



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report

Period start date: 01/08/2024

Period end date: 31/07/2025

Charity name: Nacton & Bucklesham Under Fives (NBU5s)

Charity's principal address: Nacton Village Hall, The Street, Nacton, Ipswich IP10 0EU

Charity registration number: 1050924

Objectives and activities

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: 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; 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; instigating and adhering to and furthering the aims and objects of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

We offer pre-school sessions to children aged between 2 years to 5 years old. Sessions run each weekday from 08.45 -12:15 and 12.15-15.15 Monday- Friday.

The overall management and control of the Pre-school will rest with the individual members of the Pre-school's management Committee ("the Committee"). As well as being responsible for the management of the Pre-school the Committee members are also the charity trustees of the Preschool.

To further it aims the Pre-school has the following powers:

- to provide accommodation and equipment;
- to raise money to pay for the Pre-school's activities;
- to make such payments as shall be necessary;
- to fix and collect the fees payable in respect of children attending groups run by the Preschool;
- subject to adherence with all applicable legislation, to control the admission of children to the groups run by the pre-school and if appropriate, require parents or guardians to withdraw them as a member of the Preschool Learning Alliance to send an accredited representative to vote at local Branch and/or County meetings and to the national Annual General Meeting of the Preschool Learning Alliance;
- to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property of the Pre-school as security for any money borrowed subject to complying with the provisions of sections 38 and 39 of the Charities Act 1993 if it is proposed to mortgage land to hire or acquire assets of any kind;
- to buy, lease or rent any land or buildings and to maintain and equip it for the use of the Pre-school;
- to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the Preschool's property subject to complying with the provisions of sections 36 and 37 of the Charities acts 1993;
- to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure; to maintain and pay for membership of the Pre-school Learning Alliance;
- to insure the property and assets of the Pre-school against any foreseeable risk and to take out other insurance policies to protect the Pre-school as required
- to provide indemnity insurance to cover the liability of the Committee members which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default, breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Preschool provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Committee members knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Committee members in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Committee members in their capacity as Committee members of the Pre-school;
- to employ such paid and unpaid staff, agents and advisors as maybe required from time to time;
- to do any other lawful things which are necessary or desirable to enable the Pre-school to achieve its aims.

Manager's Report

Introduction

I joined the setting in August 2024 and was instantly welcomed as part of the team. At that time, the organisation was undergoing a period of significant change, including the appointment of a new committee. This naturally created some uncertainty about the year ahead, especially with an Ofsted inspection expected. Despite this, the team quickly formed strong working relationships, and we began to operate confidently and cohesively.

Team Development and Start of the Academic Year

From the outset, we worked hard to build on our strengths as a team and to continuously develop our practice. We adapted and redesigned our environment to best meet the needs of the children on roll. September saw an amazing number of children join us, placing the setting in a strong and positive position for the year ahead. By the summer term, we had an incredible 32 children on roll and five fantastic staff members. This growth provided a strong financial foundation, which was especially important as we prepared to say goodbye to 18 children who were ready to begin their school journey at the end of July.

Supporting Transitions and Fundraising

To support this large number of children leaving, we benefited from several successful fundraising events. These included popular raffles and our Chairperson's impressive completion of the Orwell Walk. These efforts helped us continue providing high-quality resources and enriching opportunities for the children. The year 2024–2025 was an incredible one for our setting—a true reflection of the dedication and teamwork shown both day-to-day and behind the scenes. I feel honoured to be part of this setting and to witness its continued growth and success.

Ofsted Inspection

In January we received notification that Ofsted would be visiting. Although the team had not been working together long, our shared commitment to providing a safe, secure, and nurturing early years environment meant we were ready. Ofsted recognised the passion within the team and praised our strong connections with the children, as well as our reflective practice and ability to identify areas for improvement. We were delighted to receive a glowing report with Good in all areas, which was a testament to everyone's hard work.

Updates: August 2025 – January 2026

Although outside the financial year, it is important to highlight several key achievements from August 2025 onwards.

Garden Transformation

In August, a fantastic group of volunteers came together to transform our garden space. This project was led and made possible by our Chairperson, and I would like to thank him sincerely for his dedication and hard work. The improved area is now more accessible, welcoming, and full of new learning opportunities. A huge thank-you also goes to the incredible volunteers—parents, grandparents, and committee members—who gave their time and effort to make this possible.

Autumn Term and Enrolment

We began the autumn term quietly, which unfortunately meant staff hours had to be reduced to ensure financial stability. However, I am pleased to report that we have since received an exceptional number of enquiries. By April 2026, we are projected to have 30 children on roll, placing us in a much stronger position once again.

Plans Moving Forward

Looking ahead, we have several exciting projects planned:

- Enhancing the Playroom: We aim to update and refresh our furnishings to make even better use of the space.
- Creating a Sensory Space: We plan to introduce a dedicated sensory/quiet area within the playroom, offering children a calm space for reflection and relaxation.
- Transforming the Growing Patch: We hope to redevelop our outdoor growing area into a more sustainable, year-round learning space. We will be seeking volunteers to help us bring this project to life.

Conclusion

The past year has been one of transformation, teamwork, and tremendous achievement. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together and excited for the direction the setting is moving in. I look forward to another amazing year ahead with the NBU5 team.

Chairman's Report

I joined the committee in July 2024 during a period of significant instability, with all trustee officers and the manager departing, multiple staff resignations, and finances still recovering post-Covid. There was a real risk of closure.

A new trustee officer team was formed, including Marie Ford (Treasurer), Dana Harris (Secretary), and myself.

The Autumn Term focused on stabilisation and continuity, as a completely new leadership team worked to understand operations and keep the preschool running smoothly.

In January, Ofsted inspected and rated the preschool Good, highlighting the warm, nurturing environment. Clear improvement actions were identified and are being progressed.

By the Summer Term, the impact of the team's work was clear. Jenny, Lisa, and the staff have built a supportive, collaborative culture reflected in the children's happiness and engagement.

As a parent of three children who have attended, including Ivy who started last term, I've seen first-hand how special the preschool is and how much the children thrive here.

At a time when many settings feel increasingly impersonal, NBU5 remains a caring, community-focused preschool that truly puts children first.

Child numbers in 2024/25 were exceptionally strong, with many sessions full. This added pressure, often requiring Jenny and Lisa to work in ratio while managing administration, which they handled with great professionalism.

The summer garden makeover has made a huge difference, particularly the new artificial grass and the playhouse. Thank you to everyone who helped. I hope we can now focus on improving the interior and making better use of the playhouse, alongside plans Jenny and Lisa are developing.

Jenny and Lisa have been instrumental in turning the preschool around, and we are incredibly grateful for their leadership.

My sincere thanks to Jenny, Lisa, the staff team, and fellow trustees for their commitment over the past 18 months. I'm proud to be part of the preschool and excited for its future.

We are seeking additional trustees to strengthen governance. We are particularly looking for a Treasurer, as I am covering this role temporarily.

Financial Review

2024/25 was a strong financial year, driven by high occupancy, especially in Spring and Summer. Funded Hours income rose to £93k (+£24k YoY), with higher SEN grants and additional fees. Total income was £126k (vs £98k last year).

Fundraising and donations totalled £9,081, including ~£5k from the Three Peaks Challenge, £1k from the Rotary Club, and the remainder from seasonal events. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Staff salaries remained the main cost at £73,660. Costs were carefully managed while still providing a modest inflationary pay rise in April 2025, with a similar increase expected this year.

Other costs increased with inflation. Some expenses (e.g. Village Hall hire) appear lower due to payment timing, not reduced rates.

Year-end surplus was £26,282, increasing reserves above the £20k target. Excluding fundraising, the underlying operating surplus was £17,201.

Future years may not be as strong. Lower Autumn term numbers have already led to a short-term operating loss, with Spring expected to break even. This highlights the importance of maintaining reserves.

Total cash in hand and at bank at year end was £46,642. This reflects an unusually strong year of occupancy and fundraising. The trustees' minimum reserves target remains £20,000, but the higher year-end balance provides short-term protection against lower Autumn occupancy, rising staffing costs, and planned investment in the preschool environment.

The accounts have been prepared and will be submitted to the Charity Commission by the required deadline.

Thanks to Marie Ford for her work as Treasurer. With Xero and streamlined processes, the role is now much lighter than in previous years.

Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Membership
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	Election via the committee
Have any trustees received remuneration, payments or benefits from the charity?	<p>The charity's constitution permits a paid employee to serve as a Committee member/trustee where certain conditions are met. Jennifer Cribb and Lisa Thomasson are employed by the charity as Manager and Deputy Manager respectively and were appointed as trustees in March 2025 during a period of governance instability. Their employment is covered by written agreements, their remuneration relates only to their staff duties and not to their trustee roles, and the trustees consider the remuneration to be reasonable and in line with comparable staff roles. They form a minority of the Committee and do not attend or vote on any matters relating to their employment, pay, performance or other conflicts of interest.</p> <p>The trustees have continued to actively recruit additional independent trustees. A parent has expressed willingness to become Treasurer, and two local residents have also agreed in principle to join the committee. They are currently completing DBS checks and Ofsted suitability processes, with the aim of appointment before the end of term. Once sufficient trustees are in place, Jennifer Cribb and Lisa Thomasson are expected to step down as trustees while continuing in their employed roles.</p>

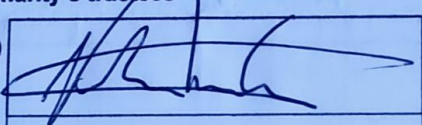
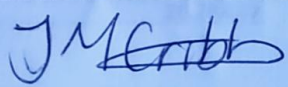
Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Date of appointment	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nicholas Gray	Chair	2 October 2024	Committee
2	Marie Ford	Treasurer	16 July 2024	Committee
3	Dana Harris	Secretary	4 March 2025	Committee
4	Jennifer Cribb		11 March 2025	Committee
5	Lisa Thomasson		11 March 2025	Committee
6	Helen Mickelsen		11 July 2019	Committee
7				
8				
9				

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)	Nicholas Gray	Jennifer Cribb
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair of Trustees	Trustee

Date

21/05/26

Statement of Financial Activities

Nacton & Bucklesham Under 5's

For the year ended 31 July 2025

Account	2025
Income	
Donations / Grants	1,915.84
Funded Hours Income	92,610.72
Fundraising	7,165.57
IdACi	584.80
Interest Income	170.57
Pre-School Invoice Fees	19,679.45
Pre-School Uniform	48.00
Pupil Premium	683.68
Sen Higher Needs	2,685.29
Total	125,543.92
Total Income	125,543.92
Expenditure	
Employers National Insurance	5,169.29
General Expenses	2,682.58
Pensions Costs	3,755.02
Printing & Stationery	330.35
Salaries	73,660.18
Snacks	1,192.92
Staff Training & Staff Renewals	372.31
Subscriptions	1,800.92
Telephone & Internet	973.86
Village Hall Hire	9,324.00
Total Expenditure	99,261.43
Net Income	26,282.49

Balance Sheet

Nacton & Bucklesham Under 5's
As at 31 July 2025

Account	31 Jul 2025
Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	
Computer Equipment	800.00
Indoor furniture & equipment	300.00
Sheds & Outbuildings	1,000.00
Outdoor equipment	200.00
Other	200.00
Total Tangible Assets	2,500.00
Total Fixed Assets	2,500.00
Current Assets	
Cash at bank and in hand	
Bank Reserve Account	20,090.47
Bank Fundraising & Donations Account	3,320.63
Bank Current Account	25,142.28
Petty Cash	88.72
Total Cash at bank and in hand	48,642.10
Accounts Receivable	864.75
Total Current Assets	49,506.85
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	
Barclay Card - Credit Card	734.16
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	734.16
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	48,772.69
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	51,272.69
Net Assets	51,272.69

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report			
Report to the trustees/ members of	Nacton & Bucklesham Under 5's		
On accounts for the year ended	31st July 2025	Charity no (if any)	1050924
Set out on pages			

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2025.
As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

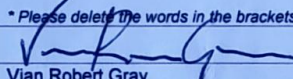
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable 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.

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

Signed:		Date:	22 MAY 26
Name:	Vian Robert Gray		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):			
Address:	THE DOGHOUSE BUCKLESHAM ROAD FOXALL IPSWICH, IP10 0AA		

Section B Disclosure	
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.	None