

Summary Information Return 2009 (Online)



Summary Information Return 2009 Of Aims, Activities and Achievements

This return is intended to comprise a Summary of key information contained in the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts and in other documents.

UNITED CHURCH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION LTD

Charity Number: 313999

Submitted on 28 June 2010

This online version of the form shows the information you have entered through Annual Return 2009 Online and has been designed to make it easier for Charities to print.

This Summary Information Return was submitted online by MR CHARLES HUGH WALLACE on 28 June 2010. You do not need to send us a signed copy.

Question 1 - The Charity's Aims

What are your charity's aims?

The charity was founded with the principal objective of creating schools offering a good academic education based on Christian principles of service and tolerance. It consistently strives for excellence in other areas of education and care, and recognises education as a means of improving life chances for all. In 2000, UCST reviewed its objectives to see how it could benefit a wider range of people. It decided that the Academy programme would enable it to do this and created United Learning Trust (ULT) to manage these Academies. UCST operates in a totally integrated way with ULT. UCST decided to embark on a major fundraising programme (target £30 million) to enable ULT to open 17 Academies.

Question 2 - Who benefits?

Who benefits from the charities work?

- 1) The 6,900 pupils attending the UCST schools, in particular those on assisted places and bursaries, some 504 pupils (7.3% of the total)
- 2) Members of the local community who use the schools' facilities
- 3) Academy schools' pupils (17,000) linked with the charity's schools
- 4) Other Academies through receiving assistance with setting up and running their administration and reporting structures
- 5) Children in the primary schools around each of the academies to increase the number of children who benefit from the Group's initiatives

How do you respond to their needs and how do they influence the charity's development?

- 1) The charities' development is strongly influenced by the broader educational needs of its pupils and prospective pupils, both in academic achievement and personal development. They widen access to pupils whose families could not meet the full fees, through bursaries and assisted places.
- 2) Ensuring that the buildings provided are fit for the purpose of educating pupils.
- 3) Promoting close working relationships between UCST Schools and ULT Academies.

Question 3 - The Charity's Strategy

What are the key elements of your charity's medium to long term strategy?

- 1) To raise the standard of educational achievement for all students within its academies be those vocational or academic in nature
- 2) To provide strong and effective systems of pastoral care
- 3) The recruitment, appraisal and career development of high quality teachers and support staff
- 4) To continually invest in new and improved modern educational buildings
- 5) To make all the group's schools strong, both educationally and financially, and to develop and strengthen links with the community and with other schools and academies, especially to make effective use of the school facilities outside of school hours, wherever possible.
- 6) To continue to build strong links between the UCST schools and ULT academies

How does your charity measure the success of the strategy?

- 1) By monitoring the educational development of students through examination results, inspections and other systems of assessing "added value"
- 2) By improving attendance figures, monitoring pupil behaviour and identifying and promoting positive examples of pupils excelling in activities like Sport, music and drama
- 3) By working with the Department for Education
- 4) By a continuing programme of staff performance appraisal
- 5) By the demand for places and the interest shown in scholarships and bursaries in UCST schools
- 6) By achieving financial targets

Question 4 - The Charity's Objectives and Achievements

What were your charity's main annual objectives and were they achieved?

Objective	Achievement
Fundraising for City Academies	£922,000 raised during the year (£12.5 million raised to date)
To raise the standards of educational achievement of all students	By improving average public examination attainments and attendance records
To provide value for money for the funds expended	Meeting its financial objectives within a balanced budget
To widen access to the schools by the provision of scholarships and bursaries	During 2008/09 a total of 1,493 pupils were provided with some assistance through the provision of scholarships, bursaries, clergy bursaries and assisted place awards

Question 5 - The Charity's Income and Expenditure

What were your charity's most significant activities during the year and how much did you spend on them?

Charitable Activities	£ 000s
School and Academy operating costs	169,726
Project management for DCSF	1,852
Grants	114
Explanatory Comments	
In addition, capital expenditure of £55,942,000 was invested in buildings and equipment for the schools and academies.	

What were your charity's three main fundraising activities in the year and how much did each generate and cost?

Fundraising Activity	Income generated	Cost of Activity £ 000s
Academy sponsorship	922	87
Other sponsorship, grants and donations received	79	0
Trading turnover	1,111	843

Question 6 - The Charity's Financial Health

How would you describe your charity's financial health at the end of the period?

In line with other charities that own significant asset portfolios, the Group invests in tangible fixed assets and so has no free reserves under the SORP 2005 definition. However, taking in to account the value of assets, the charity's finances are in very good health.

Question 7 - The Next Year

How will the overall performance last year affect your charity's medium to long term strategy?

The performance built on previous successful years to maintain the strategy of owning outstanding schools

What are your charity's main objectives for next year?

To continue to offer excellent accomodation to educational charities.

Scholarships and bursaries: widening access to the schools

To continue to raise educational standards for all students

To maintain links between academies and UCST schools

Question 8 - The Charity's Governance

How does the charity ensure that its governance arrangements are appropriate and effective?

- 1) External audit by Grant Thornton
- 2) Monitoring on a regular basis by the Trustees
- 3) Continual review of the Board's range of skills ins undertaken by Senior Trustees
- 4) Internal audit by our own staff and by an outside firm of chartered accountants who are employed solely for this purpose

Further details on all the answers given in the Summary Information Return can be obtained from:

<http://www.ucstrust.org.uk>

DECLARATION

Your Summary Information Return was submitted online by MR CHARLES HUGH WALLACE on 28 June 2010, telephone number 01832 737424.

MR CHARLES HUGH WALLACE certified online that:

- the information provided was correct
- it had been or would be brought to the attention of all the trustees

Those who give answers that they know are untrue or misleading may be committing an offence.

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