



# Christmas 2023 Splash Flash

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy  
and peace as you trust in Him,  
so that you may overflow with hope by the  
power of the Holy Spirit"

Romans 15:13

May you have the gift of Faith,  
the blessing of Hope  
and the peace of God's Love  
at Christmas and always

Merry Christmas!



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## Splash update on strategic review December 2023

We recently invited our stakeholders and supporters to join with us, as we seek to understand God's plan for our future in light of the financial challenges we are facing.

The questions we were seeking to understand are:

- Is there still a need for Splash as an organisation?
- Do we feel it is God's will for us to continue as a charity?
- Do we need to change our focus?
- Do we need to do things differently?

Following conversations with trustees, staff and supporters, we wanted to share the feedback we received relating to these questions.

## Background

Splash for Schools and Communities was started over 20 years ago, growing out of a church outreach project. Initially set up to bring "A Splash of fun" and excitement to all our events and the places we visit, Splash has been involved in work with children, young people and their families ever since. In all that we do, we carry the Spirit of Christ—bringing a passion and energy that communicates powerfully to everyone involved. We have the privilege of acting as guides to children in their journey to learn about God and know Jesus for themselves. For some young people now entering adulthood, Splash has walked alongside through their most significant milestones in life. One young adult recently commented on our Facebook page "Glad to see you are still making an impact – you always did!" This is a remarkable vision — to consistently, year after year, bring the word of life to children right from their earliest school days and as they mature into adulthood and their own families.

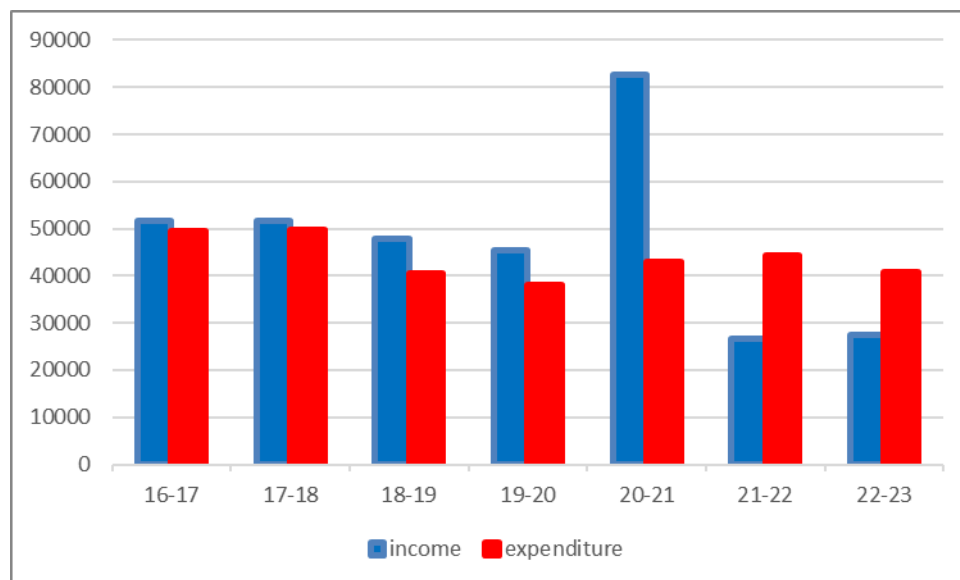
Splash employs a team of five part-time workers, supported in their work by a diverse team of volunteers drawn from the lo-

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cal community. We reach over six thousand students each half term through our assemblies program. We also work with many local families through our community outreach, supporting local schools, churches and community groups at community events and through our summer holiday club. We work with young people locally to train and equip them to volunteer in our children's work – developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Our work has been funded mainly by donations from individuals, churches and grants since the charity was set up in 2004. Over the last few years our income has reduced as the impact of Covid and financial uncertainty has affected our supporters. A significant donation in 2020-21 has allowed us to continue but there is an urgent need for an increase in the long term to fund outgoing work.



### Is there still a need for Splash as an organisation?

It has been clear over the last few weeks that everyone we have shared our thoughts with agree that there is still a place for Splash within our community.

There will always be a need for the sharing of the gospel – indeed Psalm 78 says *“We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.... so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God..”*. What we need to understand is whether Splash is still needed within that context or whether this commission is being carried out by other organisations locally or nationally.

### Do we feel it is God's will for us to continue as a charity?

What we do know is that Splash is a well regarded organisation within our local schools and for some children, Splash assemblies are one of the only accessible occasions where they hear that they are fearfully and wonderfully made beloved children of God. We know from conversations with families that they hold fast to these truths – even through the primary years and into adulthood. The legacy of what we share is lasting. A Splash Team member recalled being recognised locally by a young man. He told her that, whilst serving on active duty in the military, he found himself in intense danger and felt extremely scared. At that moment on the overseas battlefield, he recalled a particular Splash assembly from his childhood where the children were encouraged to pray to Jesus when they felt scared. He prayed and was apparently overcome with a sense of peace.

We asked schools for their feedback and want to share what they have said:

*What a loss it would be! How lovely to worship together with all the key elements of good worship in a church school. They have given me so many ideas for worship and model worship so well.*

*SPLASH assemblies are always pitched so well with real thought for what children need and the experiences that they have had.*

*It is one thing that children talk about in my class and ask when they are next in. Humour is so good for the children and to be able to love together with splash is priceless.*

*we value and appreciate your visits to our school and I know the children enjoy your assemblies. It is great for the children to hear from someone other than myself and it is good when we can make links from the themes of your assemblies to our own values*

*In terms of feedback on your services, I would hope it is very clear just how much we appreciate them. The children are visibly excited when they know it is a SPLASH assembly coming up and there is never a shortage of hands to get involved in them. From a personal perspective, I think it is really important that the children get to hear the Christian messages from a variety of people (and puppets) and having your team in is always really helpful for ensuring that the message of God is not just shared by a visiting vicar and school staff. We feel very lucky to welcome you to our school and do see you as extended members of our school team such has been your regularity and commitment to working with us.*

*I would also add that the support you have provided goes beyond just the assemblies and the transition events have also been very well received by children, staff and families. The fact that the children are already familiar with your team (either from face-to-face assemblies, or indeed through the excellent videos you provided through Covid) has been integral to the children feeling confident to share their worries and concerns around transition and to work these through with you.*

The response to prayer has been unanimous in a vision for the future where Splash continues to be a part of the schools, churches and communities across the south downs and beyond.

#### **Do we need to change our focus?**

No-one has shared with us that they feel we need to change our focus. We did have confirmation that our work in schools and churches should continue and a number of people felt that God was telling us to be bold and that there is more to do, not less!

#### **Do we need to do things differently?**

It is clear that change is needed to secure our future for the long term. Ideas of how to do this have mainly centred on sharing our vision and widening our offer.

Practical ways to do this have been suggested and we are following up on these over the coming months. We would really value support from anyone with experience in the areas of marketing, fundraising and social communications as we seek to move forward.

#### **What next?**

Our next steps are to carefully consider the information that has been shared with trustees.

The team have been touched by all the support shown over the past few weeks as we have spent time seeking God's will for our future. We are very grateful that a number of supporters have given financially, which allows us more time to consider our next steps. There is still a need for regular donations to cover our core costs in the long term.

**Wishing you a Christmas rich with God's blessings and full of joy, hope & peace.**

**With love from everyone at Splash!**