



Friends of St. Helen's Catholic Primary School

FOSH AGM

Thursday 18^h September 2025

Time: 6 pm – 7 pm

Present

Eilis Clark – Abdullah (Chair), Liz Keeble (Head Teacher), Ailis Farrell (Vice–Chair), Dominic Clark – Abdullah (Treasurer), Renata Gawlik (Secretary), Ruby Smyth (Communications Officer), Natasha Brodigan, Irene Solis–Martin, Alison Greenwood–Kyndt, Vijeta Kumor, Jo Barnettson, Martin Farrell, Bianca Gjeci

Absent

Welcome

Eilis Clark–Abdullah welcomed everyone who attended the Annual General Meeting, and she introduced all current trustees.

Review of academic year 2024/25

Eilis recapped the events we organized for our school and community in the 2024/25 academic year. We began with Santa's Grotto as part of the Great Extravaganza Crafts, followed by two grottos for children and a successful Christmas Fayre. February saw our first disco, and for World Book Day, we set up a second-hand book shop with refreshments. As enrichment, we provided ribbons for the School Flame Congress and supported Mother's and Father's Day celebrations with decorations and drinks. To strengthen community ties, we also hosted a Summer family disco, Summer Fayre with free inflatables during school hours, and offered refreshments at several events.

Feedback from events

Ailis presented feedback from all events. Overall was excellent or good, and satisfaction grew from event to event.

We asked parents what we could do better and what they liked the most.

1. Mother's Day & Father's Day

How could we make this event even better in the future?

- Make something with the kids
- Being an additional adult
- Activities to do with the children

What did you like most about this event?

- Seeing how happy my child was
- Spending time with my child
- Celebrating mothers
- Photos of parents

95% of parents said they would be likely or very likely to attend a Mother's Day event at the school again and 94% said the same for Father's Day

2. Summer Disco

How could we make this event even better in the future?

- More foam
- More seating for adults
- Don't sell toys
- Better DJ
- More stalls

What did you like most about this event?

- The event felt safe with a family vibe
- All of it
- Siblings can join in
- Seeing both children and parents enjoying themselves. The event flowed really well, the best event you've put on

3. Summer Fayre

How could we make this event even better in the future?

- Better queuing system
- More shade
- Better signage
- Run on a Saturday

What did you like most about this event?

- Spending time together
- Variety of things to do
- Pony rides
- Very well organized
- Raffle didn't drag on
- Face painting

Parents would rate the overall experience of FOSH in it's first year a 4.52 out of 5-star rating with some lovely comments:

- You guys are amazing!
- Thank you, FOSH, for all your efforts in linking schools and families
- Brilliant range of events
- FOSH delivered on what they set out to achieve. They approached the events with a renewed sense of energy, and there was better communication of events
- A very well done to FOSH for your time, energy, and running around to make the event a success. Your efforts were really appreciated. God bless you all
- Thank you very much for all the events organized by you! In general, it is very nice that the school has a friendly home atmosphere!

After we watched video created by Ailis and Natasha – what kids thinking about FOSH engaging all parents to join us and help grow our community.

Charitable status update

Ailis wrote our FOSH constitution, which is necessary for obtaining charity status. Immediately following the AGM and the signing by the trustees, all paperwork will be submitted to the Charity Commission. The application process can take between 8 to 12 weeks.

Objects of the charity:

'To support the education and development of pupils at St Helen's School by raising funds, providing resources and opportunities, and promoting collaboration between parents, carers, staff, and the wider community.

Financial report

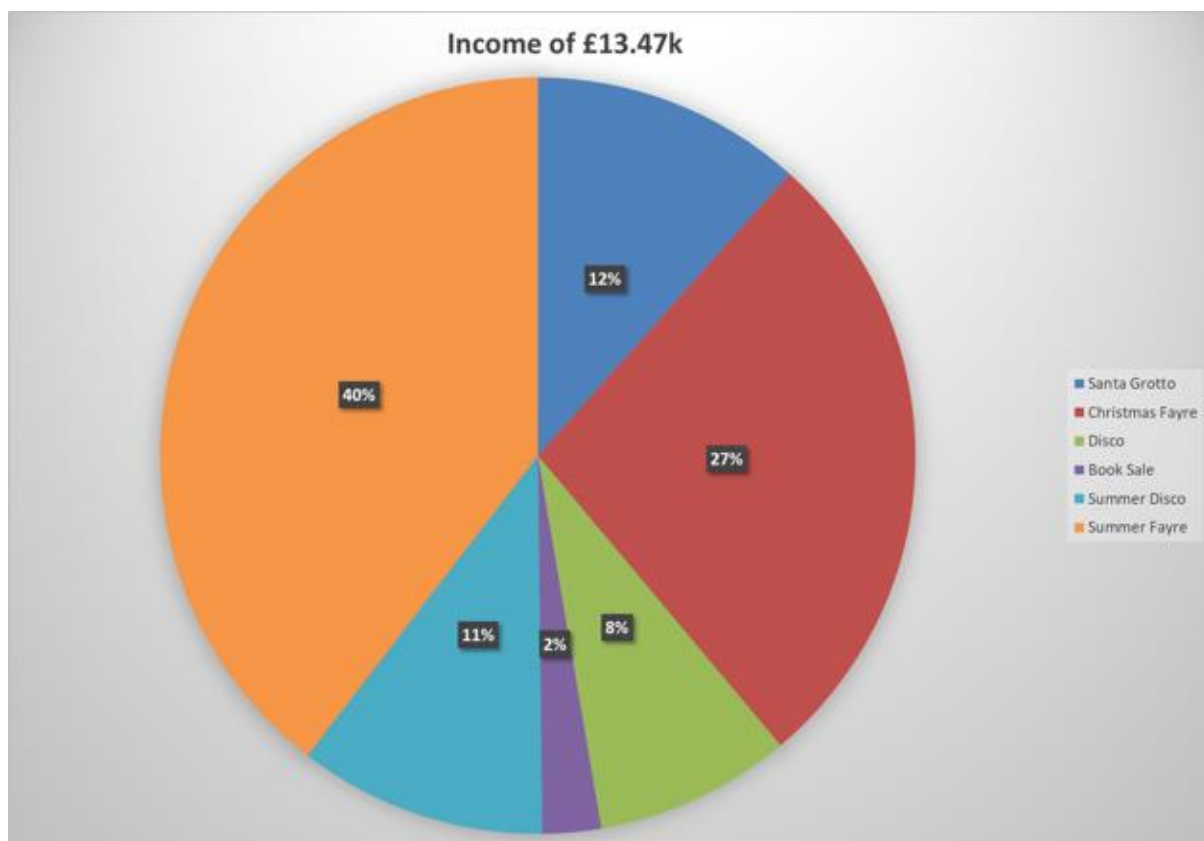
Dominic presented our financial report. FOSH put itself a target of £5,000 to raise during the academic year 2024/25 to obtain charity status.

Overall, we have just under £14k cash in the bank. With a total income £13,476.48, total expenditures £7,498.43 which give us actual profit £5,978.05 and amount to goal - £8,476.48

- Overall income distribution for 2024/25

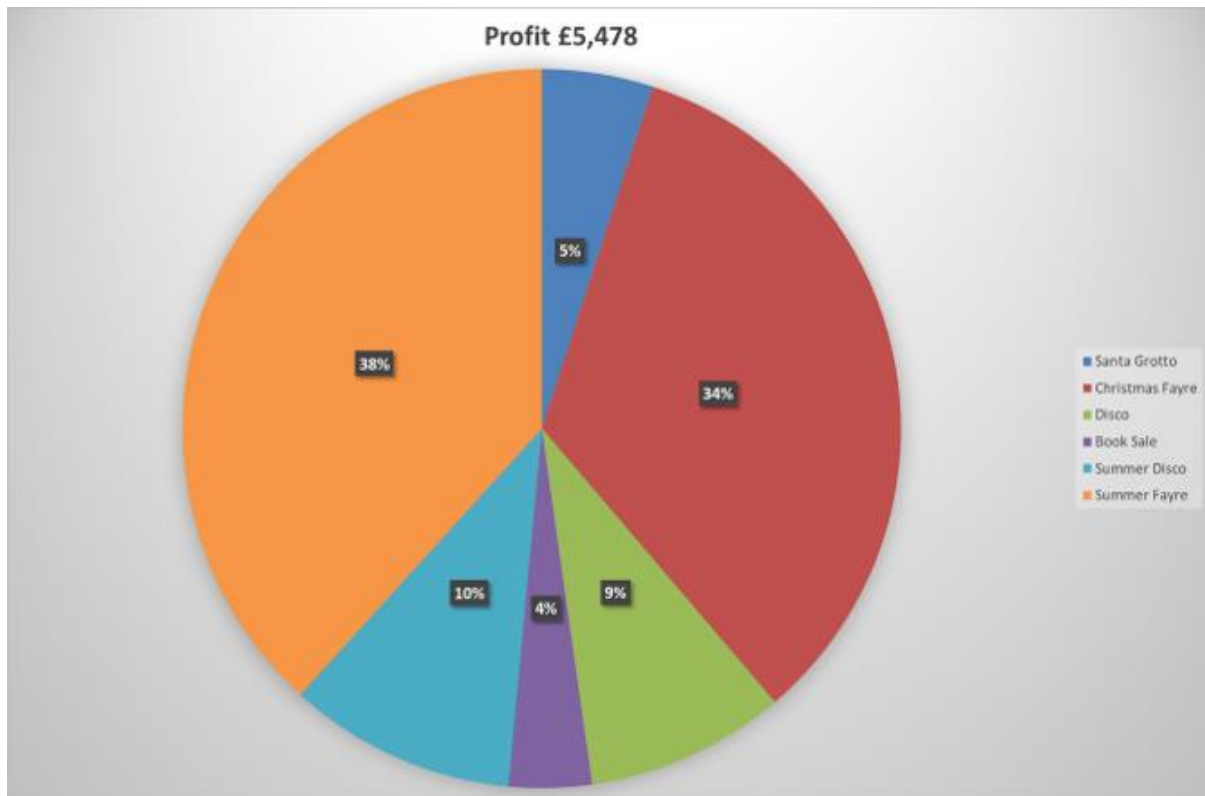
The total income for the year was £13.47k. The summer fayre in particular stands out for 40% of the income made. We smashed the income target of £5k per year for charitable status by x2.7 times

But don't underestimate the value in the Santa Grotto and Summer Disco, bringing in just under a quarter of the income.



- Overall profit distribution for 2024/25

We held 6 events over the school calendar year that made a profit of £5,478. The big profit events, making up 72%, were the Christmas and Summer Fayre. Don't overlook the enrichment events that cost without asking for payment from parents.



Academic year 2025/2026 plans

Renia presented plans for this academic year. We have scheduled the following dates for this academic year:

- October 17th – Glow Disco
- December 3rd – School Craft Extravaganza featuring Santa: The ideas we have are similar to last year's, which include having two Santa Grottos.
- December 5th – Christmas Fayre
- March 11th – Mother's Day
- June 17th – Father's Day
- July 11th – Summer Fayre

Proposed events

FOSH members have proposed organising a Valentine's-themed Disco on 6th February. Additionally, we are considering a sale of preloved costumes donated by families, with plans to establish a small second-hand shop ahead of World Book Day. Discussions also include potential events for All Saints Day in conjunction with Remembrance Day around 11th November. Given our school's multicultural community, we believe that celebrating Heritage Day—featuring traditional food and cultural displays from various nationalities—would be an excellent way to foster community spirit. We are also interested in encouraging parental

engagement by hosting a Quiz Night in January or February. Furthermore, due to the success of the previous Family Disco, we plan to organise another such event in June, with the date to be confirmed.

Communications

Ruby discussed our improved parent communication efforts. For the 2024/25 academic year, we created WhatsApp groups with class representatives to share FOSH updates, and also send regular emails and newsletters. Ruby and Renia designed event posters. We launched new FOSH social media accounts, gaining 123 Facebook and 109 Instagram followers; one video (Santa Grotto) received over 629 views on Instagram.

Election

All current trustees resigned. No nominations were received by email. During the AGM, FOSH members nominated the previous trustees to serve again: Eilis Clark-Abdullah as Chair, Ailis Farrell as Vice-Chair, Dominic Clark-Abdullah as Treasurer, Renata Gawlik as Secretary, and Ruby Smyth as Communications Officer. The nominees were given full support.

Project proposal

We plan to use our fundraising funds to improve the kids' outdoor space, making it brighter and more enjoyable for fun, learning, and relaxation. Eilis and Liz met with Karl from Southend City Jam to discuss redesigning the outdoor wall to make it brighter and more educational. In our next meeting, we will vote on this proposal. Some questioned if the funds should go towards computers, but Liz clarified that computers are covered by the curriculum budget, whereas outdoor improvements are not, making this project a suitable use of the funds.

Next meeting: Friday 10th October 2025, 9 am, studio