

Solas Educational Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

Period From 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017



**Construction of Computer Lab for
Girls College funded by Solas**

Charity contact information



Solas Educational Trust (SCIO)

Scottish Charity Number: SC029971

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<https://www.facebook.com/Solas-Educational-Trust-188590657836124/>

Charity Trustees

Dr Yousaf Ali, retired medical doctor.



Mr Roy Grieve retired honorary senior lecturer in economics at Strathclyde University



Professor James Love - Former Head of School, (Adam Smith Business School)
University of Glasgow



Dr Eric Rahim (Convenor of the Trust) retired honorary senior lecturer in economics,
University of Strathclyde.



Patricia Fort Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Objectives and activities

Solas Educational Trust was established in Scotland 1999 as a Charitable Trust by a group of professionals of Pakistani origin with the general purpose of assisting in the advancement of education, with reference in particular to Pakistan.

Solas sees its main activity as the development of education through assisting schools overcome hurdles in the way of their progress. The schools with which we are associated are all not-for-profit, community-oriented schools; over the years we have assisted 11 such schools in different ways, from construction of classrooms, water supply and washrooms, to provision of computers and science equipment. The schools range from a large higher secondary schools to small village schools and from a girls Higher Secondary school to co-educational village schools. Many schools are located in remote areas of the district of Chitral and one of the great benefits that our activity has produced is the contact that is now being made between the schools: something that was uncommon prior to our involvement.

We aim to encourage rational and critical thought and an enquiring spirit, and see the teaching of science, and health and hygiene education, as ways of encouraging a questioning mind as well as having the obvious benefits of improving the quality of life. Improving school health has been acknowledged as a major contributor to a number of other improvements, and we see our activities as contributing to the overall development, not just of school pupils, but also of the wider community.

Purposes, Area of Benefit & Beneficiaries

- 1 The organisation is established for charitable purposes only, and in particular, the objects are:
 - 1.1 to advance; education, particularly amongst residents of Pakistan
- 2 The area within which the organisation shall operate (in this constitution referred to as the 'Area of Benefit') shall be primarily, but not exclusively, Pakistan.
- 3 The organisation shall promote (but not promote exclusively) its activities and delivery operations to people within the 'Area of Benefit' who are seeking improvements in education. These people will be the organisation's beneficiaries.

In 2017 it had been expected that the administrator and one of the Trustees would have gone to Pakistan to visit schools that had been associated with Solas and to look at ways of developing the activity of Solas in the area of Chitral in the Khyber Pukhtunkhwa province. Unfortunately this was not possible as visas were not issued.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The organisation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and the governing document is the constitution.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

At each AGM all of the Trustees must retire from office – but may then be re-elected under clause 27 of the constitution. Any person, nominated individual or body who/which wishes to become a Charity Trustee must sign a written application for Charity Trusteeship and this will be considered by the Board at its next meeting.

Achievements and performance

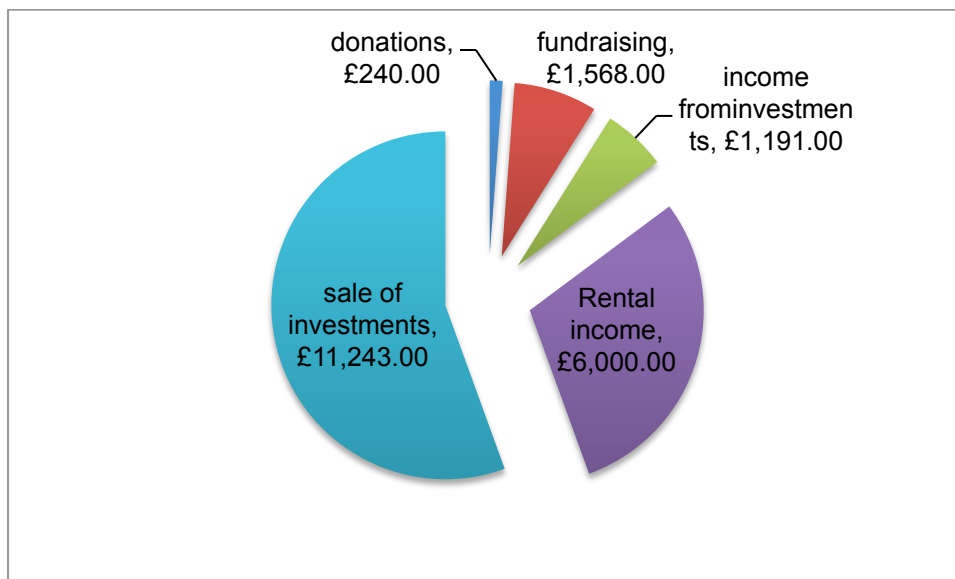
The main activity in the year has been the assistance given to the Community Based College for Girls, Garam Chashma, Ovirk. The College is situated in Garam Chashma Ovirk and was established in August 2003. Sixteen social activists become the member of the board of BOG (Board of Governors). The College runs as a self-help non profit making institution.

Solas provided funding to assist in the development of a computer lab for the College. Below are pictures of the computer lab under construction.

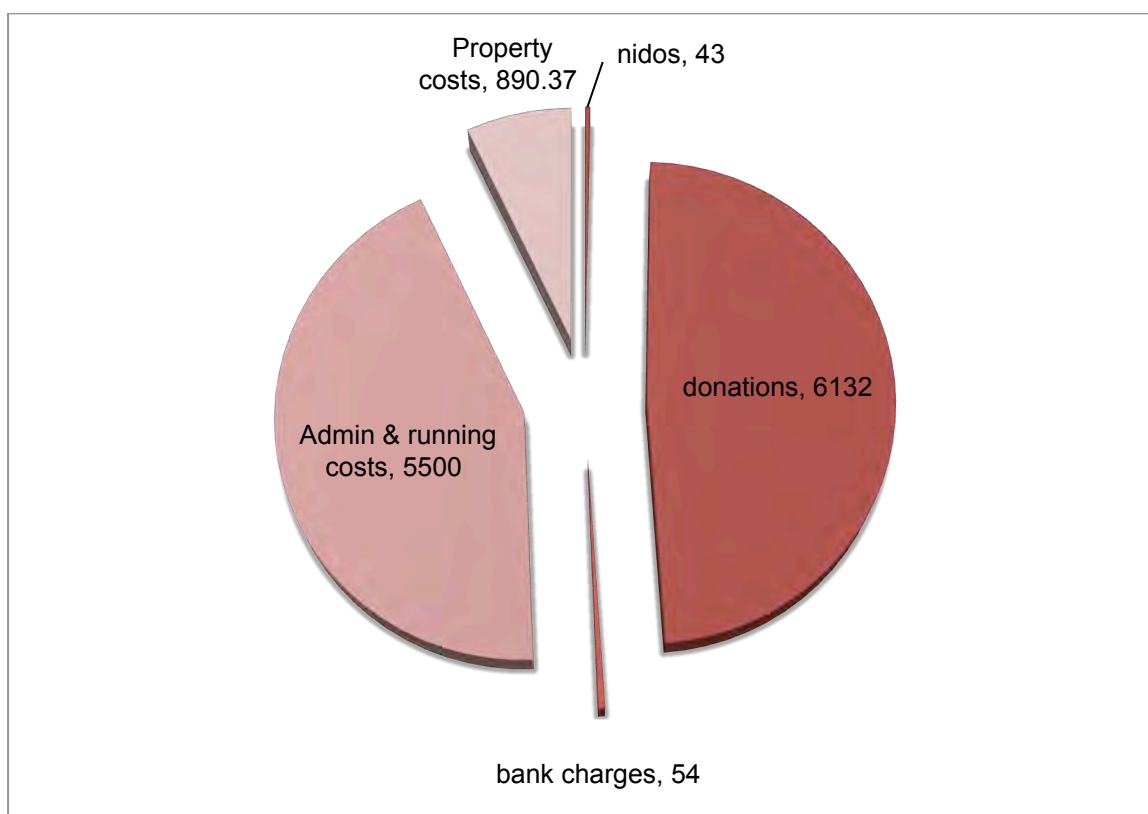


Financial review

Income for the year - £20,242



Expenditure for the year - £12,619.37



Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trust holds reserves in terms of closing balance and investments, which are sufficient to meet the running costs and development of the organisation and its activities in 2018.

Future plans

As a consequence of being unable to visit Pakistan it proved necessary to establish some method of direct communication with friends and colleagues in the area so that the activities of Solas could continue. We were fortunate to have a long standing contact in Chitral to act as a correspondent for Solas, Dr Riaz Hussain. Dr Hussain had been involved with Solas from the very early years. Experienced as a head teacher and working now at the Aga Khan University – Institute for Educational Development, Professional Development Centre, he is establishing a committee in Chitral which will assist Solas in identifying suitable educational establishments for assistance. The committee will also act as an assessor and monitor of Solas funded activity.

It is hoped that in 2019 a visit will be able to be made to Pakistan.

Solas sees the proposed committee as a body which:

- is made up of people with a first hand knowledge of the educational system in Chitral,
- comprises of people who are supportive of the development of community based, not for profit, education,
- has the skills to assess the needs of education establishments within the context of sustainable development,
- has a commitment to a rational, critical and humane outlook on life

What would the committee do?


- The committee would accept and assess requests for assistance from educational bodies
- The committee could actively seek requests for assistance in line with the criteria established by the committee (This may be along the lines of the criteria adopted by Solas)
- The committee would meet regularly to review its activities
- It would submit requests to Solas where appropriate
- It would maintain regular contact with Solas

Solas will continue to develop its links with the Umeed Foundation, Islamabad, in order to foster improved education and skills, particularly through our joint activity with the Glorious Youth Association, Kosht (GYAK). Umeed had previously funded training for youth at GYAK. See the pictures on page ten of the Youth Empowerment Workshop, Agricultural Training and Sewing workshops supported by Solas and Umeed.



Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

ROY H. GRIEVE

Designation

TREASURER

Date

31 August 2018