



MALAWI LEADERS OF LEARNING

IMPROVING EDUCATION IN GLASGOW AND MALAWI

Scottish Charity Number SC044361
Annual Report and Financial
Statements

For the year ended 31 July 2026

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report for the year ended 31 July 2026.

1. Reference and Administrative Information

This annual report provides information on the charity's reference details and administrative arrangements for the period under review. The registered address, names of current trustees, and principal contacts are maintained in accordance with OSCR requirements to ensure transparency and accountability. The charity's banking arrangements and independent examiner's details are also set out within the financial statements section, supporting our ongoing commitment to good governance.

Charity Name	Malawi Leaders of Learning (MLOL)
Scottish Charity Number	SC044361
Principal Address	Education Services, Glasgow City Council, 40 John Street, Glasgow G1 1JL
Current Trustees	
Maureen McKenna (Chair)	Marie Breckenridge
David McClelland (Treasurer)	Terry Strain
Fiona Ross (Secretary)	Sharon Hayward
Douglas Hutchison	Les McLean
Laura MacEachran	Samir Sharma
Elizabeth Morrison	Michele Stewart

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is an unincorporated association. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted in September 2014. Malawi Leaders of Learning was granted charitable status by OSCR on 25 October 2013.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meets at least once each year and trustees receive updates at least every six months. Individual Trustees are appointed by means of a majority vote, with a minimum of five and a maximum of 15 holding office at any one time.

Management

The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of Malawi Leaders of Learning. There are no paid members of staff and all support is given on a voluntary basis.

3. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The advancement of education by:

- Improving the quality of learning and teaching in schools and early childhood development centres in Malawi
- Developing and establishing links with appropriate authorities and bodies in Malawi, providing advice and advocacy when necessary
- Maintaining a public profile through promotion of the project in Malawi and in Scotland.

Activities

To deliver professional learning on

- leadership to every primary headteacher in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts; and
- learning and teaching and effective use of a library to teachers from every primary school in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts.
- Learning and teaching in numeracy in line with the new Malawi national numeracy programme (NNP) to teachers in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts.

We will continue to provide library books to our partner schools through fundraising and through our partnership with Book Aid. We will also continue to sponsor girls attending Stella Maris Secondary School.

4. Achievements and Performance

During 2025/26, through our partnership with Book Aid, we took delivery of another shipment of books. These are collected from Lilongwe by Francis Maseya and then issued to participants in our training in September 2025. Since our partnership started, we have delivered around 25,000 books to Malawian primary schools.

In September 2022 the trustees approved the [MLOL 2022-25 plan](#). This plan retains our ambition to provide training to every teacher and senior leader in Blantyre Urban and Rural Districts. During 2022, the Malawian government launched a [National Numeracy Programme | Malawi](#). This was financed by international aid and the aim was for mathematics to be taught more interactively, deepening learners' understanding of mathematical concepts. Every teacher from Standard 1 to Standard 4 was to receive training during 2023/24. Feedback from teachers suggested that the training was not sufficiently in depth and they lacked confidence and understanding of some of the mathematical concepts. This was confirmed with the Chief Education Officers (previously known as DEMs).

Following discussion with our Malawian colleagues it was agreed that from February 2026 we would move our focus onto mathematics training. Maureen met with Malawian government officials online and accessed the material which was being used, such as the guide on Teacher Learning Circles. Teachers have told us that while the teacher manuals are helpful – they do not always understand the mathematical concepts. They have not been provided with any resources, despite the teacher manuals making reference to the importance of concrete materials. With

support of a grant from the Scottish Mathematics Council, we provided 250 laminated 100 squares and 250 one metre number rods which can be used as a counting stick or for measuring. An article on the training and the background of MLOL will appear in the SMC Journal for 2026.

From Maria Docherty who led the teacher training in February 2026

A central focus of the work was developing effective ways to teach mathematics using locally produced materials and visual approaches. Teachers explored how every day, readily available resources could be transformed into powerful learning tools. Bottle tops, sticks, stones and visual aids became practical supports to help the teachers grasp mathematical concepts more clearly. Using concrete materials allows learners to move from hands-on experiences to abstract thinking.

Teachers reflected on how manipulatives help learners:

- *Visualise mathematical relationships*
- *Explore number concepts and operations*
- *Develop problem-solving skills*
- *Build confidence in handling mathematical ideas*

Visual representations, including diagrams, number lines, and Bar models, further supported understanding by making mathematical thinking visible and accessible.

One of the most impactful aspects of the experience was the strong spirit of collaboration among teachers. They worked together to explore new strategies, openly shared their thinking, and reflected on their classroom practices. Their enthusiasm was amazing.

In September, a total of 169 senior leaders attended the training across five days at Teacher Development Centres in Blantyre Rural and Urban Districts. A total of 174 teachers/librarians attended the training across five days at Teacher Development Centres. The locations were chosen by the District teams.

In February, a total of 180 senior leaders attended the training across five days at at Teacher Development Centres in Blantyre Rural and Urban Districts. A total of 176 teachers/librarians attended the training across four days at Teacher Development Centres. The locations were chosen by the District teams.

For both visits, the evaluations were very positive. Senior leaders and teachers enjoyed the training and wanted more. For the senior leaders training the focus was on using the Malawian National Education Standards, as identified by the District senior leaders. For the teachers, the focus was planning, active learning and making effective use of available resources. All enjoyed the interactive format of the learning.

Numbers attending training	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Senior leaders	313	282	291	349
teachers	375	375	294	350

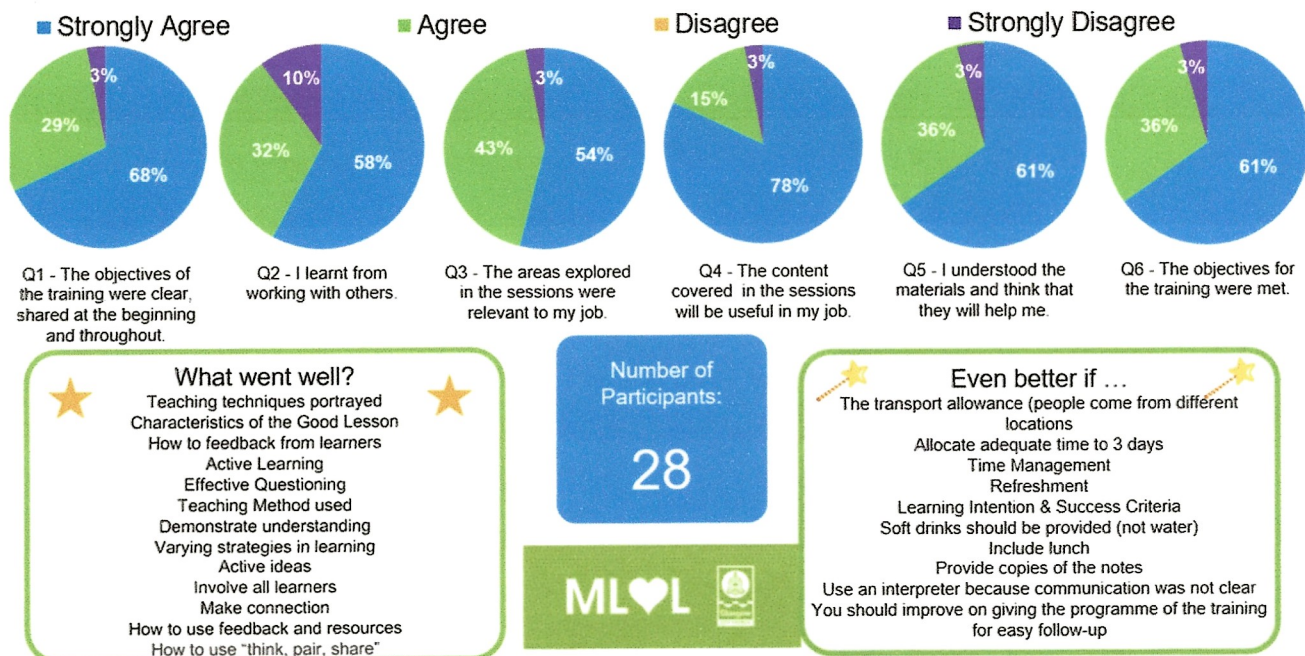
It is clear from the evaluations that we are building the capacity of leaders and teachers. They are ambitious and want to learn more. We ensure that we build on the evaluations by ensuring that the February team meets with the next September team and the September team meets with the next February team.

Our challenge continues to be the increased cost of airfares and cost of living in Malawi. The Malawian Kwacha has been devalued and may be further devalued. The difficulties in the Middle East has made fuel more expensive all over the world. This impacts on the cost of everything and

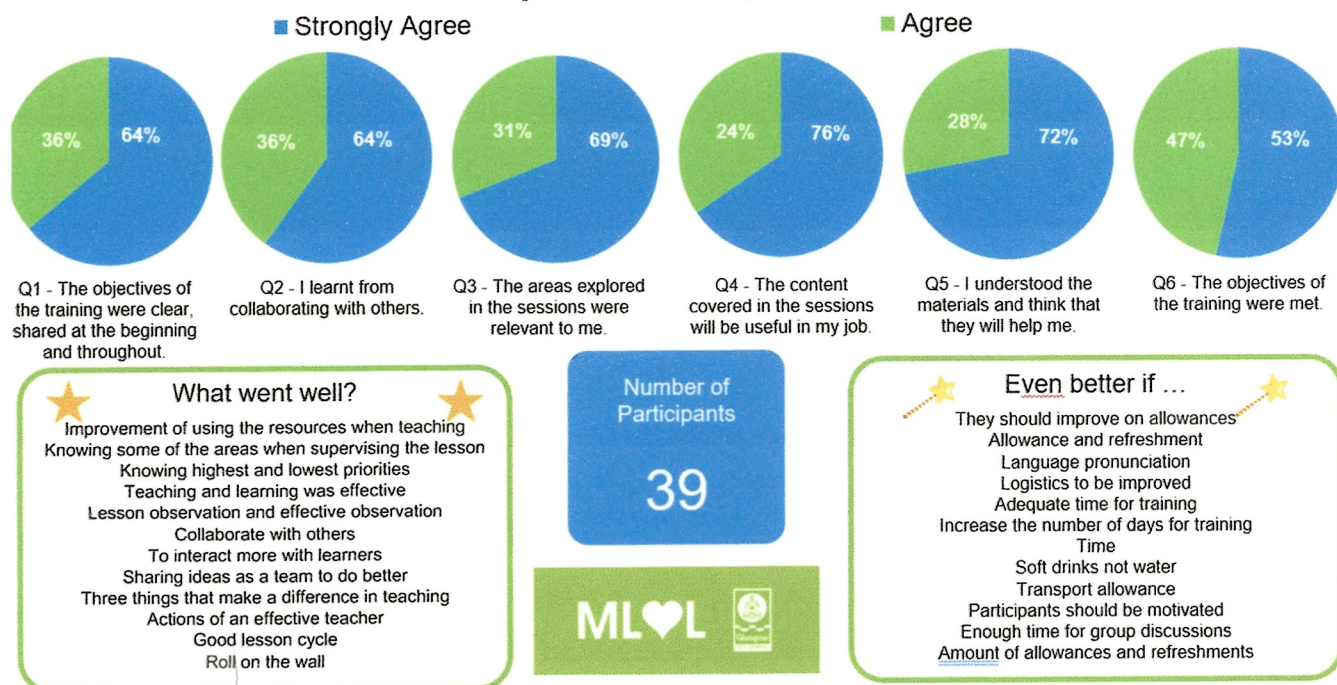
puts an additional strain on our Malawian colleagues. For February, we were asked to increase the donation towards travel expenses to MKW10,000.

Below are examples of the evaluations from September 2025:

Teacher Training - Day One



Leadership Training - Day Three



In June 2026, Maureen, Douglas and Terry took eight young people from St Roch's and Holyrood Secondary Schools. The schools selected them as young people who wouldn't normally get this opportunity and who would benefit from this broader experience.

The trip was a success, we made memories which will last for a lifetime. We explored challenging issues comparing poverty in the global north compared to the global south. We considered the strengths and challenges for Malawian children. We saw the harsh reality of food insecurity- petrol is around £2.30 a litre which impacts on everything. Food inflation is recorded as 21% but probably closer to 30%. Yet, we were welcomed with open arms, we saw children keen to learn, classes of 80+ with limited textbooks with most respectful to teachers. We saw children who came

to school in shifts because there were not enough classrooms. Classes with no desks and poor quality toilets. We saw the power of Mary's Meals feeding children who otherwise would have nothing to eat.

We met the two girls in Standard 1 that Holyrood and Glasgow Gaelic School sponsor to stay in secondary education. We advised that any surplus from the money we left for academic year 2026/27 could be used to support Tereza and Eunice, who have now left school and are at university. We met Faith again who is thriving in Chisawani Primary School now with a prosthetic leg. We were impressed with Godknows and his wife who care for 110 abandoned children in their home. In August, Faith will be going to Lilongwe to a clinic through the Scottish charity, 500 miles, to have a more effective prosthetic leg fitted. We were able to leave funding for her mum and her to go to Lilongwe.

Our young people did not disappoint- they were amazing. Thoughtful, passionate and able to lead learning in challenging contexts - we loved them. Now, they need to consider what's next for them - what are the little acts of kindness they will do to make a difference to others?

Two of the team have written reflections on the trip. Here are some quotes:

"Looking back now, I can honestly say it has been one of the most life-changing experiences of my life."

"Before travelling, I thought we were going to Malawi to make a difference. While I hope we did, I realised that Malawi made just as much of a difference to us. It changed the way I see education, gratitude and community. It reminded me not to take for granted the opportunities we have here in Scotland."

"This experience taught me that a successful learning environment is not created by modern classrooms or expensive resources. It is built through strong relationships between teachers and learners, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to education. The kindness and resilience shown by everyone we met left a lasting impression on me."

"Later, we visited Stella Maris, an all-girls boarding school, where each of us was paired with a student buddy. Victoria and I attended geography and physics lessons before joining the students in practical activities. The girls welcomed us warmly, answered our questions, and spoke proudly about their school community. They described each other as sisters who supported one another through every challenge. Their sense of respect, kindness, and belonging was inspiring."

5. Fundraising and donations

Fundraising and donations increased significantly this year in support of our June trip with young people from St Roch's and Holyrood Secondary schools. In addition to the contributions from the school communities, generous support was received from Callum's fundraiser barbecue, St Gabriel's Church, Iain MacRitchie, Tony Gee & Partners LLP, the Wood Foundation, Scottish Maths Council and Spire Housing.

We have increased the amount we ask participants to contribute. It is now at least £750 to the cost of the trip. Overall, each trip is costing up to £10,000. Photocopying of materials is done in Malawi which is more expensive but it means paper is not needed to be carried out and also it contributes to a small Malawian printing company based in Blantyre. We have been buying simple maths resources too and these too are bought in Blantyre. In June, we bought books from Bookpoint a small book company. Charles Lawrence chose fabulous books for us – all suitable for African learners and some from Malawian authors.

We continue to benefit from the generosity of friends, colleagues, schools and community organisations in the form of donations in support of our work.

6. Transport

We continue to have a car and a minibus. However, the last two years with no visits has meant that these have not been able to generate any income for us and instead they have cost us money for insurance, road tax, etc. In addition, the bus and the car are quite old now and have considerable mileage on them. We will not be replacing them. Francis is very creative and can usually source alternative, more reliable cars for us.

7. Financial Review

The Financial Statement to 31 July 2026 accompanying this report represents the thirteenth year-end accounts prepared for MLOL following the formal granting of charitable status by OSCR in October 2013. Charitable status allows us to claim gift aid, increasing by 25% the value of donations from many of our generous supporters.

Our new fundraising site has been operating since November 2021 and be accessed using the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/malawileadersoflearning>

A new interest bearing account was opened in February 2024 in an effort to generate interest on Trust funds. £60,000 was transferred to a 95 day notice account, currently earning 2.75% gross interest. Whilst interest rates have reduced from the original 4%, the cumulative interest generated to date totals £4,896

Trust income for the year totalled £45,832.

£30,796 was donated via Just Giving, Fundraising efforts generated £13,252, £1,761 was received in bank interest, and Give as You Live generated £23.

Expenditure totalled £51,608

The key elements of expenditure in the current year included £32,459 for travel, £5,769 for accommodation, £2,033 on educational and training resources, £5,758 on local transport costs, £2,676 other expenses and £2,913 Stella Maris funding.

This resulted in a net deficit of £5,776 for the year.

Summary financial performance is set out below. The net deficit for the year is debited to Trust Funds which have a closing balance of **£74,272**.

Approved by the trustees on 16 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Maureen McKenna



David McClelland

Chair

Date

16/9/26

Treasurer

Date

16/9/26

Independent Examiner's Report

For the Year 31 July 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Malawi Leaders of Learning

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2026 which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

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

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signature:



Lorna Goldie CPFA

Independent Examiner

Date 3/9/26.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31 July 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	2025
Receipts					
Donations and GAYL	4	£30,819		£30,819	£8,107
Interest received		£1,761		£1,761	£2,102
Fundraising Activities		£13,252		£13,252	£1,480
		£45,832	-	£45,832	£11,689
Payments					
Cost of Fundraising Activities		-	-	-	-
Cost of Charitable Activities		£51,608	-	£51,608	£11,839
		£51,608	-	£51,608	£11,839
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		- £5,776	-	- £5,776	-£150

Statement of Balances as at 31 July 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	2025
Funds Reconciliation					
Opening Cash at Bank and Hand		£80,048	-	£80,048	£80,198
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		- £5,776	-	- £5,776	-£150
Closing Cash at Bank and Hand		£74,272	-	£74,272	£80,048
Bank and Cash Balances					
Bank – Current account		£5,395		£5,395	£16,491
Bank – 95 Day Notice Account		£64,897		£64,897	£63,135
Cash		£3,980		£3,980	£422
Total Funds		£74,272		£74,272	£80,048
Other Assets					
Nil	6			-	-
Liabilities					
Nil	6			-	-

The notes on page 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year to 31 July 2026

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and Purpose of Funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3. Related Party Transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or to any connected persons during the year (2024/25 - nil).

4. Donations and Fundraising

Donations, Just Giving, Fundraising and Give as You Live contributions increased significantly to £45,832, mainly in support of the June 2026 trip which included young people from St Roch's and Holyrood secondary schools.

5. Bank Account

MLOL maintains a current account with Virgin Money, the balance of which was £5,395.09 as at 31 July 2026.

£60,000 was transferred to a new 95 day notice interest bearing account with Virgin Money on 27 February 2024. The closing balance, including interest to 31 July 2026 was £64,896.35.

6. Assets and liabilities

The Trust has no assets or liabilities, vehicles having no book value following depreciation. There are no other amounts owing or due.

7. Governance Costs

No costs have been incurred in relation to governance.

8. Expenses paid to Trustees and the number receiving expenses

Trustees are not in receipt of any associated expenses in support of Trust activities.

Approved by the trustees on 16 September 2026 and signed on their behalf by



Maureen McKenna
Chair



David McClelland
Treasurer