



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/09/2023** To **31/08/2024**

Charity name: **Merry-go-round under 5's**

Charity registration number: **1010031**

Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | To advance the education of children below compulsory school age by; (a) providing a safe and satisfying group play in which parents have the right to take part. (b) encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help the children (c) furthering the aim of the pre-school playgroups association |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | <p>Merry-Go-Round Under Fives provides exciting preschool education and opportunities for children under five from Baldock and the surrounding area.</p> <p>We are situated in the extensive grounds of Hartsfield School. As well as two purpose-built classrooms, we're lucky enough to have two enclosed outdoor play areas with a wide range of outdoor learning facilities and toys.</p> <p>~ We are an independent, non-profit making charity.</p> <p>~ We are Ofsted registered.</p> <p>~ We have a high ratio of staff to children- we can focus on children's individual needs and development.</p> <p>~ We believe that care and education are equally important.</p> <p>~ We provide children with routines and activities to ensure they feel safe, valued and gain experience from socialising with other children</p> |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance | Para 1.18 | The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. |

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| issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | | |
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | |
| Other | | |

Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20 | <p>Merry go round had a slight increase in numbers on roll despite the low birth rate.</p> <p><u>Numbers on roll between September 2023 and July 2024</u></p> <p><u>September 2023</u> – 30 on register (16 in Nursery and 14 in pre-school) <u>January 2024</u> – 32 on register (16 in Nursery and 16 in pre-school) <u>April 2024</u> – 33 on register (16 in Nursery and 17 in pre-school)</p> <p><u>Staffing for Sept 2023 to July 2024</u> Staffing remained the same with 8 in total – Kay, Carol, Sharon, Angie, Archana, Nikki, Abbe and Debbie</p> <p><u>Staff Training</u> Staff attend regular training courses throughout an academic year as well as in house training. Courses attended via online seminar during the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Hygiene • The Prevent duty • Child Protection for the Designated |

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| | | <p>Safeguarding Lead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Training for 7 staff • Transition Level of Need Toolkit 2024 • Speech Sound Development • Supporting Social Communication • Senco Clusters and • Half Termly Closing the Gap Workshops <p>Training is cascaded to all staff at meetings and the information used to reflect on and enhance our practice.</p> <p><u>Early Years Consultant annual visit</u></p> <p>Each year the Early Years consultant for North Herts carries out an annual visit, to check how we deliver certain aspects of the EYFS within our setting. Last year, the focus was on how we are effectively promoting maths, within our curriculum and every day activities. She rated us green, which is a GOOD outcome</p> <p>Although this year has been a little difficult financially with our numbers not quite being as high as previous years, it has nonetheless been a good year for Merry Go Round, with actual attendance high and the therefore our final financial statement for the year was not as low as first estimated.</p> <p>We have two new committee members last year, Phil and Hannah who have made a great start and assisted us within the year on various projects</p> <p>With the assistance of one of our former parents we have a new website in place.</p> |
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | <p><u>Events</u></p> <p>The children have had the opportunity to join in with many educational events over the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angie from Creative Chefs came in to do a healthy eating activity with the Nursery children. The learning focus was to promote the importance of eating a rainbow diet. • The nursery children all played a part in our Nativity Production and sang for their family members. • We held our annual Christmas Party morning which included the opportunity for all the children to visit Father Christmas and receive a gift from him. • Kevin from Russell Studios Photography came in to take photos of the children in March, which earned us £27 commission. |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the children took part in our main fundraising event – the Sponsored Easter Egg Hunt. • Our annual nursery trip on the train to Shepreth Wildlife Park, took place on a lovely day in May. • The children all had the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of a butterfly. They were able to watch our caterpillars grow into butterflies and see them fly away. • Our sports day for the nursery class was held on a lovely sunny morning in June, on Hartsfield School's running track, whilst the pre-school class practiced their physical skills with obstacle courses and ball games, in our garden area. • We had a visit from the local Police Service, who let the children all have a turn at sitting in the police car and try on the police hats. • During the Summer term and prior to transition, the nursery children were given the opportunity to explore Hartsfield's Early Years Play area twice a week, for half an hour. and • On our last day of term we held a party with games and party food for snack. All the children were presented with leavers certificates and a book and the nursery class sang some of their favourite action songs, to their parents, outside in the back garden. |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | <p><u>Fundraising for the last Academic Year</u></p> <p>Christmas Hamper raffle – £210 Hartsfield Winter Fair – £132.50 Egg Hunt and Summer Hamper Raffle – £410.20 – this generous amount enabled us to purchase a shape obstacle course to promote maths and gross motor skills, to purchase 2 new cameras, a set of number blocks and 2 dolls pushchairs</p> <p>We would also like to thank two local businesses, PG Decorating and Jim 'Tree Man' Caddy for their donations of materials and time during the summer maintenance.</p> |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | n/a |
| Other | | |

Financial Review

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| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | <p>Financially this was a much better year than expected. We had forecast a loss for the year, we actually made a surplus of nearly £8k (last year was a £41k loss)</p> <p>The main reason for the surplus is that, although child numbers were below our capacity and numbers were only slightly up on 2023, extra sessions are based on child attendance, so the funding increased as the sessions per child increased.</p> <p>This surplus has meant that our cash reserves are back up to over £87k.</p> <p>As ever we continue to watch our spending, capital items will only be acquired when budgeted or obtained via grants or specific fundraising.</p> |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | <p>Reserves are set aside to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operating shortfalls, and 2. investing in the setting |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £87k provision for any operating shortfall and investing in the setting. A substantial lease provision no longer required in the short term. |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | n/a |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | n/a |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | The principal source of funding is from Herts DC. This year it amounted to 86% of our income, up on previous years. |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | n/a |
| A description of the principal | Para 1.46 | Falling child numbers. These have fluctuated widely in the past, and fell considerably this year. We remain protected in the short term |

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| risks facing the charity | | by our large reserves. |
| Other | | |

Structure, Governance and Management

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| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | Constitution |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | Association |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | Election |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Charity name | Merry-Go-Round Under 5's |
| Other name the charity uses | |
| Registered charity number | 1010031 |
| Charity's principal address | The Mobile, Hartsfield School Ground, Clothall Road, Baldock, SG7 6PN |
| | |

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|----|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Mr Ian Haydon | | | |
| 2 | Mr Gary Carey | Treasurer | | |
| 3 | Mrs Sheila Ely | | | |
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | |

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|---------|
| | | |
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Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Signature(s) |  | |
| Full name(s) | Gary Carey | |
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Treasurer | |
| Date | 7 th November 2025 | |




| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------|------------|-------|
| Merry-Go-Round Under 5's | | 1010031 | | CC16a |
| Receipts and payments accounts | | | | |
| For the period from | 01/09/2023 | To | 31/08/2024 | |

Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| A1 Receipts | | | | | |
| Funding | 100,649 | - | - | 100,649 | 80,058 |
| Fees | 20,954 | - | - | 20,954 | 12,410 |
| Other Income | 1,879 | - | - | 1,879 | 4,972 |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 123,481 | - | - | 123,481 | 97,440 |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table B1). | | | | | |
| Bank Interest | 799 | - | - | 799 | 389 |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | 799 | - | - | 799.18 | 389.00 |
| Total receipts | 124,280 | - | - | 124,280 | 97,829 |
| A3 Payments | | | | | |
| Wages | 96,158 | - | - | 96,158 | 93,356 |
| Building and premises | 6,408 | - | - | 6,408 | 7,008 |
| Utilities | 8,127 | - | - | 8,127 | 7,005 |
| Supplies | 1,753 | - | - | 1,753 | 2,072 |
| Food & Activities | 2,684 | - | - | 2,684 | 2,105 |
| Training & Advertising | 160 | - | - | 160 | 627 |
| Insurance | 883 | - | - | 883 | 441 |
| Miscellaneous | 244 | - | - | 244 | 1,763 |
| Capital | | | | | 23,983 |
| Sub total | 116,416 | - | - | 116,416 | 138,361 |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sub total | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total payments | 116,416 | - | - | 116,416 | 138,361 |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 7,864 | - | - | 7,864 | - 40,532 |
| A5 Transfers between funds | - | - | - | - | - |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 79,367 | - | - | 79,367 | 119,899 |
| Cash funds this year end | 87,231 | - | - | 87,231 | 79,367 |

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds | Treasurers Account | 23,851 | - | - |
| | Business Instant Account | 63,237 | - | - |
| | 30 day Account | 143 | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 87,231 | - | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |
| B2 Other monetary assets | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| B3 Investment assets | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| B5 Liabilities | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees | Signature | Print Name | Date of approval | |
| |  | Gary Carey | 07-Nov-25 | |
| | | | | |



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Merry-Go-Round Under 5's

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1010031

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

7th November 2025

Name:

PETER ILIAN

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACIB

Address:

6 Rutland Green, Hilton

Huntingdon

Cambs, PE28 9NT

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.