



Birkenhead Primary School Learning Trust
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August 2025

Chairperson's Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Dear Supporter,

Since joining Birkenhead Primary School in 2023 in the role of principal, I have enjoyed being part of the Learning Trust. My role as Chairperson of the Learning Trust provides a key link in the communication between the Learning Trust, the school and its Board of Trustees, ensuring we are well placed to support our tamariki through a variety of different structures.

I'm delighted to report that the Learning Trust remains well set up to provide an enduring benefit for both present and future generations of Birkenhead Primary School students through the development of its capital investment fund, which holds \$93,000 of funds as at 31 December 2024.

Membership

In addition to my role as Chairperson, the Learning Trust Board consists of six members with a mix of tenure.

Following the 2025 AGM in May, we will sadly farewell Naomi McRae who steps down as a Trustee. Naomi has been responsible for supporting the Trust with its communications and with the administration of donations and sponsorship to the Trust – including many well earnt tile sales for our legacy wall! I would like to thank her for her contributions over the years and am grateful to all the Trustees for their continued support and dedication.

We have been fortunate to have a lot of interest in supporting the Learning Trust from our extended BPS Whanau. During the 2024 – 2025 calendar year, three new Trustees joined the Learning Trust replacing the roles held by Naomi and our Trustees who stepped down following the 2024 May AGM.

The current trustees of the Trust are Francis Naera (Chairman), Honary Ng (Treasurer), Gemma Ericson (Secretary), Kirsty Brown, John Donnan (Finance), Irini Meys and Dr. Prathima Chowdary who was formally added as a trustee following the May 2025 AGM.

The Trust Deed

The Trust was established on 24 March 2010 and is a registered charitable trust (Charities Commission No. CC44893, registered on 13 August 2010). Decisions are made by the Trustees in accordance with the Trust Deed. Under the Trust Deed, the objects of the

Learning Trust are to create a fund to be used for charitable purposes associated with Birkenhead Primary School including providing funds for:

- learning resources for the advancement of education at the school; and
- the purchase of any literacy, numeracy and science resources required by the school for educational programmes.

Learning Trust Vision, Purpose and Strategic Focus

As per the Learning Trust's 3 year Strategic Plan, which was updated in 2024, its vision, purpose and strategic focus are as follows:

Vision: Building relationships, long-term resources, and brighter kids.

Purpose: to provide an enduring benefit for both present and future generations of Birkenhead Primary School students, through the development of a capital investment fund.

Strategic Focus:

- Develop the investment fund;
- Provide Birkenhead Primary School with ongoing financial support for resources that enhance learning opportunities; and
- Build ongoing positive relationships with the school, local community and alumni.

We will next be refreshing our Strategic Plan in 2027.

Financial Statements

The Learning Trust remains in a strong financial position, with solid investment growth and continued support from generous sponsors and donors. While income in 2024 was lower than the previous year, the Trust remains focused on long-term sustainability and growing its capacity to support the school community.

The Learning Trust generated income of \$17,000 during the 2024 financial year, compared to \$27,000 in the previous year. Noting that the largest contributor to this change is a change in accounting recognition for sponsorship income, rather than a real decrease in sponsorship income year on year.

Key contributors to 2024 income included \$6,000 in sponsorship, \$8,500 in unrealised gains on investments, and \$2,580 in donations for Alumni Legacy Wall Tiles and other.

As per the agreement with the Birkenhead Primary School Board of Trustees, half of the sponsorship income is passed on to the School's PTA, with the remaining half retained by the Learning Trust. This resulted in \$3,000 in net sponsorship income for the Trust in 2024. The Trust incurred only \$20 in operating costs and approved a distribution of \$1,000 to the School.

The net profit for the year was \$13,472, increasing the Trust's net assets to \$97,166 as at 31 December 2024 (up from \$83,694 at the end of 2023).

Investments

The Trust continues to follow its Statement of Investment Policies and Objectives (S IPO), which outlines how funds must be invested in line with the Trust Deed and ensures an appropriate balance between risk and return.

The Trust retains Simplicity as its fund manager, with funds invested in Simplicity's Balanced Fund. After a challenging period in the markets, the fund has recovered well, delivering unrealised gains of \$8,493 in 2024. The market value of the investment was \$69,288 as of 31 December 2024. The remainder of the Trust's assets are held in cash with ASB Bank.

The Trustees remain committed to preserving and growing the Trust's capital base and achieving strong market-aligned returns to support ongoing and future distributions to the school.

Sponsorship

The following are the annual financial targets and end of year positions of the Learning Trust over the past five years:

Financial year (ending 31 Dec)	Fundraising target (before costs)	Fundraising achieved (before costs and contribution to PTA)	Net Assets as at 31 Dec
2020	\$15,000	\$13,410	\$52,750
2021	\$10,000	\$11,735	\$59,937
2022	\$10,000	\$22,346	\$64,067
2023	\$10,000	\$19,609	\$83,694
2024	\$10,000	\$13,473*	\$97,166

**Note change in accounting treatment during 2024 to recognise income in the year it relates to, rather than the year it is received.*

Our sponsorship programme with the local Birkenhead business community provides vital support to the Learning Trust.

I'm proud to advise that Barfoot and Thompson remain our Platinum Sponsor and have continued to demonstrate their generosity by supporting activities and prizes in addition to providing financial support to the Learning Trust. It was great to welcome them into the school for our annual Camp at School Night and a fantastic way for our community to be involved in supporting our children. The Learning Trust Board would like to offer their continued gratitude to Barfoot and Thompson for its ongoing support.

The Learning Trust were also delighted to have secured the continued support of six Gold Sponsors in 2024: Highbury Optometrist, Uprise Scaffolding, TP Builders, New World Birkenhead and BPS OSCAR, with SAL's Pizza providing sponsorship commitment for 2025. These are all businesses in our community which provide excellent ongoing support for the School and the Learning Trust, for which we are very grateful.

The support of our sponsors continues to grow as a stable and valuable resource for both current and future children of Birkenhead Primary School for many years to come. In 2025 we will continue to look for more local businesses that would like to work with us in a sponsorship arrangement.

Distributions

The Trust has a policy for the distribution of trust funds to the school in accordance with the Learning Trust's trust deed. This is essential to ensuring the purpose of the Trust is adhered to. The intention is that distributions will only be made out of annual income to ensure that capital is preserved.

A distribution of \$1,000 was made available to the school in respect of the 2024 financial year, to fund structured literacy resources for our tamariki.

Meetings and Communications

The Trust continues to communicate regularly with both the school and alumni communities through updates to the Learning Trust's website (www.birkenheadprimarytrust.co.nz), and the school's Facebook page, updates in the school newsletter and through written communications. Each year, the Learning Trust writes to Year 6 leavers and their families, encouraging them to donate a tile for the Alumni Legacy Wall.

Throughout the year, Naomi McRae continued to uplift communications to our community via the School Facebook page, with interesting and engaging articles promoting the activity of the Learning Trust.

The Learning Trust also financially contributed to the Year Six leavers' dinner in December which was organised by our amazing PTA - Kirsty Brown has done another amazing job of leading the organising for, creating a wonderful and very memorable evening for our parents and tamariki. This event remains a much-loved annual fixture in the school's calendar and is a great way to farewell our school leavers and welcome them to the school's alumni community.

The Learning Trust also encourages interested parties to attend our Annual General Meeting, or to support our initiatives through volunteering time and energy when we need support. The Learning Trust aims to support the school's development of its database of school alumni to leverage the support of this community on an ongoing basis.

Acknowledgements: I wish to thank the Trustees for all their hard work and care in administering the Learning Trust and also to thank everyone who donated to the Learning Trust throughout the year. I would like to thank Jane Henderson of Paprika Design for her ongoing work with the Alumni Legacy Wall.

On behalf of myself and the Trustees, we look forward to a successful 2025.

Francis Naera

Tumuaki- Principal, Birkenhead Primary School

Chairperson, Birkenhead Primary School Learning Trust