

OCEAN STARS TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCE 2024-2025



OCEAN STARS

S R I L A N K A

Empowering children through Education

registered charity 1110022 www.oceanstars.org.uk

HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

2024/2025

- **800 children** accessed preschool education in **30 preschools**.
- **Assessment Tool cycle** completed for all preschools to track and monitor Early Year learning goals of OST preschool children. In the endline assessment cycle, **414** Year 1 and **542** Year 2 students were assessed.
- **Residential Teacher Training** for all-island preschool teachers completed.
- **New preschool playground** opened in Ammankulam for the children of the village.
- **15 students** and **3 teachers visited** their **link schools**, and 4 other volunteers visited our projects.
- **109 people** attended our **20th Anniversary Celebration Evening**.
- **Thusanthan** from Grace Children's home and **Abdul Basith**, ex-sponsor child, **visited the UK** in March for the celebrations.



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2024/2025

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ANNUAL REVIEW AT A GLANCE

2024/2025

Income 2024
/2025
£115,000

30 preschools
supported

109 people
attended OST 20th
Celebration Party

Teachers use tablets
to record Data from
assessment tool as
well as daily
attendance registers

6 Ocean Stars
Lanka staff and 41
teachers salaries
paid



175 children and
teachers on
sponsorship
schemes

30 Preschools
supported all-island



CPS students fund
raised £14,540

Breakfast Projects
in 15 preschools



285 children at
MAHADEVA
children's home
supported and 4
children being
sponsored

Working closely
with Batticaloa
Preschool Bureau

Ocean Stars Lanka
continues to be an
important and valued
NGO in Eastern
Province

Abdul Basith and
Thusanathan : OST
Beneficiaries visit the
UK in March 2025

Social media posts
regularly posted

Residential Teacher
Training held for
75 teachers

Teaching resources
distributed to all
preschools

CHAIR'S REPORT

1 May 2024 – 30 April 25

1. Governance

As from the May meeting of 2024 the Trustee Board comprised the same 7 Trustees from the previous year. Revd Dan Haylett, Jennie Gilbert, Jo Barton, Cameron Williams, Rachel Angel, Denise Barnes, and Chair John Bunter continued to serve. Also continuing were Dilanee Bunter, Head of Operations, Tim Rüpke and Amali Bunter as Co-opted Trustees, and Wendy Haynes as Minutes Secretary.



A number of Sub-Committees met between the 6 full TB Meetings in the year and reported back to the OGM - notably, a Finance Group, Child Development Programme (CDP), JAYDD (the business arm of the charity), Child/Teacher Sponsorship, School Links, and ad hoc meetings for example, for Fundraising activities. Two further groups were formed during the year and met most productively – for "OST20", and for the Website regeneration.

Equally, communication was a weekly event by Zoom for Dilanee with the Ocean Stars Lanka (OSL) staff. Indeed, OSL staff sat with, and contributed fully to, the CDP group at their meetings.

The annual OST September Awayday continues to be a most valuable strategy-forming conference for Trustees, producing goals for the coming year and beyond. Trustees' thanks are due to Amali Bunter for the professionalism with which she approaches the convening of this meeting. Out of the last Awayday, for example, OST has established an Ambassador programme.

The Trust has continued to exist to bring support to communities in need, mostly in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka (Batticaloa, Trincomalee) and it has been the work of the Trustee Board to ensure that the financial resources brought to the Trust are used in the most appropriate and cost-effective way.

2. Finance

Prior to Independent Examination, accounts suggest a turnover in the region of £115,000 for the year to 30 April. This is similar to the previous year. A varying £/SLRupee exchange rate (between 360 to 400) sometimes made some financing problematic and kept Trustees mindful of the Contingency fund of £17,000. Trustees were however able to maintain ample support for established projects. In addition, with very generous funding from Goldranch Investments Ltd (feeding programme), continuing support from Fonthill Foundation (educational projects), and other smaller individual and corporate donations, OST was able to expand its operations gently further.

3. Supported Projects and Impact

Our Restricted Funds allow us to support the sponsorship programme (some 150 of the neediest youngsters in Batticaloa and Trincomalee), and a number of our preschool teachers. Unrestricted Funds pay our staff in OSL (Ocean Stars Lanka, who manage our projects on OST's behalf), our ongoing expenses in maintaining the OSL operation, and other capital projects, when funds allow.

With the benefit of Goldranch's increased financial support, OST has allowed some 800 of OST-supported preschool children to be given a daily nutritious breakfast. Our Child Development Programme, which assesses educational progress, has shown clearly how the feeding programme has advanced achievement in the preschools. The support of Fonthill enabled some 60 preschool teachers to meet together in July for Teacher Training, and at other shorter meetings. This programme is the envy of the Education Department of Eastern Province. Through the OST Gift Catalogue programme, many individuals have benefitted over the year, not least local fishermen who have been donated new boats.

4. Visits to Sri Lanka

Dilane, our Head of Operations led a school group of 15 students and 3 teaching staff on a trip to Sri Lanka in October. This included extensive volunteering in our preschools and secondary link schools in Eastern Sri Lanka. In many instances, for the students concerned, the experiences were life-changing, and there is every indication that these visits will restart annually, now in the post-COVID period. The students from Calthorpe Park School raised in excess of £12,000 for OST causes, some of which they could see "in action" whilst there.

In addition, Dilane visited the area in June to observe and monitor the OSL operation, and in particular, the Teacher Training. Through JAYDD, Dilane has enabled other interested parties to visit OST/OSL activities – visitors who have reported back very favourably!

5. "OST20"

In March 2025 OST held its 122nd OGM and marked a 20-year anniversary since its founding as a Registered Charity. A subcommittee combined magnificently to organise a celebratory event at the Lismoyne Hotel, Fleet, on 22 March, which 109 supporters attended, to feast on a curry meal, listen to inspiring speakers, enjoy each other's company, and dance the night away to a local band. The event coincided with the public revealing of OST's new website.

We extend our thanks to Trustee Denise for her priceless work on the website and to the members of the subcommittee who organised such an enjoyable event. The event was graced by two young men flown in from Sri Lanka, Basith and Thusanthan, who have benefited through sponsorship and other OST support over the years. This, the publicity from attendees, the inspiring speakers, especially Revd David Jebb, the updated and more accessible website, have all served to introduce new sponsors and other new funds, the benefit of which OST will, I am sure, gain in the coming years.

6. Summary

This was a special year for OST, culminating in the OST20 celebration. We have gained from a group of Trustees who have all offered their personal gifts and skills to advance the movement. As Head of Operations, Dilanee has continued her unparalleled commitment to the charity, keeping up communications, following up new leads, establishing new contacts and guiding Trustees in their deliberations. It is primarily through this attention that OST has been able to advance its work, and Trustees are duly thankful to Dilanee.

John Bunter, OST Chair May 2025



PARACHUTE DONATED BY CALTHOPRE PARK SCHOOL

MISSION, VISION & ACTIVITIES

VISION

Our Vision is a Sri Lanka where every child has equal opportunities.

MISSION

Our Mission is to identify and overcome barriers to equal opportunities for children in Sri Lanka through education and social enrichment, sharing friendship, hope and joy.

ACTIVITIES

Sponsorship Scheme
Exchange Programme and Partnerships
Targeted Quality Education
Advocacy
Community Programmes

OCEAN STARS 20 YEARS

2005 -2025



Revd David Jebb was our honoured guest at our 20th Celebration on the 22 nd of March 2025. Here is Revd David's speech, where he recalls the events of 2004, and how by chance Dilanee and he connected Ocean Stars was established in Batticaloa.

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the kind invitation extended to Jenet and me to join you in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Ocean Stars charity. This milestone is a testament to the tremendous journey that began in response to the devastating tsunami that struck Asia, particularly Sri Lanka, in December 2004. It is an honour to stand here among you, reflecting on the resilience, faith, and compassion that have emerged from such an immense tragedy.

For me, the events of that tragic day remain permanently imprinted in my memory. On the morning of Boxing Day, 2004, I received the heart-breaking news that I had lost 11 immediate family members, including my beloved father and sister. The sheer magnitude of grief and disbelief was overwhelming, leaving me utterly shaken and unsure of how to move forward.

My world, like the world of so many others, was irreversibly shattered in an instant. However, amid my sorrow, I found comfort in the unwavering support of my church community in North Camp, as well as from compassionate individuals across the country who surrounded me with prayers and moral encouragement. Their kindness and solidarity reminded me that even in the depths of despair, love endures.

Determined to reach my homeland, I embarked on a challenging 25-hour journey, fraught with numerous flight cancellations due to the disaster. Eventually, on December 31, 2004, I arrived in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, only to face the painful reality that none of my family members' bodies had been recovered. We searched tirelessly for closure, but in the end, we had to accept their absence in faith. Nine days later, we gathered for a service of thanksgiving, honouring their memory and seeking peace in the midst of immeasurable loss. In that sacred moment, surrounded by grief yet held together by faith, I understood that healing, however slow, begins in community.

Upon returning to the UK, I was overcome with a deep sense of restlessness and helplessness. I yearned to contribute in some way but struggled to discern how best to channel my grief into meaningful action.

It was during this time that I received an email from Dilanee, reaching out with a simple yet profound question: "Is there anything I can do to help?" That email marked the beginning of a remarkable journey. Shortly after, I had the privilege of meeting Dilanee Bunter, who visited me in North Camp with a message of hope for those who had lost everything in the aftermath of the tsunami. She assured me that she would bring together a group of dedicated individuals to support those affected. Her words brought immense relief to my heart, and for the first time since the tragedy, I felt the stirrings of hope.

The first anniversary of the tsunami in December 2005 became a defining moment. We gathered for a remembrance service at Gillingham Methodist Church in Kent, where Dilanee spoke with passion and conviction.

It was then that I truly saw the birth of Ocean Stars—a charity that has since become a beacon of hope and transformation for countless lives. What began as an idea fuelled by compassion has blossomed into a force for good, bringing light to those who once stood in darkness. I remain personally grateful to Dilanee, John, and all those who have tirelessly dedicated themselves to this cause.

As we come together today to mark 20 years since the tsunami, we reflect on the lives lost and, more importantly, renew our commitment to those who continue to bear the burden of its aftermath. We remember that tragedy does not have the final word—hope does. Faith does. Love does. And through the work of Ocean Stars, we witness these truths in action every single day.

OCEAN STARS 20 YEARS 2005-2025

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Dilanee and her devoted team for their extraordinary efforts in uplifting the people of Sri Lanka, particularly the vulnerable children whose education and future they have steadfastly supported. Your work is a testament to faith in action, demonstrating that even in the face of tragedy, God's love and compassion can shine through the hands and hearts of those willing to serve.

Thank you once again for allowing me to be part of this significant occasion. It is a privilege to stand alongside you as we remember, honour, and continue the mission of bringing hope to those in need. May we go forward with renewed determination, inspired by the journey we have walked together, and may the Ocean Stars charity continue to shine brightly for many years to come.

We were also honoured to have Mr Kevan John, Headteacher of Calthorpe Park School as a distinguished guest at our celebration evening. Mr John talked about the long partnership between Ocean Stars and Calthorpe Park School in Fleet.

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Good evening to you all.

Welcome to this special celebratory event – commemorating Ocean Stars Trust 20 Year Anniversary.

It is a pleasure to stand before you today and speak about the incredible 12-year partnership between Calthorpe Park School and Beyond Boundaries in Sri Lanka. This collaboration has been nothing short of transformative, not only for the children, families, schools and communities in Sri Lanka but also for hundreds of our students who have had the privilege of participating in this life- changing initiative – 15 of whom participated in our 2024 team.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our school community, this past year we raised over £15,000 through a variety of charity and fundraising events both in school and the community. We have nine young people excited to visit Sri Lanka in October this year, who have already raised over £6,500. These significant amounts of money will provide essential resources and support to community initiatives and to schools in Sri Lanka.

With these funds, Ocean Stars has been able to supply educational materials, improve facilities, and fund vital programmes that empower communities. The impact of these charitable contributions is real and profound, fostering hope, opportunity, and a brighter future for countless young lives.

There are a few Calthorpe Park staff, and friends that require a special mention: Dilanee Bunter, parent of three children, all of whom thrived at CPS, and who was promoted to act to help the children of Sri Lanka after the turmoil of the tsunami.

Rachel Angel, who coordinated the first visit of our students. Tommy Taylor accompanied her on that first trip.

Wendy Haynes, who has supported Ocean Stars and has supported our students from the outset.

Charlotte Oram who joined us on several trips to Sri Lanka and gave children the most amazing experiences. Ross Walker, our Head of Music, whose care, dedication and compassion for those in Sri Lanka shines though in all he does.

Ocean Stars Sri Lankan staff who support this phenomenal experience.

The staff, Headteachers and of course all of the wonderful children we get to work with when our teams visit.

The benefits of this partnership extend far beyond financial aid. The human, the personal, inter-personal, social and global dimension too. Throughout the years of working together, Calthorpe Park students and those in the Batticaloa district, Navalady, Urani, Sri Sithy, Shakti, Muravodai and Vipulanantha have danced, sung, played and interacted with one another. Often overcoming and breaking down the barriers of language, hearing, and vision. Nothing can quantify the positive impact of these interactions, other than to say that memories have been formed and global understanding between the young people endures.

OCEAN STARS 20 YEARS 2005-2025

When our students visit Sri Lanka to work alongside the children and families supported by Beyond Boundaries and Ocean Stars, they embark on a journey that leaves a lasting imprint on their hearts and minds.

These experiences immerse our students in a different culture, broadening their perspectives and teaching them invaluable lessons about resilience, empathy, and global citizenship.

They witness firsthand the joy and gratitude of those they help and return home enriched by the spirit of community and connection.

This 12-year partnership between us exemplifies the best of what we can achieve when we come together with compassion and commitment. I want to thank all Calthorpe Park School students past and present and their families for your continued support and involvement. Your contributions make a world of difference, not just for those we help but for our entire school community. Thank you for being part of this remarkable journey and for showing that when we reach beyond boundaries, we create change that transcends borders.

It is my pleasure to represent Calthorpe Park School tonight to highlight the transformative relationship we have with our extended family in Sri Lanka. Thank you to all that Oceans Stars Trust does for our communities.



OCEAN STARS 20 YEARS 2005-2025



We celebrated our 20th anniversary with a party at the Lismoyne Hotel on 22nd March 2025 which was attended by 109 people.

The evening began with the lighting of the traditional Sri Lankan lamp. This was followed by a meal of Sri Lankan curries, speeches from distinguished guests, a grand draw, the cutting of our Ocean Stars Birthday cake, music and dancing.

We were delighted to welcome Abdul Basith, who has been sponsored by Ocean stars since he was 5 years old and now a successful entrepreneur offering opportunities to thousands of young people in Sri Lanka. Abdul was able to spend time with his UK sponsor Ann, and she reflected on what a privilege it was for her to meet him. She was humbled to see how her gift of monthly sponsorship has had such an impact on the life of a young person and how he used this gift to transform his life. We also welcomed Thusanthan from Grace children's who Ocean Stars has known since he was 7 years old. He reflected on how much he used to look forward to Ocean Stars team members visiting the home and bringing gifts and spending time with them doing sports and craft activities. One of his abiding memories was from 2006 when we provided the Home with mattresses for all the beds as the boys had been sleeping on planks of wood. The evening was a wonderful way to celebrate the work of Ocean Stars with our supporters and donors. Ocean Stars is also organising 20 events to celebrate our 20 years of operations and some of these events have already taken place.

Message from a preschool teacher in Sri Lanka:

Your dedication to providing quality preschool education and supporting preschools and children in Eastern Sri Lanka is truly commendable. Over the past two decades, your efforts have made a significant impact on the lives of countless children's and preschool teachers' families. Here's to celebrating your achievements and the continued journey ahead. Wishing you all the best for the future.

Message from our Ocean Stars Lanka Director:

May Ocean Stars continue to shine brightly , empowering communities, transforming lives and spreading hope for many more years to come. As Ocean Stars begins a new chapter, may it be filled with success, joy and fulfilment of many more dreams. Congratulations to 20 years of service to the children and families of Sri Lanka. Best wishes for many more years of Ocean Stars.

OCEAN STARS 20 YEARS 2005-2025



Message from our Ocean Stars Lanka Assistant Director: I wish Ocean Stars Trust a joyful 20th Anniversary! Over the last two decades, your unwavering commitment has transformed lives, empowered communities and brought hope to so many children and families. Your dedication to education, Child Development and Women's Empowerment continue to make a lasting difference in Sri Lanka. Congratulations on 20 incredible years! May this journey continue to inspire and bring positive change for generations to come. Happy 20th Anniversary OST.

The Trustees set as a focus area the challenge of delivering 20 events for 20 years of Ocean Stars Trust. We are making good progress towards this goal.

20 YEARS!

**20 years
20 events
£10,000**

91%

20 YEARS!

	Event	Month	Amount raised
1	Twilight Challenge	September 24	£245 + £572.50
2	Crookham Infant School Christmas Fair	November 24	£283.00
3	Ocean Stars Quiz	January 25	£1235.00
4	FMC Coffee Morning	June 25	
5	CPS Lunch Time Fundraising	Ongoing	£2354.10 (to 12 May)
6	Charlton Horethorne Primary School	Ongoing	
7	Dilane Curry Party	September 2025	
8	CPS Christmas Concert	December	£400.00
9	CPS Slugg Walk	July 25	
10	Tennis event	July 2025	
11	Suffolk bike ride	June 25	
12	Santa dash	December 24	£130.00
13	Tropic Party Kim Gilbert	November 2024	£605.00
14	Raffle	March 2025	£750.00
15	Crookham House Group	March 2025	£100
16	CPS Spring Concert	March 2025	£400
17	Busking at the Meadows	December 2024	£250.00
18	Fleet infants Christmas fair	December 2024	£148.00
19	St John's Church Hook	Ongoing	£465 and £150 per quarter for 3 years.
20	The Mint Church Exeter	Ongoing	£1200
	Total		£9137.50

SPONSORSHIP REPORT

2024/2025

SPONSORSHIP SCHEME	NO. OF CHILDREN/ TEACHERS	NO. OF CHILDREN/ TEACHERS NEEDING SPONSORSHIP
KALLADY BATTICALOA	77	3
VELLAIMANAL TRINCOMALEE	61	3
MAHADEVA KILLINOCHCHI	4	0
TEACHERS	36	16



SPONSOR CHILDREN MEET UP WITH UK VOLUNTEERS FOR AN EVENING OF FUN IN OCTOBER



SPONSORSHIP IMPACT STORY

Dilukshan started his sponsorship with Ocean Stars in 2005 when he was 7 years old. His Dad is hearing impaired and because of this, he is a mute, meaning he cannot interact with people and is very isolated. Whilst Dilukshan was growing up his childhood was very difficult as he was his father's spokesperson.

As a young child, he used to long for October to arrive and to be invited to the party organised by Ocean Stars for the sponsored children. At the party he played games, sang songs, undertook activities and had a meal together - he says, "These used to be one of the happiest days of my life".

My sponsor, Jackie, always sent him photos of her family, and he used to send photos and letters back. His life has been completely supported and transformed by the kindness and generosity of Jackie. Every year he was sent a birthday present and card. The sponsor's money paid for extra classes for his education, for transport, education resources and clothing.

During the pandemic, his mother developed a brain tumour and had to go to Colombo for treatment. This added an extra burden to his family – Dilukshan says "Jackie and Ocean Stars helped with my family's extra medical bills so I could stay in school and work towards my dream of being a banker."

With the sponsorship money he did well in his O levels and went on to pass his A levels coming a very credible 72nd in the district. His sponsor continued to provide support whilst he passed an ICT Diploma. He secured a trainee position at Sampath Bank and has subsequently risen to Staff Assistant. He continues his dream and is working towards his next promotion to Junior Executive we have no doubts that he will make this and continue upwards.

Dilukshan says, "To be a banker is a dream come true; I cannot imagine my life without Jackie. I have never met her, but my family and I are truly indebted to her for her kind-hearted generosity and kindness."

"The Ocean Stars sponsorship programme is life-changing"



SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

2024/2025

Facebook	2024									2025		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of posts	11	13	11	14	9	11	16	6	13	11	11	16
Page likes	632	629	629	631	631	641	641	641	646	650	650	650
Ave likes per post	7	10	9	7	6	7	23	24	8	9	8	15
Shares/Comments	13	21	13	13	16	7	44	16	23	19	11	28
Total reached	2,143	3,134	1,985	3,204	2,029	2,045	12,709	3,485	4,164	3,063	2,679	3,344

Instagram	2024									2025		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of posts	11	13	10	13	9	10	15	6	11	11	10	14
Followers	355	354	354	356	356	368	368	368	369	369	369	369
Ave likes per post	6	7	6	6	7	5	14	17	9	7	9	13

LinkedIn	2024									2025		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Number of posts	7	3	9	14	9	3	4	0	1	0	0	2
Followers	60	59	59	61	61	70	70	70	71	72	72	72
Ave likes per post	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	2

Mailchimp	2024									2025		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Emails sent	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	1
Ave number of opens	N/A	192	N/A	271	N/A	68	N/A	N/A	209	114	210	185

Website	2024									2025		
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Visitors to the website	1,860	5,381	491	523	454	658	775	529	663	622	663	622
Ave session time (mins)	0.49	0.29	-	0.45	0.59	2.18	2.36	1.27	0.45	1.05	0.45	1.09

SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMARY

Facebook

142 posts

Reached 43,984 people on Facebook throughout the year

224 shares and comments throughout the year

Ended the year on 650 page likes (+19 from the beginning of the year)

Instagram

133 posts

On average, 9 likes per post

Ended the year on 369 followers (+16 from the beginning of the year)

LinkedIn

52 posts

Ended the year on 72 followers (+15 from the beginning of the year)

Website

12,619 visitors to the website

Mailchimp

10 emails were sent. On average, 178 people opened each email

COMPARING THIS YEAR TO LAST YEAR:

✗ 13% decrease in number of FB posts

✗ 26% decrease in FB reach

✗ 74% decrease in FB shares/comments

✓ 3% increase in FB likes

✓ 11% increase in Instagram posts

✓ 29% increase in average likes per Instagram post

✓ 5% increase in Instagram followers

✓ 134% increase in visitors to the website (however, an anomaly for the month of May 2024 with 5,381 visitors due to Bots)

✓ 17% increase in emails sent

✗ 11% decrease in average number of opens for Mailchimp

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2024/2025

At Ocean Stars, we remain dedicated to providing a high-quality preschool education for every child in our care. Our teachers play a key role in this commitment by working alongside us to implement the Child Development Programme. This initiative supports improved teaching practices, careful tracking of each child's progress, and enhanced classroom resources. Through this collaborative effort, we strive to create a nurturing environment where every child is equipped to grow, learn, and succeed.

The three key areas of the Child Development Programme persist:

(a) Teacher Training: We once again owe a great deal of thanks to our dedicated supporters at the Fonthill Foundation. Their continued assistance in funding our Teacher Training for the Assessment Tool provides us the ongoing opportunity to provide this valuable service to our teachers. The regular training sessions allow our teachers an in depth introduction and familiarisation opportunity, with new curriculum updates, the effective use of tablets, and the sharing of best practices among our teacher network and outside professionals.

(b) Assessment Tool: We continue to develop and improve the CDP Assessment Tool. In tracking each child's progress in early years development this allows our teachers the best opportunity to work smarter with their classes and see the benefits, and this year has been another of great positive support for the usability of the tool. The new area of numeracy added to the tool in 2024 has also proved a great success and we are confident will prove to be another critical addition to the Child Development Programme.

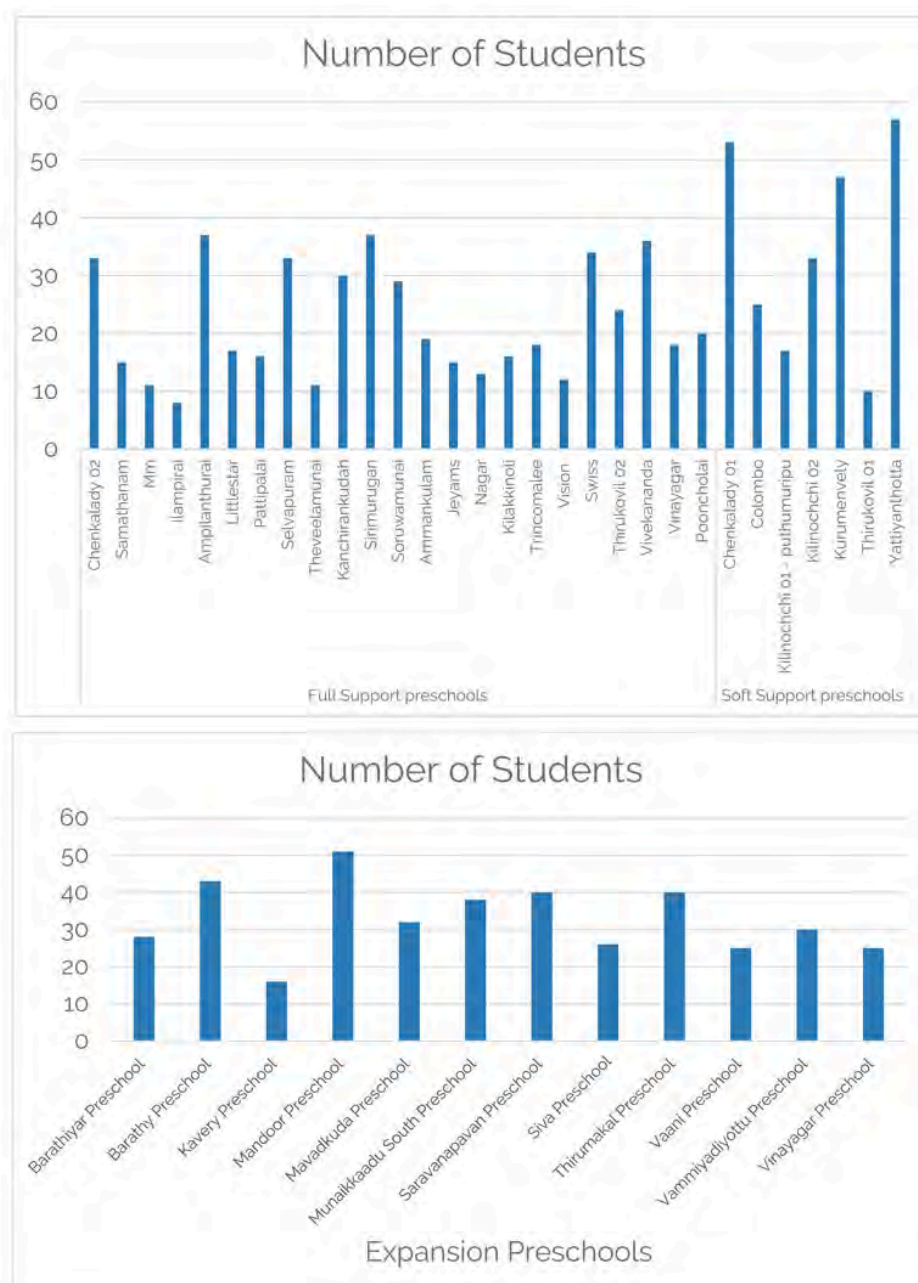
(c) Resourcing: Ocean Stars Trust continues to provide our schools with the resources they require, with 8 new tablets distributed to our schools where needed.

The CDP steering group formed of Ocean Stars Trustees and Ocean Stars Lanka staff continues to meet once a month to discuss the strategy and outcomes of the programme.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2024 Assessment Tool Data

In 2024/25 we were delighted to continue working with 23 full support schools and 7 soft support, reaching 744 preschool children. However, this year we also took the ambitious step to consolidate our excellent work by expanding the coverage of the tool with a paper-based system, without the requirement for digital data recording we have reduced the setup and support cost required. Therefore, through collaboration with the pre-school bureau, we have selected and begun supporting a further 12 preschools, 394 students, with their pre-school education going forward. With this expansion, we make further steps in growing our reach to 1138 students whom we work to positively impact in their preschool journey across Sri Lanka.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Assessment	Year One (3-4)	Year 2 (4-5)
Baseline (Y1/Y2)	414	502
Midline (Y1/Y2)	414	502
Endline (Y1/Y2)	414	502
TOTAL	1242	1506

Through these graphs, we can see the enormous variability in the number of students that attend the schools that we work with, and we continue to target our work to those schools we believe we can have the greatest impact with, largely focusing on those in rural locations.

With the addition of new schools to those we work with and another new specialism now being taught to our children via the CDP tool, we are absolutely delighted that our children and teachers continue to show great results as they progress through the Ocean Stars Curriculum.

In addition to the expansion of the reach of the tool, we added further resources and indicators to reflect on the vital educational building block of Communication and Language. Formed of the foundational elements of Listening, Understanding and Speaking, the early indications of the progress of Ocean Stars students in this area are extremely positive and, as ever, are being attentively recorded by our excellent teachers.

We will continue to stay closely connected with all our schools, ensuring we are always available to listen and provide support. Our goal is to make sure our journey with the CDP tool continues in developing it to become the valuable resource we know it is, enhancing and not hindering the work of the dedicated teachers and schools we partner with.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

SUMMARY STATISTICS OF YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 DATA COLLECTED IN 2024 BY DATA COLLECTION PHASE

YEAR ONE ATTAINMENT SCORE (MAX 32)

Group	Baseline	Midline	Endline	Diff (BL to EL)	% Change (BL to EL)
All	25.7	28.4	29.8	4.1	16%
Male	25.7	28.1	29.4	3.7	14%
Female	25.8	28.6	30.3	4.5	17%

- Year One students on average increased their attainment score by 4.1 points in 2024 (+16% increase)
- Overall attainment scores and rates of change is higher among female year one students compared to male students

FIG 1 YEAR 1 ATTAINMENT – STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

YEAR TWO ATTAINMENT SCORE (MAX 31)

Group	Baseline	Midline	Endline	Diff (BL to EL)	% Change (BL to EL)
All	27.9	28.8	30.4	2.5	9%
Male	27.8	28.7	30.3	2.5	9%
Female	27.9	28.9	30.5	2.6	9%

- Year Two students on average increased their attainment score by 2.5 points in 2024 (+9% increase)
- Overall attainment scores and rates of change is higher among female year two students compared to male students, but the gender gap is smaller compared to year one

FIG 2. YEAR 2 ATTAINMENT – STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

PRESCHOOL REPORT

OUR PRESCHOOL LINK PROGRAMME

Our link preschool programme has suffered post-Covid, and we are working hard to re-establish links.

PRESCHOOL IN SRI LANKA	LINK SCHOOL UK
Samathanam	Crookham Infants School
Chenkalady 1	Calthorpe Park School
Little Stars	Fleet Baptist Preschool
Soruvamunai	St. Luke's Primary School
Ampilanthurai	Heatherside Infant school
Thirukovil 2	Beacon Hill Nursery Hindhead
Yatyanthota St Peters	Fleet Methodist Preschool
Pattipalai	Elaine Hughson
Trinco/Vellaimanal	Buttercups Day Nursery
Sri Murugan	Dogmersfield Primary School
Vigneswaran Maha Vidyalam	Royal Hospital School

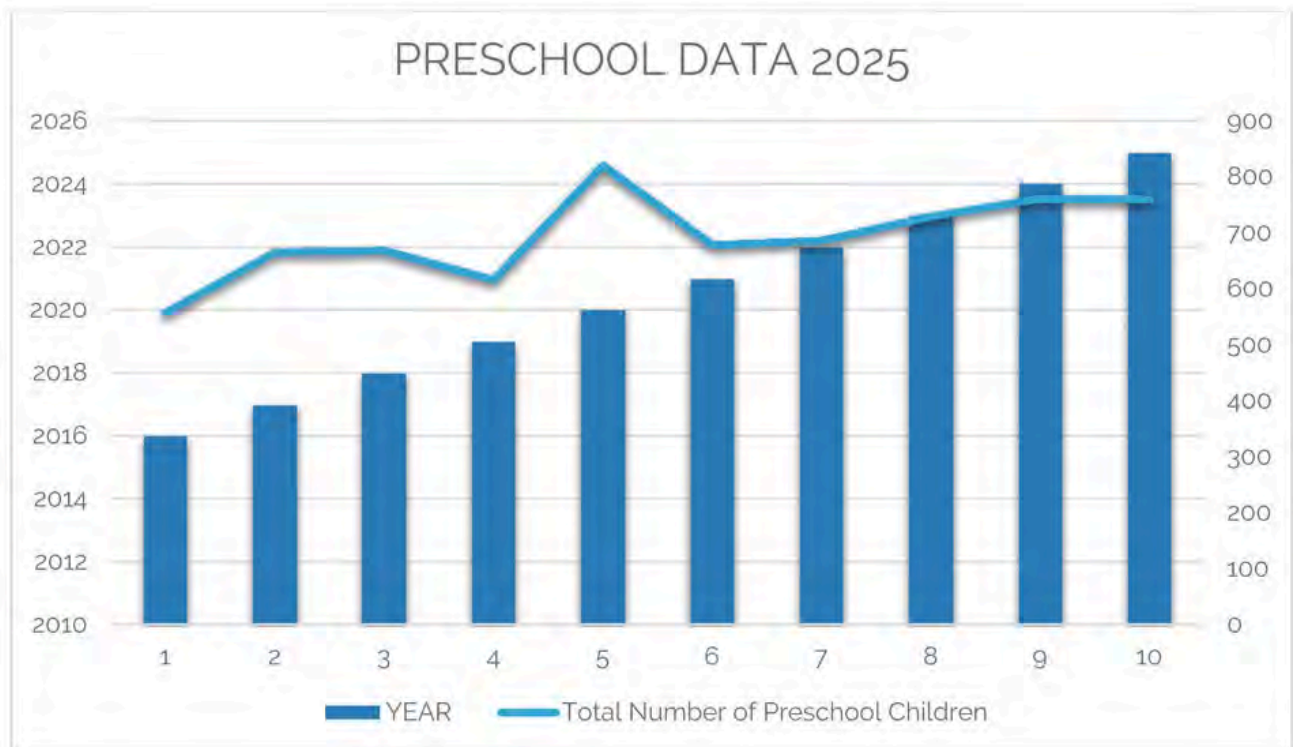


PRESCHOOL DATA

2024/2025

Preschool Children's education supported in past 10 years.

YEAR	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Number of Preschool Children	558	666	669	617	821	679	687	730	762	760



PRESCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

2024/2025

In 2023 Feeding Programmes were launched across our poorest preschools following requests from Preschool teachers, DS Offices and our own local staff. Currently we have 15 preschools on our Feeding programme and over 600 students access a nutritional meal every day. Since the Feeding Programme started in July 2022 over 60,000 meals have been distributed to our students. We are very grateful to individual donors and Goldranch PLC for supporting our Feeding programmes. We are pleased that data shows that OST preschool students are not as malnourished and are indeed gaining weight. These Feeding Projects are essential for our Early Years programmes. Data from our CDP poll shows that students who are well-nourished perform better than those who are not. Examples of weight gain post-introduction of the Programme are below.

LITTLE STARS

No	Name of Children	October 2024	February 2025
01	N.KOPISH	10.2 KG	11.5 KG
02	R.JENITH	10.9 KG	12.7 KG
03	M.THARSHIKA	10.5 KG	11.7 KG
04	K.AKSHAYAN	11.5 KG	13 KG
05	R.KOPIKA	12.4 KG	13 KG

VISION

No	Name of Children	October 2024	February 2025
01	J.THUSANTH	13.5 KG	14.3 KG
02	K.NIRANJAN	14 KG	14.8 KG
03	V.SUVATHARSAN	12.9 KG	14.5 KG
04	T.THANUSMITHA	10.2 KG	11.4 KG
05	T.SAJINTHAN	10.2 KG	10.7 KG

FEEDING PROGRAMME TEACHER FEEDBACK

- Our attendance figures have increased as parents want their children to come to our preschools and access a nutritious meal every day.
- The children's health has improved, and they have more energy.
- Parents are more invested in the education of their children.
- The children's concentration and physical well-being have improved.
- The parents use the budget to source the food and make sure they provide a nutritious meal for the children.



OCEAN STARS LANKA PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

Ocean Stars Trust UK and Ocean Star Lanka are indebted to our preschool teachers who do an extraordinary job often under challenging circumstances. OST UK pays the wages of 45 staff preschool staff in Sri Lanka. The teachers receive a saree as their uniform and a work bag from Ocean Stars UK. All the children who attend our preschools also receive a uniform and a school bag.

Our teachers value the support they get from us and most of them have been working with us for several years. They value the regular visits from our staff on the ground. They value the teacher training that we offer them. These events give them the opportunity to network with other teachers and exchange good practice. The teachers are very grateful for the nutrition programmes which mean that all our preschool students are able to access their early years learning free from hunger.

OCEAN STARS LANKA PRESCHOOL TEACHERS – 2025



IN RELATION TO OSL PRESCHOOLS

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

PRESCHOOL	AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME (Sri Lankan Rupees)	Average Monthly Income £	NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS
Thirukovil 1	50625	£ 115	16
Kurumanvely	37991	£ 86	25
Kirankulam	33566	£ 76	16
Chenkallady 2	30188	£ 67	24
Amapalanthurai	28817	£ 65	24
Chenkallady 1	26619	£ 60	21
Soruvamunai	25907	£ 59	15
Kanchirankudaa	24143	£ 55	21
Pattipalai	21972	£ 50	18
Thevilamunai	20941	£ 48	17
Ammankulam	20708	£ 47	12
Thirukovil 2	20705	£ 47	20
Karaveddy	19233	£ 44	15
Sri Murugan	18719	£ 43	17
Thantha	16604	£ 38	24
Naripulthottam	16695	£ 38	18
Samanathan	13538	£ 31	26
MM	13,000	£ 30	21
James	11,000	£ 25	11
Selvapuram	11,000	£ 25	42
Kilakkin Oli	10000	£ 23	17
Nagar	7,000	£ 16	14
Ilampirai	6,000	£ 14	9
Saravanapavan	11,066	£ 27	34
Swiss	10,012	£ 24	39
Vision	12,461	£ 30	13
Pooncholai	11,976	£ 29	19
Vinayagar	10,888	£ 26	18
Vivekananda	12,728	£ 31	38

GIFT CATALOGUE

Our Ocean Stars Gift Catalogue has provided essential items to our communities in Sri Lanka during 2024-2025. Examples of gifts that have been donated are boats, bicycles, stationery items, food parcels, shoes and chickens. Recipients are chosen by the local Divisional Secretariats we work with in Sri Lanka as well as our families involved in our sponsorship schemes. Everyone involved in the process in Sri Lanka would like to thank the UK donors for their generous gifts, which transforms their daily lives.



FISHING BOATS

IMPACT: Sustainable

Providing fishing boats so that families can generate an income from the sale of fish. One boat can be used by up to three families.

SEWING MACHINE LOAN SCHEME

IMPACT: Sustainable

Helping ladies to set up and develop a small business to enable them to contribute to the family income.

BUILDING WORK & WELLS

IMPACT: Sustainable

Building preschools, digging wells. Supplying toilets in the poorest rural communities.

COMPUTER CLASSES

IMPACT: Sustainable

Paying for teachers to instruct adults and children in computer skills so that they can communicate and work in the modern world.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IMPACT STORIES

My name is Puvanesarasa Thushenthini, and I had the privilege of studying at Hope House 02 in 2023. I am extremely thankful to Ocean Stars Lanka for offering such a wonderful opportunity to women in our community. Through their tailoring course, I learned many valuable sewing techniques. Before joining, I had no idea how to sew or even operate a sewing machine. Today, I am proud to say that I now run my own business, selling clothes that I design and make myself. The people in my area love the clothes I create, and because of this, I'm able to earn an income. This income helps me support my family, buy supplies for my tailoring business, and take care of my personal needs.

I am financially independent, and it feels empowering. I am truly grateful to Ocean Stars Lanka for helping me and other women gain skills that lead to a better life. I hope that other girls in my community can have the same opportunity and grow like I did.



My name is Inthiralingam Suventhirarajah, and I received a boat from Ocean Stars one year ago. I am 31 years old, and this is the first time I have owned my own boat. This means that I can earn my own income and be independent and provide for my family. The OSL fishing boat has been very helpful and has improved my standard of living. My income has increased, and I now earn about 30,000.00 per month with my new boat. Previously, I earned only 10,000.00 per month because I had to rent a boat and pay the rental fee every month. Now that I own my own boat, I am very happy and grateful for the donation of this new boat. It has transformed my life.

TRUSTEE REPORT

JENNIE GILBERT

This year was a significant year for Ocean Stars Trust, as we celebrated the charity's 20th anniversary in March. We were keen to celebrate this joyous occasion and held a fantastic event for our friends and supporters, with speeches from people with significant ties to Ocean Stars, some delicious Sri Lankan food, and a live band and party to finish. It was great to come together and recognise the achievements of Ocean Stars over the years, and to thank our loyal supporters for keeping us going for all these years. It was particularly special to have two visitors from Sri Lanka join us - one who had been sponsored by someone in the UK throughout their childhood, and one who had grown up in Grace children's home in Sri Lanka. Being able to hear the impact OST has had on their lives was truly incredible.



Last year, we decided to completely re-develop our website, led by Trustee, Denise Barnes, which we were able to launch in time for our celebration party. We have been blessed in the past by some great connections and partnerships that have found us via our website, so we felt that making our website even stronger than it was before would be beneficial to the charity. We hope that our new website has a cleaner, fresher and simpler feel to it, and will enable even more new connections in the future.

Our work on the ground continues to be driven by our Child Development Programme (CDP), which has also been developed in the last year to include additional skill assessments, and the programme itself has been expanded to more schools. We are thrilled with the positive response to our CDP and are looking to continue to strengthen and drive this moving forwards. Local council officers were particularly impressed with the programme and were keen for us to roll it out to more schools. The CDP is at the heart of what we do, enabling children access to a quality early years education, and empowering them to have brighter futures.

The impact of nutrition on attainment has also been highlighted through our CDP, hence, a focus of ours continues to be our feeding programmes, ensuring that children have access to nutritious meals to fuel their learning. We are grateful for the financial support we have received for our feeding programmes, and hope we are able to continue to offer nutritious meals to those who need them.

Recognising our reliance on local support in and around Fleet, Hampshire, we developed and launched our Ambassador programme, which we hope will enable us to reach more communities throughout the UK by having dedicated Ambassadors representing OST across the country - spreading the word of who we are and what we do, fundraising and bringing on new supporters. We hired our first Ambassador and hope that she will be the first of many!

In the run-up to celebrating 20 years of Ocean Stars, we started planning and hosting 20 fundraising events. There has been a real variety of events held, from sponsored runs to our annual quiz, to Calthorpe Park's weekly tuckshop. We are extremely grateful for all of the hard work of our fundraisers, as well as everyone who has donated to OST. Calthorpe Park students have, once again, raised an amazing amount of money for OST - the team who went on the trip to Sri Lanka in October 2024 but also the team that are preparing for their trip to Sri Lanka in October 2025. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful connection with Calthorpe Park School.

We would like to thank all of our supporters for their generosity, which makes all of our work possible.

REFLECTIONS - DAN HAYLETT

20 years and counting! Ocean Stars has celebrated a significant milestone this year of over 2 decades of investing in local communities in order to achieve our vision of every child in Sri Lanka enjoying equal opportunities through our work.

We are celebrating 20 years of working with grassroots communities, securing solid foundations for education and social empowerment. Over 11,500 children have been impacted through our preschools and over 250,000 meals have been provided as just two indicators of the impact of our work.



But beyond the numbers, Ocean Stars has and continues to transform lives through building relationships and providing locally managed resources in so many different ways. After two decades of this work, it is timely to reflect on how the governance of the charity has developed, from Dilanee's first visit back to Sri Lanka after the Tsunami to today, where hundreds of people have made the same journey in support of the ongoing work in preschools, sewing centres and classrooms.

All of this is made possible by three main strands. Firstly, the generous giving of so many that unlocks potential in young lives. I am always moved by the thought that so many of our supporters give in order to transform the expectations and lives of people they may never meet. As a charity, we rely on that generosity, and we want to thank you for trusting us to deliver on our vision and mission. Secondly, we rely on the skills and determination of our team in Ocean Stars Lanka and here in the UK, in the volunteers who support the work and in Dilanee. We could not be the organisation we are without any of these people. Lastly, but significantly, we note that the last 20 years has seen a huge development in the governance and oversight of the charity as we have grown to work across all of Sri Lanka. I'm proud to be a trustee of a charity that is committed to this growth, has clear aims and vision for the next 5 years, and is working hard to decolonialise our understanding and thinking, putting those we are there to partner with front and centre of decision making. We have something very special as all of these components work together in our Ocean Stars Trust.

REFLECTIONS - RACHEL ANGEL

I have enjoyed being on the trustee committee and enjoy having a say in the decisions which concern the future of the charity. It is wonderful to see how Ocean Stars has grown as a charity since 2005 and continues to go from strength to strength with new members joining and adding a fresh vision to the charity.

The 20th anniversary this year has been a wonderful turning point in the success of the charity and all the good work Ocean Stars has achieved and accomplished over the last two decades. Long may the wonderful work and dedication continue in the years to come, and I feel proud to belong to something so transformational.



OUR FOCUS

IN 2024/2025

TRUSTEE FOCUS AREAS 2024/2025

FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVE
Fundraising	Develop a fundraising plan to raise £10,000 from new events
Strategy	Review strategic goals
2030 Plan	Define a succession plan with options for the future.
Marketing & Communications	Launch new website in March 2025 at 20th anniversary
Ocean Stars Lanka	Grow CDP programme in line with strategic goal Onboard one new full support school
Supporter engagement	Hold anniversary event to celebrate 20 years of Ocean Stars Trust



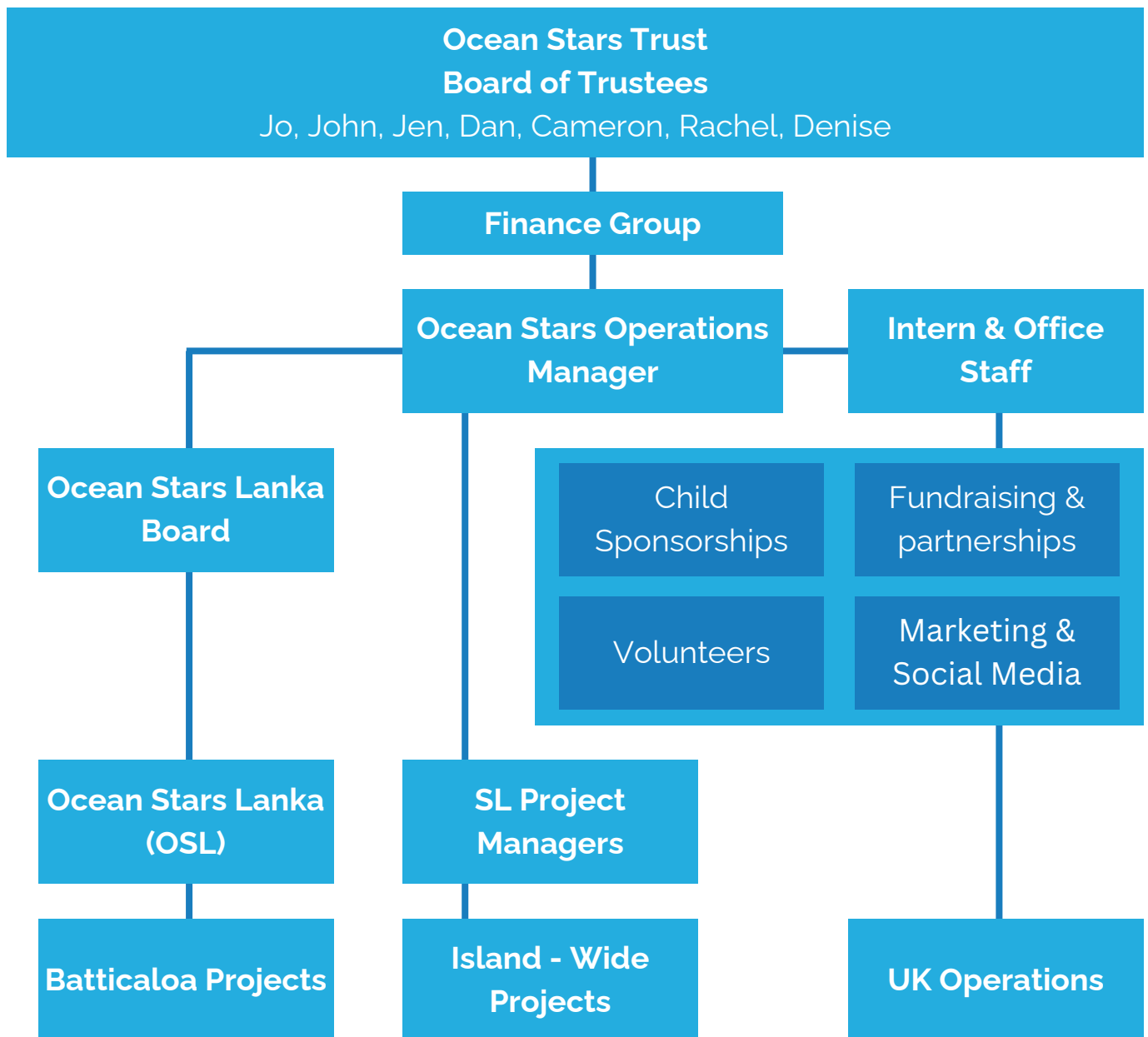
OST GOALS

BY 2030

As well as our strategic objectives the Trustees are now looking ahead and have set goals we would like to achieve by 2030.

FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVE	Internal/ External	STATUS
PRESCHOOLS	OST will run a network of 35 pre-schools across Sri Lanka (through full and soft support)	External	29
TEACHER TRAINING	OST will provide context-led, transformational teacher training to over 70 teachers	External	TBD
CHILD DEVELOPMENT	OST will engage 2000 children through the CDP tool per year, doubling the reach beyond of OST network	External	919
TEACHER SPONSORSHIP	OST will facilitate sponsorships for 100% of its pre-school teachers in full support schools	External	50%
AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME	OST will have developed a network of 5 ambassadors to promote cultural links & exchange	External	1
CHILD SPONSORSHIP	OST will facilitate 150 personalised & impactful child sponsorships	External	141

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT



OST BOARD

OCEAN STARS UK TRUSTEE BOARD AND FOUNDER MAY 2023

From left to right: Dan Haylett: Trustee, Dilanee Bunter: Founder, Jo Barton: Trustee, Jennie Gilbert: Trustee, John Bunter: Chair and Finance Group, and Cameron Williams: Trustee, Rachel Angel Trustee, Denise Barnes Trustee



OCEAN STARS LANKA TEAM APRIL 2025

From left to right: Danushika: Sponsor Manager, Chitra: Office Manager Nishanthini: Preschool Manager and Sponsorship Supervisor, Salujah: Assistant Director and Finance Manager.



OCEAN STARS LANKA COMMITTEE APRIL 2025



PRINCIPAL RISKS & UNCERTAINTIES

RISK	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS
GDPR	Registered with Information Commissioner's Office.
SAFEGUARDING	Policy in place.
TERRORISM	High risk insurance policies when organising trips.
LACK OF INCOME	Contingency, reserve funds in place.
LIABILITY CLAIMS	Liability insurance.
LOCAL TRAVEL	Travel with registered tour companies in SL.
TRAVEL TO SRI LANKA	Travel only on advice of FCO.
DAMAGE TO REPUTATION	Accounts are kept up to date, submitted to the Charities Commission and all records are transparent.
FRAUD	Double signatories for bank transactions, (SL and UK), independent counter and banker of cheques and cash.
FUNDRAISING	Registered with Fundraising Regulator

OST DATA IMPACT

2005-2025

PRESCHOOLS

OFFICE IN
SRILANKA

WOMENS
EMPOWERMENT
PROJECTS

DATA	IMPACT
11,594	Children have attended OST preschools
42	Teacher Training sessions
258,500	Meals provided through our feeding programmes
152	Women have attended a sewing class
120	Children have attended OST Computer classes
280	Children have been sponsored
140	UK Students have visited their link schools in Sri Lanka.
155	UK Volunteers have visited our OST preschools

VOLUNTEER
VISITS

SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAMMES

SAMBA
BANDS

CULTURAL LINKS
PROGRAMME

FLAGSHIP
CHILD
DEVELOPEMT
PROGRAMME

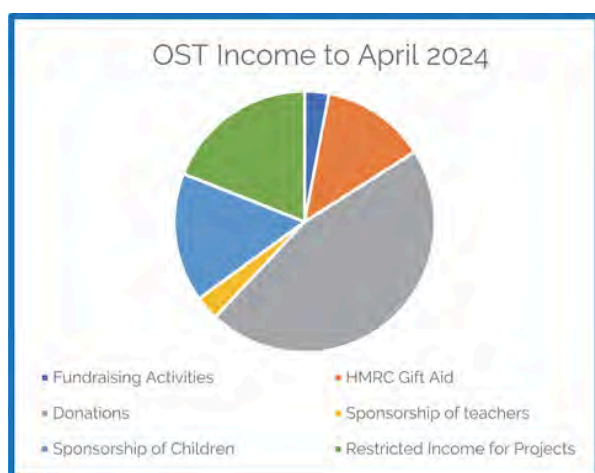
OST INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR END APRIL 2025, WITH 2024 COMPARISON

Income to 30 April 2024 and 2025 (prior to Independent Examination)

Ocean Stars Trust	2024
(Prior to Ind Ex)	
Income	£112,269.00
	%
Fundraising Activities	3
HMRC Gift Aid	13
Donations	46
Sponsorship of teachers	3
Sponsorship of Children	16
Restricted Income for Projects	19
	100

Ocean Stars Trust	2025
(Prior to Ind Ex)	
Income	£115,886.00
	%
Fundraising Activities	1.9
HMRC Gift Aid	7.1
Donations	55.8
Sponsorship of teachers	3.4
Sponsorship of Children	16.7
Restricted Income for Projects	15.1
	100



OST EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

YEAR END APRIL 2024, WITH 2023 COMPARISON

Expenditure to 30 April 2025 (prior to Independent Examination)

Ocean Stars Trust	2024
(Prior to Ind Ex)	
Expenditure	£116,805
	%
Capital Projects	55
Sponsorship of Children	19
Staff and Teacher Wages*	18
Fundraising	0.4
Accountancy	2
Publicity/Outreach	3
Bank charges	0.4
Postage, stationery, phone	1
Travel and Subsistence	1
Miscellaneous	0.2
	100

Ocean Stars Trust	2025
(Prior to Ind Ex)	
Expenditure	£122,344.00
	%
Capital Projects	51.3
Sponsorship of Children	16.6
Staff and Teacher Wages*	19.3
Fundraising	0.8
Accountancy	1.5
Publicity/Outreach	4.1
Bank charges	0.2
Postage, stationery, phone	1
Travel and Subsistence	4.9
Miscellaneous	0.3
*Includes HOP salary	100



OST ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ocean Stars would like to thank everyone who supports our work in so many ways. These include:

Our general regular donors
Our child sponsors.
Our teacher sponsors.
Our preschool sponsors
Our link preschools
Our volunteers
Our link primary schools
Calthorpe Park School
Fonthill Foundation
Goldranch
Kiri Ravi and Ghanapathy Temple
Our teddy knitters
Our volunteers who help out at fundraising events
Godfrey Wilson Limited
C.T Services Limited
Fleet Methodist Church
All those who attend our fund-raising events.
Our office helpers
Our Ocean Stars Lanka staff
Our OSL Preschool teachers
Our sponsor children and families
Our drivers for volunteer trips
Our tuc-tuc drivers
Beyond Boundaries Team in Sri Lanka

We sincerely apologise if we have not mentioned you.
We thank our extended supporters who help Ocean Stars empower children through education in Sri Lanka.

