

Charity registration number: 1025265

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

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West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Alison Hobbs
	April Davies
	Chelsey Morgan
	Jennifer Lay
	Jenny Marsh
	Joanne Cross
	Kim Davis, Treasurer
	Michelle Earl
Charity Registration Number	1025265
Principal Office	West Totton Community Centre
	Hazel Farm Road
	Totton
	Southampton
	Hampshire
	SO40 8WU
Independent Examiner	R. A. Jones & Co
	Chartered Accountants
	38 Rumbridge Street
	Totton
	Southampton
	Hampshire
	SO40 9DS

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The aims of the Pre-School are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

- (a) offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability;
- (b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local areas;
- (c) instigating and adhering to and furthering the aims and objects of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

Public benefit

Our main activity is to deliver care and education to children between the ages of 2 and 5 within the Early Years Foundation Stage and we are a fully inclusive setting. To do this we employ a manager and practitioners who provide activities to meet the needs and interests of the children attending the Pre-school. The Pre-school has a key person approach to ensure that the progress and well-being of all individual children is consistently monitored using the online learning journal Tapestry and feeds into future planning. The staff are well trained and this is updated throughout the year and are therefore able to successfully meet the needs of the children in their care.

The staff endeavour to provide a stimulating environment inside and outside and provide information to SFYC, schools and outside agencies as necessary.

The staff build positive relationships with parents and carers and they are welcomed into the Pre-school.

There are policies and procedures in place for all aspects of safeguarding, child protection, risk assessments and health and safety and the Pre-school ensures that all staff are familiar with these and are updated regularly

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Trustees' Report (continued)

Achievements and performance

The charity has continued to benefit the local community by supporting preschool children and have seen the children in their care develop increased confidence and social skills which have equipped them for later life. The charity has also provided much needed support to families of the children in their care and in particular to parents and carers of children with learning difficulties and other developmental issues.

The pre-school always bears in mind any particular issues or difficulties which the children in their care may suffer and through a system of encouragement and support they have endeavoured to help the children reach their full potential which will carry through to their future lives.

The preschool welcomes all preschool children in the local community regardless of personal background, faith, gender or personal circumstances and we believe this philosophy of openness to all enriches everyone through the integration and sharing of skills, aptitudes and experiences.

It was a busy year at West Totton Squirrels preschool and another group of children have left to continue their learning journey at school. The staff have helped them on their way by planning lots of learning activities and experiences.

Squirrels hopes to build on the achievement of the past year to develop new systems and activities and to provide continued training for its staff and volunteers.

Financial review

The main source of funds continues to be government funding through Hampshire County Council supplemented by fees charged to parents and small amounts generated through fund raising.

The income received from the council and parents increased significantly during the year whilst expenditure, apart from increases in staff costs due largely to changes in the minimum wage, remained similar to that in the previous year. As a consequence the net income of the charity improved compared to the prior year.

The charity's finances continue to be sound with more than adequate reserves to meet current and foreseeable expenditure in the medium term.

Policy on reserves

The Pre-school considers that it should have minimum reserves of £100,000 to cover increased costs or redundancies with a further amount to cover between 6 and 12 months of running costs, replacement of equipment, exceptional items and emergencies. It considers that the accumulated funds set out in the financial statements are more than adequate to cover these amounts

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees and officers

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

Aimee Louise Dibden (resigned 21 October 2024)
Alison Hobbs
April Davies (appointed 21 October 2024)
Chelsey Morgan (appointed 21 October 2024)
Jennifer Lay
Jenny Marsh (appointed 25 November 2024)
Joanne Cross (appointed 21 October 2024)
Kim Davis, Treasurer (appointed 21 October 2024)
Kristie Ullett (appointed 18 October 2023 and resigned 21 October 2024)
Liz Clayton (resigned 20 December 2024)
Michelle Earl
Sara Jenkins (appointed 18 October 2023 and resigned 21 October 2024)
Sarah Brown (resigned 18 October 2023)

Chairperson: Aimee Louise Dibden (resigned 21 October 2024)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Pre-School is governed by the Pre-School Learning Alliance Model Pre-School Constitution 2011 and is a body in membership of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees are elected annually at the AGM by the members of the association as set out in the constitution.

Any member may stand for election as a trustee as may key staff members.

There is a child protection policy in place. Disclosure and barring service checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment or trusteeship

Arrangements for setting key management personnel remuneration

All trustees, with the exception of key staff, give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits. Key staff are remunerated solely for their duties as employees of the preschool for the performance of these duties and not for duties as trustees. No other payments or expenses were paid to trustees during the year.

Organisational structure

The Pre-School is an unincorporated association.

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Trustees' Report (continued)

Major risks and management of those risks

As an ongoing process trustees assess the level of risk in relation to governance, service, employment, health and safety, child protection, financial management and information management.

The trustees keep under review the major business and operation risks that the charity faces and ensure that monitoring systems have been established so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen the risks.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Kim Davis
Trustee

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 21 February 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Kim Davis
Trustee

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance 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 West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

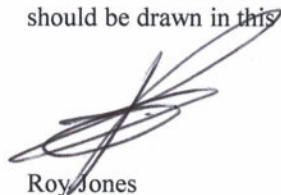
Independent examiner's statement

Since West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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



Roy Jones
Chartered Accountants
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

38 Rumbridge Street
Totton
Southampton
Hampshire
SO40 9DS

21 February 2025

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies		80	80
Charitable activities		311,162	311,162
Other trading activities		854	854
Investment income	5	4,300	4,300
Total income		316,396	316,396
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds		829	829
Charitable activities		253,130	253,130
Total expenditure		253,959	253,959
Net income		62,437	62,437
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		295,765	295,765
Total funds carried forward	19	358,202	358,202
		Unrestricted funds £	2023 £
	Note		
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies		70	70
Charitable activities		267,390	267,390
Other trading activities		3,039	3,039
Investment income	5	20	20
Total income		270,519	270,519
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds		1,238	1,238
Charitable activities		235,198	235,198
Total expenditure		236,436	236,436
Net income		34,083	34,083
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		261,682	261,682
Total funds carried forward	19	295,765	295,765

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.
The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 19.

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

(Registration number: 1025265)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	347	521
Current assets			
Debtors	15	4,796	1,479
Cash at bank and in hand	16	<u>361,333</u>	<u>298,372</u>
		366,129	299,851
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(8,274)</u>	<u>(4,607)</u>
Net current assets		<u>357,855</u>	<u>295,244</u>
Net assets		<u>358,202</u>	<u>295,765</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>358,202</u>	<u>295,765</u>
Total funds	19	<u>358,202</u>	<u>295,765</u>

The financial statements on pages 8 to 17 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 21 February 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Kim Davis
Trustee

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £200 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Equipment	25% straight line basis

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;		
Donations from individuals	80	80
Total for 2024	80	80
Total for 2023	70	70

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Local authority grants	250,633	250,633
Fees received	54,693	54,693
Employers allowance and other income	5,836	5,836
Total for 2024	311,162	311,162
Total for 2023	267,390	267,390

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Events income;		
Other events income	854	854
Total for 2024	854	854
Total for 2023	3,039	3,039

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	4,300	4,300
Total for 2024	4,300	4,300
Total for 2023	20	20

6 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Costs of goods sold	829	829
Total for 2024	829	829
Total for 2023	1,238	1,238

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Governance costs	253,130	253,130
Total for 2024	253,130	253,130
Total for 2023	235,198	235,198

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	204,718	204,718
Social security costs	9,074	9,074
Pension costs	3,257	3,257
Other staff costs	1,416	1,416
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	1,200	1,200
Other fees paid to examiners	1,200	1,200
Depreciation, amortisation and other similar costs	174	174
Other governance costs	32,091	32,091
Total for 2024	253,130	253,130
Total for 2023	235,198	235,198

9 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net incoming resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of fixed assets	174	174

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Liz Clayton

Liz Clayton received remuneration of £13,451 (2023: £12,795) during the year.

The remuneration was paid to the trustee in their capacity as a member of the school staff.

Alison Hobbs

Alison Hobbs received remuneration of £25,455 (2023: £23,212) during the year.

The remuneration was paid to the trustee in their capacity as a member of the school staff

The trustee was auto-enrolled into the school's pension scheme. The Pre-school's contribution was £764 (2023 - £696).

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	204,718	190,299
Social security costs	9,074	7,926
Pension costs	3,257	3,402
Other staff costs	1,416	711
	<u>218,465</u>	<u>202,338</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Number of employees including trustees	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>

8 (2023 - 10) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £3,257 (2023 - £3,402).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Examination of the financial statements	1,200	1,200
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	1,200	1,200

13 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2023	695	695
At 31 August 2024	695	695
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2023	174	174
Charge for the year	174	174
At 31 August 2024	348	348
Net book value		
At 31 August 2024	347	347
At 31 August 2023	521	521

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	75	-
Prepayments	387	1,463
Accrued income	4,334	16
	4,796	1,479

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	261,333	298,372
Short-term deposits	100,000	-
	<u>361,333</u>	<u>298,372</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	2,236	-
Other taxation and social security	877	2,143
Other creditors	-	1
Accruals	5,161	2,463
	<u>8,274</u>	<u>4,607</u>

18 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £3,257 (2023 - £3,402).

19 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>295,765</u>	<u>316,396</u>	<u>(253,959)</u>	<u>358,202</u>
	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>261,682</u>	<u>270,519</u>	<u>(236,436)</u>	<u>295,765</u>

West Totton Squirrels Pre-School Learning Alliance

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 August 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	347	347
Current assets	366,129	366,129
Current liabilities	(8,274)	(8,274)
Total net assets	<u>358,202</u>	<u>358,202</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 August 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	521	521
Current assets	299,851	299,851
Current liabilities	(4,607)	(4,607)
Total net assets	<u>295,765</u>	<u>295,765</u>

21 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 September 2023 £	Net cash movement £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>298,372</u>	<u>62,961</u>	<u>361,333</u>
Net debt	<u>298,372</u>	<u>62,961</u>	<u>361,333</u>