental means (see pages 9 & 10).

Outreach and community work are growing as important aspects of the work of St Mary's Music School and we aim to encourage inclusion, extending specialist music opportunities to pupils from other schools as appropriate. Our long established Saturday Music Classes, attended by around 100 children from the pre-school year upwards, are an important part of our community activities. Alongside the well-established classes in violin, cello, recorder, singing and theory, tuition is now available in small groups for beginners in clarsach, clarineo, clarinet and guitar.

We have a long history of welcoming pupils from other schools to participate in our core activities such as masterclasses and workshops.

Aims of St Mary's Music School

St Mary's Music School aims to provide the highest possible standard of education and training to exceptionally gifted young musicians, in an inspiring, inclusive and supportive environment.
Aims

- To provide specialist music education to instrumentalists and the choristers of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
- To contribute to the cultural life of Scotland and internationally
- To encourage applications from all pupils with the potential to benefit from a supportive specialist music school education
- To develop each pupil's musical education to the full and to provide an excellent general education, offering flexibility of timetabling sensitive to the needs of the individual
- To encourage a high level of motivation, self-esteem and confidence, promoting balance, self-discipline and self-awareness
- To prepare and support pupils socially, emotionally and professionally for the future
- To promote engagement with the wider community and to extend in-depth learning in music to children from other schools as part of our outreach programme

Achievements and Performance

Principal activities of the year to 31 July 2025

The extract from the Headteacher's Speech at prize-giving at the end of session 2024/25 which forms part of this report gives a synopsis of the principal activities of the year to 31 July 2025.

Objectives for Session 2024/25

The year's objectives included:

- Prepare a long-term plan to provide improved facilities
- Maintain a high level of music and academic achievement
- Continue to increase the pupil roll
- Implement and develop fundraising strategies
- Maintain rigorous financial discipline

Strategies to achieve the year's objectives included:

- Targeted fundraising campaigns and other related activities
- Careful budgeting and monitoring of expenditure
- Continuing to develop our pupil recruitment activities

Review of achievements and activities

The 2024/25 session delivered performance in public examinations with a 98% pass rate overall. 87% of all presentations achieved an A Grade. The school has once again achieved the objective of maintaining its high academic performance, providing an excellent general education alongside a first class music education.

Achievements in music were excellent. Our leavers progressed to Higher Education establishments of their choice, either university or conservatoire, many with scholarships. Outside school, our pupils routinely audition for and are accepted in youth orchestras, such as National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Orchestras of Scotland, and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

As well as being Scotland's specialist music school for instrumentalists, composers and singers, the School also educates the choristers of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, which is unique in Scotland in maintaining a full choral tradition.

Significant Fundraising Activities

The School's fundraising and development programme aims to give its pupils the facilities which their musical talents deserve, to enhance their education and also benefit the wider community. While most pupils are supported by the Scottish Government through the Aided Places Scheme or by chorister bursaries, the School has no regular source of income for capital expenditure, either for buildings or for equipment, including musical instruments. The School's Friends and Patrons Schemes offers a development opportunity to help sustain the School. Regular financial gifts on a monthly or annual basis are received from an increasing number of participants.

Significant Fundraising Activities (continued)
A total of £1,124,588 in donations and legacies was received in the year ended 31 July 2025, including a substantial legacy from the estate of Mrs Y Mitchelson and a number of instruments from the estate of Dr K Cullen. These gifts to the School are all hugely appreciated.

Grateful thanks are also due for a number of smaller gifts in kind which have not been included individually in the accounts.

Financial Review
Details of the income and expenditure for the year, and assets and liabilities at 31 July 2025 are shown on the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet in the accounts.

The combined surplus on unrestricted and restricted activities for the year, prior to revaluation of investments, was £411,177 (2024: surplus £2,512,290).

Scottish Government Aided Places Scheme and School Bursaries
The Aided Places Scheme provides financial assistance with the cost of tuition and boarding fees and other expenses for pupils attending the School. The provisions of the scheme are contained in the St Mary's Music School (Aided Places) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (SSI 2015/248).

For the 2024/25 academic year the Scottish Government scheme provided for up to 45 instrumentalists and 6 choristers, for eligible pupils. Remission on fees is based on a sliding scale linked to family income and is subject to annual means-testing.

In the academic year 2024/25 there were a total of 52 pupils in receipt of financial assistance via the Aided Places Scheme, funded by either the Scottish Government or the School. From these two sources the value of means-tested remission awards in 2024/25 amounted to £1,634,913.

The range of awards from both sources are:

Percentage of award	**Number of pupils**
1 – 40%	2 beneficiaries
41 – 60%	0 beneficiaries
61 – 80%	6 beneficiaries
81 – 100%	46 beneficiaries (of whom 11 received 100%)

Non means-tested fee remissions
All choristers not holding an Aided Place are awarded a Chorister Bursary of at least 33% of the full fee. The value of these bursaries in 2024/25 was £52,454 awarded to 10 pupils.

Reserves Policy
The Directors are satisfied, based on financial assumptions which they consider reasonable, that the Company will be able to meet its debts as they fall due for the foreseeable future.

Unrestricted reserves excluding designated funds at 31 July 2025 amounted to £232,444 included within this was £740,523 of fixed assets leaving no free reserves which is common with independent schools as the majority of free reserves are invested in the school buildings. There are also designated reserves of £3,603,170 held to fund a variety of purposes as directed by the School. Details of designated and restricted reserves are included in the notes to the accounts.

The School would be vulnerable if there were a detrimental change in The Aided Places Scheme operated by the Scottish Government. However, the Directors are not aware of any indications that Scottish Government support for musically gifted pupils to attend the School will not continue and have been encouraged by the increase of 4% to the fee level from session 2025/26.

Investment Policy
The School's investments are held by Rathbone Investment Management Ltd. At the start of 2024/25, investments had a value of £458,766. At the year end these investments had increased by £1,708,544 to £2,167,310, including the addition of gifted shares of £28,860 and transfer of designated funds of £1,660,432.

Plans for future periods

Aims and objectives for the future and Activities planned to achieve them

Key objectives for 2025/26 are:

- Prepare a long-term plan to provide improved facilities at Coates Hall
- Maintain a high level of music and academic achievement
- Continue to increase the pupil roll
- Implement and develop fundraising strategies
- Continue to maintain rigorous financial discipline

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
St Mary's Music School Trust Ltd is incorporated in Scotland. It is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dating from November 1973 and last amended in December 2013.

Recruitment and Training of Directors
The appointment of the School's Directors is made initially by the Board, on the basis of the skills they will bring to the School, and thereafter ratified by the School company. New Directors meet with the Chair, the Headteacher and the Bursar, are given a guided tour of the School and an Induction Pack which includes minutes and related documents, a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, accounts for the previous two years and copies of the prospectus, staff and parent handbooks. Directors are encouraged to attend Governors' Seminars organised by the Scottish Council for Independent Schools.

Organisational management
The Board of Directors, as the charity trustees of the Charity, are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the School and meet at least four times a year.

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel
Key Management Personnel are the Directors, the Headteacher and the Bursar, and formerly the Interim CEO. The Directors receive no remuneration or benefits and the remuneration of the Headteacher and the Bursar are considered by the Board of Directors in the light of available funding. The Directors have indemnity insurance in place throughout the year and post year end.

Related Parties
St Mary's Music School Enterprises Limited is a 100% subsidiary of St Mary's Music School Trust Limited whose income was derived from summer letting of the School premises. The decision was made to transfer the summer letting trade into the Trust and the trading subsidiary became dormant from 1 August 2018. Further details are included within notes 1 and 13 to the accounts.

Directors must disclose any contractual relationships and notes of interest are retained in written form.

During the year, gifts in cash were received from the following and have been included in total donations:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Members of the Board (including Trusts)	-	500.00	500.00
Key management personnel	3,012.50	287.50	3,300.00

Principal Risks and uncertainties
The Directors have considered the principal risks and uncertainties facing the school. The main funding of the school is through fee income which is means tested. The balance not charged to parents is for the most part paid by Scottish Government as grants for individual pupils in accordance with The St Mary's Music School (Aided Places) (Scotland) Regulations 2015. Fee levels are set by Scottish Ministers and the Directors are mindful of the fact that political will and the economic climate could have an adverse effect.

The Directors believe that the reputation of the School is key to ensuring future success. The Directors consider that there is a sufficient and continuing demand for specialist music education to sustain an adequate school roll over the medium term.

In order to provide a high standard of education the quality of the school buildings is important and the Directors are aware that there is a risk that additional or unexpected repair work will be required. The Directors have ensured that full insurance is in place and continue to undertake annual repairs and maintenance to mitigate the risk of substantial repairs. A full survey of the site was carried out in October 2024.

The School has considered the financial risks arising from the availability of liquid funds. The School works hard to ensure that debtors are well managed. The School is fortunate that it does not require external borrowing to manage its cash flow.

Principal Risks and uncertainties (continued)
The School also has considered non-financial risks and as child protection and the health and safety of pupils and staff is paramount they consider any potential breach to be a principal risk.

To mitigate the safeguarding risk the School has developed policies to ensure the regulations and guidelines for the welfare of pupils are observed.

A comprehensive risk management report, prepared by senior staff, is monitored by the Board. Risks are identified and assessed and steps are taken to establish systems and controls where necessary.

Controls used by St Mary's Music School include:

- Formal agendas and minutes for Board and Committee meetings
- School improvement plan
- Comprehensive budgeting and management accounting
- Established organisational structure and lines of reporting
- Formal written policies which are reviewed regularly
- Staff training
- Vetting procedures

The Directors believe that the major risks are identified and have been mitigated to the extent necessary and practicable.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities
The Directors (who are also trustees of St Mary's Music School Trust Limited for the purposes of charity law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these accounts the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in operation.

Statement of Directors' responsibilities (continued)

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and the group and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the Directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the Directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Small company provisions

The Directors have prepared this report in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:-

JoAnna Ruth Collings

JoAnna Ruth Collings
Secretary
24 November 2025

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of St Mary's Music School Trust Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant 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 accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2025, and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including 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 Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 accounts, we have concluded that the Directors' (who are also the trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of charity law) use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts 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 there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the accounts in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Directors' Report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of the Directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 13 and 14, the Directors are also responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Directors (continued)
In preparing the accounts, the Directors are responsible for assessing the company'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 Directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts
We have been appointed auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report to you in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

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.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risks of acts by the charitable company which were contrary to appliable laws and regulations, included fraud.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the accounts. Our tests included, but were not limited to:
;

- enquiries of management about any known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- review of minutes of Directors' meetings;
- reviewing available correspondence with regulators including OSCR;
- auditing the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; and
- challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their significant accounting estimates, in particular in relation to depreciation rates and bad debt provisions;
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected, even though the audit is properly planned an performed in accordance with the ISAs (UK). There are inherent limitations in an audit of accounts and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the accounts, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at http://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 members of St Mary's Music School Trust Limited, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the Board of Directors, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members and the Board of directors of St Mary's Music School Trust Limited 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 charitable company and its members, as a body, and its Board of Directors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Steven Smillie

Steven Smillie (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

25 November 2025

CT Audit Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(incorporating the Statement of Comprehensive Income)

For the year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted General Reserves £	Endow-ment Reserves £	Designated Reserves £	Restricted Reserves £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Charitable activities	3	2,196,013	-	-	-	2,196,013	2,117,192
Donations & legacies	4	977,645	-	-	146,943	1,124,588	3,257,912
Other trading activities	5	34,649	-	-	-	34,649	39,040
Investment income	6	32,087	-	27,735	9,346	69,168	22,654
Total income		3,240,394		27,735	156,289	3,424,418	5,436,798
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	11	32,598	-	-	12,219	44,817	41,345
Charitable activities	8	2,697,338	-	182,660	123,936	3,003,934	2,899,895
Total expenditure		2,729,936		182,660	136,155	3,048,751	2,941,240
Net (expenditure) / income before gain on investments		510,458	-	(154,925)	20,134	375,667	2,495,558
Net gain / (loss) on investments		24,063	18,271	(6,824)	-	35,510	16,732
Net (expenditure) / income before transfers between funds		534,521	18,271	(161,749)	20,134	411,177	2,512,290
Gross transfers between fund	18	(664,850)	-	740,354	(75,504)	-	-
Net (expenditure) / income for the year and net movement in funds		(130,329)	18,271	578,605	(55,370)	411,177	2,512,290
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	18	362,772	216,496	3,024,565	407,952	4,011,785	1,499,495
Total funds carried forward	18	232,443	234,767	3,603,170	352,582	4,422,962	4,011,785

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 22 to 37 form part of these accounts.

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 July 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		834,384		779,568
Investments	13		2,168,310		459,766
			3,002,694		1,239,334
Current assets					
Debtors	14	167,263		2,836,750	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,670,263		240,716	
		1,837,526		3,077,466	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(417,211)		(304,972)	
Net current assets			1,420,315		2,772,494
Total net assets			4,423,009		4,011,828
The funds of the charity					
Members' subscriptions	17		47		43
Endowment funds (Restricted)	18		234,767		216,496
Restricted funds	18		352,582		407,952
Designated funds (Unrestricted)	18		3,603,170		3,024,565
Unrestricted general funds	18		232,443		362,772
	25		4,423,009		4,011,828

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors on 24 November 2025 2025 and signed on its behalf by: -

.... Director

Fiona Akers

Stephen Bell .... Director

Stephen Bell

Company No. SC054504

The notes on pages 22 to 37 are an integral part of these accounts.

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes		2025		2024
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20		3,148,866		(196,969)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rent from investments		69,168		22,654	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(115,457)		(38,643)	
Proceeds from sale of investments		1,743,531		103,761	
Donated Shares		(28,860)		(8,844)	
Purchase of investments		(3,350,539)		(106,981)	
		-----------		-----------	
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities			(1,682,157)		(28,053)
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Members' subscriptions			4		(2)
			----------		----------
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			1,466,713		(225,024)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			241,223		466,247
			-----------		-----------
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			1,707,936		241,223
			=====		=====
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash held within investments			37,673		507
Cash at bank and in hand			1,670,263		240,716
			-----------		-----------
			1,707,936		241,223
			=====		=====

Analysis of changes in net debt

	At start of year	Cash-flows	Other non-cash changes	At end of year
	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	241,223	1,466,713	-	1,707,936
	=====	=====	=====	=====

The notes on pages 22 to 37 are an integral part of these accounts.

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with 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) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

St Mary's Music School Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The accounts have been presented in Pounds Sterling as this is the functional and presentational currency of the company rounded to the nearest pound.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have assessed the Company's ability to continue as a going concern and have reasonable expectation that the Company 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 the accounts.

Income

Income from charitable activities is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Company becomes entitled to the income, when it is probable that the income will be received and when it can be measured with sufficient reliability.

School Fees

Income generated from school fees is recognised after the deduction of the remission awarded by the school.

Donations and gifts

Donations and gifts received for the general purpose of the Company are included as unrestricted reserves. Donations and gifts for activities restricted by the wishes of the donors are taken to restricted or endowment reserves as appropriate. Gifts in kind are included at valuation (where sufficiently material) and are recognised as income when received by the Company.

1. Accounting policies

Resources expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal and constructive obligation to pay for expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

- Costs of raising funds are the direct costs associated with activities for generating income from donations, legacies and the generation of summer letting income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with meeting the Company's primary objectives and include both the direct costs, support costs and the governance costs relating to these activities. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and legal fees.
- All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of resources expended in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Company registered for VAT in December 2024 and accordingly expenditure is shown net of VAT.

Musical Instruments

Instruments with a material cost, such as pianos, which are expected to have a useful life in excess of one year, are capitalised within the accounts and depreciated. Miscellaneous musical instruments are expensed in the year in which they are purchased.

Pensions

The Company participates in the Scottish Public Pensions Agency Superannuation Scheme which provides benefits based on final pensionable pay. Non-teaching staff are entitled to join the Company's defined contribution scheme. The assets of the defined contribution scheme are held separately from those of the Company in independently administered funds. Contributions payable to the Schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate. Any differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions paid are included in either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £3,500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows: -

Freehold buildings	- over 50 years	Kitchen equipment	- over 5 years
Boarding house improvements	- over 10 years	Office equipment	- over 3 years
Additional classrooms	- over 10 years	Musical instruments	- over 10 or 20 years

The costs of upgrading Coates Hall and the adjacent buildings are capitalised within the freehold buildings.

1. Accounting policies

Financial instruments

The Company has only basic financial assets and liabilities comprising income debtors, cash at bank and creditors for costs of charitable activities. These assets and liabilities are initially recorded at cost and subsequently at market value in the case of investments and in respect of other assets and liabilities at the amounts expected to be received or paid.

Investments

Investments are included in the accounts at fair value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sale proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and opening market value (or purchase date if later). Investment gains and losses are separately disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The investment in the subsidiary St Mary's Music School Enterprises Limited is included at cost. The subsidiary has been dormant since 1 August 2018 and the balance sheet has not been consolidated within these accounts as the net impact is nil.

Restricted reserves

The restricted reserves arise from donations given for the purposes as specified by the donors. The individual reserves and movements during the year are detailed in note 18.

Unrestricted reserves

The unrestricted reserves are funds which the Directors are free to use in accordance with the charitable objects.

Endowment reserves

Endowment funds are invested in investments, the income from which must be spent in accordance with the terms of the endowment.

2. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Trust's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is reviewed where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

The following judgements or estimate uncertainties have a significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Bad debt provision

Management judges the recoverability of debtors and makes a provision where the debt is not expected to be recovered.

Depreciation rates

Depreciation is calculated to fully write off the cost of assets over their estimate useful life. Management estimate the useful life of each asset. Details of the depreciation charge in the period are in note 12.

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2025

3. Income from charitable activities (Unrestricted)

	2025	2024
	£	£
School fees (gross)	2,236,788	2,203,121
Fee subsidy awarded by the School *	(104,401)	(100,621)
Remission awarded by the School *	(64,487)	(88,119)
School fees (net)	2,067,900	2,014,381
Contributed by:		
Scottish Government Aided Places Scheme	1,598,326	1,538,185
St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral for chorister fees	52,454	53,158
Parents	417,120	423,038
School fees (net)	2,067,900	2,014,381
Outreach fees	77,906	63,995
Other school income	50,207	38,816
Total	2,196,013	2,117,192

* This is funded by the School's Bursary fund.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants and donations	177,291	-	146,943	324,234	517,448
Legacies	200,354	-	-	200,354	2,740,464
Grants from institutions	600,000	-	-	600,000	-
Total	977,645	-	146,943	1,124,588	3,257,912
2024	2,843,022	-	414,890	3,257,912	

5. Other trading activities (Unrestricted)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Summer letting	6,500	9,574
Other letting income	770	641
Garage letting income	27,379	28,825
Total	34,649	39,040

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2025

6. Investment income	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**2025 Total**	**2024 Total**
	£	£	£	£	£
On deposits	20,150	-	-	20,150	9,194
On listed investments	11,937	27,735	9,346	49,018	13,460
Total	32,087	27,735	9,346	69,168	22,654
2024	16,235	-	6,419	22,654	

7. Net income for year	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	60,641	55,778
Auditors' remuneration - audit services	10,890	11,820
- non-audit services	13,239	6,074

8. Charitable activities	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**2025 Total**	**2024 Total**
	£	£	£	£	£
School operating costs					
Teaching	1,507,673	38,456	75,490	1,621,619	1,558,129
Premises (including depreciation)	383,762	-	7,927	391,689	378,868
Boarding	362,564	-	-	362,564	347,262
Support	429,143	144,204	40,519	613,866	599,927
Bank interest and charges	3,006	-	-	3,006	3,890
Governance costs					
Audit and accountancy fees	10,890	-	-	10,890	11,820
Governance costs	300	-	-	300	-
Total	2,697,338	182,660	123,936	3,003,934	2,899,895
2024	2,575,570	26,110	298,215	2,899,895	

9. Support costs	**Unrestricted**	**Designated**	**Restricted**	**2025 Total**	**2024 Total**
	£	£	£	£	£
Administration staff	359,376	4,600	26,474	390,450	402,387
Publicity/Development	20,059	125,130	16,686	161,875	78,069
Telephone, postage and subscriptions	14,489	-	89	14,578	17,140
Computer support and maintenance	13,351	-	4,566	17,917	24,321
Professional and legal fees	49,496	13,830	-	63,326	61,549
Other	(195)	644	4,923	5,372	16,461
	456,576	144,204	52,738	653,518	599,927

10. Staff costs and emoluments of employees	**2025**	**2024**
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,829,468	1,810,090
Employer's national insurance	167,977	150,937
Pension costs	342,905	327,743
	2,340,350	2,288,770
	No.	**No.**
Average number of persons employed	100	100
Full time equivalent	43.5	44

Key management personnel are the Directors, the Headteacher, the Bursar and the Interim CEO (resigned 19 September 2024). No Director received any remuneration and the total employee remuneration, including employer pension and national insurance contributions, paid to key management personnel was £241,099 (2024: £231,950). The number of employees falling into the listed bands of total remuneration were:

	2025	**2024**
£60,001 - £70,000	2	-
£70,001-£80,000	1	2
£80,001-£90,000	1	-
£90,001-£100,000	1	1
£100,001 - £110,000	1	1

11. Expenditure on raising funds	**Unrestricted**	**Restricted**	**2025 Total**	**2024 Total**
	£	£	£	£
Summer letting costs	5,165	-	5,165	4,801
Fundraising fees and expenses	27,433	12,219	39,652	36,544
	----------	----------	----------	----------
Total	32,598	12,219	44,817	41,345
	=====	=====	=====	=====
2024	5,222	36,123	41,345	
	=====	=====	=====	

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Property	**Equipment**	**Musical Instruments**	**Total**
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 August 2024	2,013,153	109,327	340,799	2,463,279
Additions	(6,362)	36,490	85,329	115,457
	------------	----------	----------	------------
At 31 July 2025	2,006,791	145,817	426,128	2,578,736
	------------	----------	----------	------------
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2024	1,394,892	105,911	182,908	1,683,711
Charge for year	34,126	9,610	16,905	60,641
	------------	----------	----------	------------
At 31 July 2025	1,429,018	115,521	199,813	1,744,352
	------------	----------	----------	------------
Net book amounts				
At 31 July 2025	577,773	30,296	226,315	834,384
	=====	====	====	=====
At 31 July 2024	618,261	3,416	157,891	779,568
	=====	====	====	=====

Property includes the continuing cost of upgrading Coates Hall and the adjacent buildings. Certain buildings are B listed but are not considered to be heritage assets. A Report and Valuation carried out by DM Hall in March 2010 valued the property at Coates Hall, Edinburgh at £2,100,000 on an open market basis.

Virgin Money has a standard security over the premises at Coates Hall, Edinburgh, although there are no outstanding liabilities.

13. Investments

All investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for St Mary's Music School Trust Limited.

	2025	2024
	£	£
UK listed investments at market value -		
- Endowment (restricted)	234,767	216,496
- Endowment (designated)	1,673,870	-
- Investment (unrestricted)	258,673	242,270
Investments in subsidiary at cost	1,000	1,000
	2,168,310	459,766
Listed investments		
Cost at 31 July 2023	421,697	422,563
Net unrealised gain	36,562	6,900
Market value at 31 July 2024	458,259	429,463
Purchases at cost	3,350,539	106,981
Donated Shares	28,860	8,844
Disposal proceeds	(1,743,531)	(103,761)
Net realised and unrealised gain for the year	35,510	16,732
Market value at 31 July 2025	2,129,637	458,259
Cash held in portfolio	37,673	507
	2,167,310	458,766
Cost at 31 July 2025	2,037,036	422,204
Net unrealised gain included in market value	130,274	36,562

The listed investments are held with the objective of generating income to fund expenditure while maintaining an appropriate level of capital growth.

The main risks to the value of the Trust's investments and the investment income generated lie in stock market volatility and global economic factors. The Directors monitor the performance of the fund and the level of fund manager's costs. Investment management was put to tender and has been managed by Rathbone Investment Management Ltd with effect from 18 December 2020. There are no holdings within the Rathbones portfolio that comprise over 5% of the market value.

<u>Holdings in subsidiary undertaking</u>
The Company holds 100% of the share capital of the following company:-

Company	Country of Incorporation	Principal Business	Class	Shares Held %
St Mary's Music School Enterprises Limited	Scotland	Dormant	Ordinary	100

13. Investments (continued)

The aggregate amount of capital and reserves and the results of these undertakings for the last relevant financial period were as follows:

	Capital & Reserves	Result for the Year
	£	£
St Mary's Music School Enterprises Limited	1,000	-
	====	======

St Mary's Music School Enterprises Limited (SC177358), shares the same registered address as St Mary's Music School Trust Limited.

14. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Outstanding school and letting fees	-	7,684
Other debtors and prepayments	167,263	2,829,065
	-----------	-----------
	167,263	2,836,749
	=====	=====

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Creditors and accruals	263,252	175,708
Income Tax and Social Security	41,204	38,707
Pension contributions	39,446	39,898
VAT	6,199	-
Income received in advance (note 16)	67,110	50,659
	------------	------------
	417,211	304,972
	======	======

16. Income received in advance

The movements on deferred income were as follows:

	At 31 July 2024	Deferred Income	Released to revenue in year	At 31 July 2025
	£	£	£	£
Income in advance	50,569	67,110	(50,569)	67,110
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Deferred income relates to fees which are received in advance of education provision being provided.

17. Share capital

The Company is constituted as a company limited by guarantee. As at 31 July 2025 there were 47 members of the Company (2024: 43). Each member undertakes, under the terms of the Company's Memorandum of Association, to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up.

18. Reserves	Balance at 31 July 2024	Dividends rec'd in the year	Net Gains on Investments	Balance at 31 July 2025
	£	£	£	£
Endowment reserves				
Prizes & Scholarships				
Prize Fund	17,172	-	1,449	18,621
Directors' Recital Prize	1,010	-	85	1,095
GAS Nicholson Summer Course Bursary	9,075	-	766	9,841
Bursaries (School Fees)				
Ms Weightman Instrumental Scholarship	19,280	-	1,627	20,907
McCallum Piano Scholarship	32,208	-	2,718	34,926
John B Rankin Piano Scholarship	45,773	-	3,863	49,636
Masterclass funding				
Nigel Murray	91,978	-	7,763	99,741
Total Endowment Reserves	216,496	-	18,271	234,767

Prior Year	Balance at 31 July 2023	Dividends rec'd in the year	Net Gains on Investments	Balance at 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£
Endowment reserves				
Prizes & Scholarships				
Prize Fund	16,550	-	622	17,172
Directors' Recital Prize	974	-	36	1,010
GAS Nicholson Summer Course Bursary	8,745	-	330	9,075
Bursaries (School Fees)				
Ms Weightman Instrumental Scholarship	18,582	-	698	19,280
McCallum Piano Scholarship	31,042	-	1,166	32,208
John B Rankin Piano Scholarship	44,117	-	1,656	45,773
Masterclass funding				
Nigel Murray	88,648	-	3,330	91,978
Total Endowment Reserves	208,658	-	7,838	216,496

Endowment reserves are invested to provide income for prizes, scholarships, bursaries and masterclasses.

18. Reserves (continued)	**Balance at 31 July 2024**	**Dividends rec'd in the year**	**Donations rec'd in the year**	*** Transfers**	**Funds Expended**	**Balance at 31 July 2025**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds						
Prizes & Scholarships						
Prize Funds	109	785	683	100	(1,123)	554
Bursary & Awards	725	392	-	-	(350)	767
Bursaries (School Fees)						
Bursary Fund*	174,148	832	64,750	(64,750)	-	174,979
McCallum Piano Schl'ship	4,801	1,390	-	-	-	6,192
John Rankin Piano Award	6,255	1,976	-	(100)	-	8,131
Outreach bursaries						
Saturday Music Classes	2,746	-	188	(769)	-	4,235
Summer Schools	12,720	-	1,500	(9,985)	-	2,165
Development						
Development Fund	17,307	-	2,500	-	(6,186)	13,622
Advancement Fund	36,973	-	-	-	(36,974)	-
Teaching						
Teaching Funds	14,535	-	35,000	-	(49,536)	-
Other						
Instrument Funds	1,182	-	14,038	1,736	(9,222)	7,733
Instrument Funds#	14,771	-	-	(1,736)	(984)	12,052
Instrument Library Fund	2,303	-	16,500	(8,515)	(150)	10,138
Instrument Library Fund#	12,536	-	-	10,665	(2,367)	20,830
Steinway Grand Fund#	52,500	-	-	-	(3,750)	48,750
Steinway School Fund	10,571	-	-	1,776	-	12,347
Steinway School Fund#	16,461	-	-	(1,776)	(826)	13,860
Equipment Fund	7,850	-	8,785	-	(14,323)	2,312
Masterclass Funds	15,770	3,971	2,000	-	(7,825)	13,916
Outreach Funds	3,689	-	1,000	(2,150)	(2,539)	-
Summer School Fund	-					-
Total Restricted Reserves	407,952	9,346	146,943	(75,504)	(136,155)	352,582

* Transfers to the general reserves from the Bursary Fund of £75,504.00 are being used towards the cost to the School of providing means-tested bursaries (see note 3). £769 is for means-tested Saturday Music Class bursaries and £9,985 for Summer School bursaries.

Reserves are held in these funds to cover depreciation costs of instruments bought as part of the Steinway School, Instrument Fund and Instrument Library projects.

Restricted reserves are held to fund a variety of purposes as directed by the terms of the gift such as prizes and scholarships, all within the overall objects of the School.

18. Reserves (Prior Year)	**Balance at 31 July 2023**	**Dividends rec'd in the year**	**Donations rec'd in the year**	*** Transfers**	**Funds Expended**	**Balance at 31 July 2024**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds						
Prizes & Scholarships						
Prize Funds	58	539	653	100	(1,241)	109
Bursary & Awards	856	269	-	-	(400)	725
Bursaries (School Fees)						
Bursary Fund*	188,026	572	72,250	(86,700)	-	174,148
McCallum Piano Schl'ship	3,846	955	-	-	-	4,801
John Rankin Piano Award	6,298	1,357	-	(1,400)	-	6,255
Outreach bursaries						
Saturday Music Classes	4,034	-	-	(1,288)	-	2,746
Summer Schools	10,010	-	4,800	(2,090)	-	12,720
Development						
Development Fund	4,902	-	100,100	-	(87,695)	17,307
Advancement Fund	50,366	-	90,000	-	(103,393)	36,973
Teaching						
Teaching Funds	13,503	-	95,000	-	(93,968)	14,535
Other						
Instrument Funds	2,329	-	22,500	(15,571)	(8,076)	1,182
Instrument Funds#	-	-	-	15,571	(800)	14,771
Instrument Library Fund	103	-	2,200	-	-	2,303
Instrument Library Fund#	14,000	-	-	-	(1,464)	12,536
Steinway Grand Fund#	56,250	-	-	-	(3,750)	52,500
Steinway School Fund	10,571	-	-	-	-	10,571
Steinway School Fund#	17,488	-	-	-	(1,027)	16,461
Equipment Fund	650	-	7,200	-	-	7,850
Masterclass Funds	19,885	2,727	10,187	-	(17,029)	15,770
Outreach Funds	8,184	-	10,000	-	(14,495)	3,689
Summer School Fund	1,000	-	-	-	(1,000)	-
Total Restricted Reserves	412,359	6,419	414,890	(91,378)	(334,338)	407,952

* Transfers to the general reserves from the Bursary Fund of £91,378.00 are being used towards the cost to the School of providing means-tested bursaries (see note 3). £1,288 is for means-tested Saturday Music Class bursaries and £2,090 for Summer School bursaries.

Reserves are held in these funds to cover depreciation costs of instruments bought as part of the Steinway School project.

Restricted reserves are held to fund a variety of purposes as directed by the terms of the gift such as prizes and scholarships, all within the overall objects of the School.

ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL TRUST LIMITED

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 31 July 2025

18. Reserves (continued)	**Balance at 31 July 2024**	**Dividends rec'd in the year**	**Net Gains on Investment**	**Donations designated in the year (Transfers In)**	**Transfers Out**	**Funds Expended**	**Balance at 31 July 2025**
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Reserves							
Legacy Funds	3,024,565	27,735	-	180,092	(1,660,432)	(182,660)	1,389,300
Foundation Fund	-	-	-	600,000	(60,000)	-	540,000
Endowment Fund	-	-	(6,824)	20,262	1,660,432	-	1,673,870
Total Designated Reserves	3,024,565	27,735	(6,824)	800,354	(60,000)	(182,660)	3,603,170

Designated reserves including the Legacy Fund and Foundation Fund are held to fund a variety of purposes as directed by the School. The Endowment Fund reserves are invested to provide income to fund a variety of purposes as directed by the School.

Prior Year	**Balance at 31 July 2023**	**Dividends rec'd in the year**	**Donations designated in the year (Transfers In)**	**Transfers**	**Funds Expended**	**Balance at 31 July 2024**
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated Reserves						
Legacy Funds	310,211	-	2,740,464	-	(26,110)	3,024,565
Total Designated Reserves	310,211	-	2,740,464	-	(26,110)	3,024,565

Designated reserves are held to fund a variety of purposes as directed by the School.

18. Reserves (continued)	Balance at 31 July 2024	Total income	Transfers	Net gain on investment	Total expenditure	Balance at 31 July 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted General Reserves	362,772	3,240,394	(664,850)	24,063	(2,729,936)	232,443
	======	======	=====	====	=======	======

Unrestricted reserves are available for the advancement of the charitable objects of the Company. Note 19 describes how £740,523 of unrestricted reserves are invested in the School's tangible fixed assets. Leaving a deficit in freely available unrestricted reserves of £508,079.

Prior Year	Balance at 31 July 2023	Total income	Transfers	Net gain on investment	Total expenditure	Balance at 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted General Reserves	568,267	5,015,489	(2,649,086)	8,894	(2,580,792)	362,772
	======	======	=====	====	=======	======

Unrestricted reserves are available for the advancement of the charitable objects of the Company. Note 19 describes how £685,822 of unrestricted reserves are invested in the School's tangible fixed assets. Leaving a deficit in freely available unrestricted reserves of £323,051.

19. Analysis of net assets between reserves	Unrestricted Reserves*	Endowment Reserves	Restricted Reserves	Total Reserves 2025
	£	£	£	£
Reserve Balances at 31 July 2025 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	740,522	-	93,862	834,384
Investments	1,933,543	234,767	-	2,168,310
Current assets	1,578,808	-	258,718	1,837,526
Current liabilities	(417,211)	-	-	(417,211)
	-------------	-----------	-----------	------------
Total net assets	3,835,660	234,767	352,582	4,423,009
	======	=====	=====	======

* Including members' subscriptions and designated reserves.

Analysis of net assets between reserves – Prior Year	Unrestricted Reserves*	Endowment Reserves	Restricted Reserves	Total Reserves 2024
	£	£	£	£
Reserve Balances at 31 July 2024 are represented by:				
Tangible fixed assets	685,822	-	93,746	779,568
Investments	243,270	216,496	-	459,766
Current assets	2,763,260	-	314,206	3,077,466
Current liabilities	(304,972)	-	-	(304,972)
	-------------	-----------	-----------	------------
Total net assets	3,387,380	216,496	407,952	4,011,828
	======	=====	=====	======

* Including members' subscriptions.

20. Reconciliation of consolidated net income to consolidated net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	411,177	2,512,290
Realised (gains)/losses on investments	(90,001)	6,884
Unrealised (gains)/losses on investments	54,491	(23,616)
Interest and investment income	(69,168)	(22,654)
Depreciation	60,641	55,778
Increase in debtors	2,669,487	(2,741,146)
Decrease in creditors	112,239	15,495
	----------	----------
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	3,148,866	(196,969)
	=====	=====

21. Taxation

The Company is recognised as having charitable status by HM Revenue and Customs for taxation purposes.

22. Related party disclosures

Donations of £500 have been received from Directors during the year (2024: £312).

23. Financial Instruments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Assets measured at fair value through profit & loss	2,167,310	458,766

Assets measured at fair value through profit and loss comprise investments.

24. Pension commitments

The Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme and Scottish Teachers' Pension Scheme 2015 are multi-employer defined benefit schemes which, in common with other Government pension schemes, are unfunded. The Company is unable to identify its share of the underlying liabilities of the schemes and therefore accounts for the contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

While a valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2016, it is not possible to say what deficit or surplus may affect future contributions. Work on the valuation was suspended by the UK Government pending the decision from the Court of Appeal (McCloud (Judiciary scheme)/Sargeant (Firefighters' Scheme) cases) that held that the transitional protections provided as part of the 2015 reforms was unlawfully discriminated on the grounds of age. Following consultation and an announcement in February 2021 on proposals to remedy the discrimination, the UK Government confirmed that the cost control element of the 2016 valuations could be completed. The UK Government has also asked the Government Actuary to review whether, and to what extent, the cost control mechanism is meeting its original objectives. The 2020 actuarial valuations will take the report's findings into account. The interim report is complete (restricted) and is currently being finalised with a consultation. Alongside these announcements, the UK Government confirmed that current employer contribution rates would stay in force until 1 April 2024.

The pension cost for the Staff who were members of these schemes during the year was £264,320 and has been charged to the income and expenditure account. There are employee and employer contributions of £29,521 for July 2025 which were due to be paid to the scheme after the year end.

The Company also contributes to a defined contribution scheme in respect of other Staff. The employee basic contribution rate is 7% while the employer contribution rate is 17.2% or 8.0%. The pension cost for the year was £78,585 and has been charged to the income and expenditure account. There are employee and employer contributions of £9,926 for July 2025 which were due to be paid to the scheme after the year end.

25. Reconciliation of capital and reserves

	2025	2024
	£	£
At 1 August 2024	4,011,828	1,499,540
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	411,177	2,512,290
Members' subscriptions (net movement)	4	(2)
At 31 July 2025	4,423,009	4,011,828