

LITTLE STARS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 1070709

Details

Other names	THE LITTLE STARS CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP, LITTLE STARS CHRISTIAN PLAYGROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1998-07-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Little Stars Christian Pre School Chandos Street Leamington Spa CV32 4RN
Phone	01926 477597
Email	littlestars.preschool@hotmail.com
Website	www.littlestarspreschool.org

Activities

Objects: TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION (INCLUDING SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT) OF CHILDREN PRIMARILY UNDER STATUTORY SCHOOL AGE IN A PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATED WITH LEAMINGTON SPA BAPTIST CHURCH (LSBC) TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR RECREATION FOR SUCH CHILDREN IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND TO PROVIDE FOR ANY CHILD WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BY REASON OF THE CHILD'S RELIGIOUS PERSUASION, RACIAL ORIGIN, CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUND, A SAFE AND SATISFYING PRE-SCHOOL IN A NURTURING LOVING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

Activities: Little Stars Christian Preschool is based in the town centre of Leamington Spa, serving the local community by supporting young children and their carers, as they learn through play. At Little Stars children have room to "grow" - they are loved and cared for here. This can only be achieved through working in partnership with their parents/carers.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Warwickshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£129,539	£134,503	-	-
2023-08-31	£118,220	£133,149	-	-
2022-08-31	£116,850	£108,009	-	-
2021-08-31	£83,116	£88,955	-	-
2020-08-31	£93,536	£98,977	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ian Michael Doncaster	Chair	2021-02-17
Amanda Kilgour		2016-11-01
Komborerai Blessing Simango		2013-12-02
Sara Diane Rouse		2016-06-22

Accounts



Little Stars Christian Preschool is a volunteer-led charity governed by a constitution, with the primary objective of providing high-quality early years education in a Christian environment.

Overview of the Year

2023/24 was a year of rebuilding and supporting children with their development as they continue to build their confidence and independence following the Covid period. We continued to see an increasing need for family support—especially regarding children's communication skills and independence with eating and toileting.

Ofsted Inspection and Awards

In March 2024, the setting underwent an Ofsted inspection and received a rating of **“Good.”** The inspection was a positive experience for staff and leadership alike, with both the report and verbal feedback highlighting several areas of strength across the provision. We were pleased with the outcome, which affirms the team’s commitment to high-quality early years education and care.

We were also proud to achieve **“Gold”** status in the Warwickshire Inclusion Award (WInCKS) for the second consecutive year. This recognition reflects our ongoing dedication to creating an inclusive and nurturing environment for all children.

Board of Trustees

Throughout the academic year, our Board of Trustees remained strong with a minimum of five dedicated members overseeing governance and development.

Constitution and Policies

Our policies and procedures remain fully up to date, meeting all Ofsted and Early Years Alliance standards. We are committed to continuous improvement, regularly evaluating our practices to ensure a safe, supportive environment for children and staff alike. COVID-related risk assessments were revised in line with the latest guidance from the government and regulatory bodies.

Aligned with our Business Plan, we enhanced our visibility by actively sharing updates on platforms such as Facebook.

Finance and Fundraising

Our core funding continues to come from Warwickshire County Council and parental contributions. While enrolment numbers improved, we are still working toward pre-pandemic levels. Many families opt for funded hours only, which affects our income. We are deeply thankful to Leamington Spa Baptist Church for subsidising our premises costs.

Our fundraising efforts saw a welcome resurgence this year, with events like wreath-making returning. We raised a net total of ****£2,539****, which will go toward enhancing the children's outdoor learning space.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our wider community—philanthropic donations totalled ****£6,765**** this year. Thank you to all who contributed.

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy ensures we maintain contingency funds to cover three months of essential expenditure (currently £23,000). These reserves help us:

- Bridge funding delays
- Cover unforeseen staff training needs
- Supplement underfunded operational costs
- Respond to fluctuating enrolment

Financial challenges continued this year due to rising wages and inflation not matched by funding increases.

Staffing

Our staffing has remained stable overall, with three staff members allocated per room, complemented by regular support from bank staff, weekly administrative assistance, and the valued contribution of a dedicated volunteer. The Preschool's leadership team—comprising the Manager, Deputy Manager, and Room Leader—continues to demonstrate resilience through strong planning and collaborative working practices. Weekly support from a trained teacher has remained a significant benefit, particularly in enhancing children's learning with a focus on specific letters and sounds.

At the end of the year, we bid a fond farewell to one of our Level 6 practitioners, who has embarked on an exciting new chapter by retraining at university to pursue a teaching qualification. We are delighted that she will continue to support the Preschool as part of our bank staff, availability permitting.

Development of Provision

We continue to welcome families from diverse faiths, cultures, and languages.

In response to the increasing demand for places for two-year-old children, an additional class was created for rising three-year-olds. The Sparkles Class was launched in January 2024, accommodating seven children and led by one staff member in a partitioned section of the larger classroom. This initiative was implemented smoothly and proved highly effective in meeting the children's needs.

Children on Roll

Room Summaries

- **Sunshine Room (Ages 2–3):**
The year began with low numbers but concluded with full capacity at 20 children. A significant proportion of the cohort had English as an additional language and limited prior social experiences. Notably, their development in language, confidence, and socialisation throughout the year was substantial.
- **Sparkles Class (Age 3):**
This small, well-structured group of seven children became firmly established over the course of the year. Continuity of staffing and a focused environment supported their ongoing progress effectively.
- **Rainbow Room:**
The setting served 15 children by year-end. The cohort included eight children with English as an additional language, two sets of twins (including one identical pair), and several requiring focused support for social skills, independence, and communication. Clear developmental progress was observed across the group by the close of the year.

Additional Needs and Support

Among the children, one was identified as having complex safeguarding, social, and special educational needs (SEN), while two others presented with significant SEN. Additionally, a number of children experienced delays in speech and language. To help meet these needs, a bank staff member was deployed to deliver one-to-one support, funded in part through a targeted inclusion grant.

We are grateful to the church for allowing daily outdoor play for most of the week, which has been vital for children lacking access to outdoor space at home. COVID Recovery Grants, fundraising, and donations supported the creation of a literacy-rich learning shed and a permanent sandpit.

Family Support and Financial Impact

We continued to provide families with comprehensive support across a range of areas, including parenting skills, feeding, toileting, and debt management. We regularly signposted families to external professionals and courses, and we arranged the distribution of food parcels and other essential supplies when required.

Ongoing financial challenges persist, primarily due to the continued preference among families for funded-only hours—a trend which is likely influenced by the rising cost of living and evolving work patterns. Additionally, many families faced employment instability, with several on short-term contracts at local employers. This resulted in sudden withdrawals when contracts were not renewed, impacting both continuity for the children and our financial planning.

Looking Ahead

Little Stars Christian Preschool Report for the 2023/24 Period
Charity Number: 1070709

Our priorities for the coming year include:

- Carefully balancing budgets with staffing needs
- Increasing enrolment through outreach, social media, and community engagement
- Strengthening communication with families and encouraging fundraising participation
- Supporting our dedicated staff team and prioritising wellbeing amid increasing SEN and behavioural demands
- Providing ongoing training and building confidence in curriculum delivery

Staff Training and Development

All staff successfully completed mandatory training requirements, including safeguarding, first aid, and other core competencies. In addition, in-house training sessions throughout the year focused on key areas such as safeguarding procedures, curriculum development, autism awareness, and behaviour management strategies.

Planning across the setting remains firmly child-centred, with practitioners using small-group learning to target individual developmental needs and support meaningful progress.

Community Engagement

We actively embraced every opportunity to attend church and share our singing with the congregation. As part of our commitment to community engagement, we visited a local care home to sing, welcomed visits from police officers who brought along their patrol car, and explored nearby shops and the local garage—enriching the children’s understanding of community outreach. Collaborations with Tiny Stars and the Thursday Group encouraged meaningful intergenerational play and connection. We continue to play an active role in the Summer Stay and Play organisational team, led by the church. This initiative offers children and parents a free space to come together during the summer holidays, engaging in planned activities and building friendships.

With immense gratitude to Leamington Spa Baptist Church, our families, staff, trustees, and friends for your unwavering support this year.

Warm regards,

The Trustees

Little Stars Christian Preschool

**Littlestars Christian Preschool Income and
Expenditure Statement for the Period
1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024
Charity Number: 107070**

2022-23		2023-24
£000		£000
	Receipts	
96,317	Grants Warwickshire CC	103,283
17,017	Fees	14,454
2,987	Fundraising	3,011
362	Donations	6,765
1,536	Other	2,026
118,220		129,539
		-
	Expenses	
117,244	Salaries	118,325
2,668	Administration	1,690
691	Cleaning	353
822	Insurance	1,003
4,157	Playgroups Materials & Equipment	2,418
1,052	Printing, postage Postage & Stationery	1,046
3,900	Contribution to Church	4,230
1,383	Training & Development	481
1,231	Other Costs	4,957
133,149		134,503
-	14,929 Net Deficit	-
45,535	Balance b/f	30,606
30,606	Balance c/f	25,642

Signed by:
Board of Trustees of Little Stars Christian
Preschool



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

LITTLE STARS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

On accounts for the year
ended

AUGUST 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1070709

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

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 31/08/2024.

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 (~~other than~~
~~that disclosed below~~*) 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:

A J Varney

Date:

25/06/25

Name:

ADAM VARNEX

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

AAT LEVEL 4

Address:

7 BROOKSIDE

WAY, BLOXHAM, OXON, OX15 4HY

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

Accounts

Little Stars Christian Preschool is volunteer led Charity, governed by a constitution, whose main objective is to provide early years education of the highest quality in a Christian environment.

2022/23 This is the year when we felt life was more back to normal with minimal covid procedures following the pandemic. Although there is definitely a need for more family support – especially around some areas such as children’s communication and their independence with eating and toileting.

Board of Trustees

We had a minimum of five board of trustees throughout the 2022/23 academic year.

Constitution and Policies

All our Policies and Procedures are up to date, ensuring compliance with the Ofsted and Early Learning Years Alliance Guidelines. We believe in continuous development and continue to evaluate and update our policies and procedures to make Little Stars a better and safe place for both children and employees. We have updated our general infection (COVID 19) document and risk assessment to ensure that it was in line with government and other regulatory bodies’ guidelines.

Inline with our Business Plan, we continued improving our visibility by publicising our preschool and posting updates regularly on the different social media platforms like Facebook.

Finance and Fundraising

The primary source of our income continues to be the Early Years Funding from Warwickshire County Council and the fees charged to parents and carers.

Our numbers improved in 2022/23 but we are still building up to get to where we used to be prior to the Covid Pandemic. Lower numbers translate into lower funding from Grant Income and or Fees Income which continues to have a negative impact on our finances. Many families only do the funded hours and do not pay for extra sessions which has a negative impact on our total income. We are thankful to Leamington Spa Baptist Church who continue to support us by subsidising our premises costs.

Our fundraising activities were much better this year as we reintroduced some of the pre Covid fundraising activities like wreath making. The total net amount we raised through fundraising activities was £2,580. We will use the funds to the children’s outdoor learning and playing area.

We are grateful for the generosity and continued support from all our parents and staff who helped us raise these funds.

Our friends and supporters made philanthropic donations of £362 during this academic year. We are ever grateful to for their generosity and continued support.

Reserves policy

Address: Leamington Spa Baptist Church, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa CV32 4RN

Trustees for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023: Ian Doncaster, Amanda Kilgour, Sara Rouse, Blessing Simango and Karen Barge

Our Reserves Policy requires that we hold an estimated contingency of funds for expenditure for a period of 3months (currently amounting to £23,000). These will be used for the following purposes:

- Payment of staff salaries and essential running costs for a period of three months, to be able to meet expenditure obligations before the Grant Money from the Council is received and or remittance of funds is delayed.
- To meet unexpected staff training requirements that is not funded
- To provide funds in instances when the Early Years Funding Money is not adequate to cover operational expenditure
- To have adequate funds in periods when there is a reduction in the number of children on the register

This policy is reviewed annually to reflect the needs of the Preschool and adjustments made for inflation. Our setting is facing the same financial challenges that organisations in the Early Learning Sector are currently experiencing. This has been driven by an increase in the minimum wage and the continued increase in other costs due to high inflation which is not supported by a corresponding increase in funding.

Staffing

During the year, we promoted one of our Level six practitioners with SEN and Emotional Health skills to the Deputy Manager post.

We added a member of staff to our team in the year. She brought social work and teaching assistant experience of working with bilingual children which has had a positive impact on the service we provide to the children.

One of our practitioners, who joined us as bank staff in the prior year and supported us with SEN children started her apprenticeship with us.

The rest of the team remained stable with three staff to a room, with bank staff and the manager providing cover when needed. We also have weekly administrative support. We are thankful to our volunteer who helped us throughout the year.

In March we said goodbye to our longest serving practitioner. Former Little Stars staff joined us to celebrate her time and contribution to Stars and give her a befitting send off.

Children on Roll

Our setting continues to attract children from many faiths, cultures and languages.

The Sunshine room was remarkably busy during the year and was filled with many two year olds to compensate for the low numbers in the Rainbows room.

The room started off noticeably quiet but ended with 20 Sunshines.

Of the 20 Sunshines – 9 had English as a second language, many had limited experience of being with other children, or adults, playing and sharing due to moving from other countries or not having accessed Toddler groups.

The Rainbow room had slightly lower numbers, ending the year with eighteen children – fifteen of whom had English as a second language.

Once again, this year group joined us with some limited life experiences (post Pandemic) and needed lots of support to listen, pay attention, do as they are asked, share and have independence in toileting, eating and drinking. Many of the children skills in these areas had improved by the end of the year.

Three of the Rainbow children had extremely high SEN needs and one child had particularly challenging behavioural problems. We employed an additional member of staff to provide one to one support to the children and help with their development. We received a small inclusion grant to help us, but this did not cover all of the hours worked outside of that.

We are grateful to the church for allowing us to play outdoors every day except Thursdays. This has dramatically improved the children's experiences many of whom live in flats with no gardens. We used the Covid Recovery Grant and Income raised from Fundraising activities and donations to improve the outdoor area. We now have a learning shed with high quality literacy and numeracy resources and a permanent sand pit.

Many of the families were struggling to manage behaviour and boundaries issues. We supported them by providing courses, meetings and collaborating with other professionals to improve the families homelife.

Most families are now doing the funded hours only, instead of adding extra hours and paying for them, which may be the direct effect of the financial challenges being faced nationwide and the impact of advent of working from home. This has had a negative impact on our finances.

Little Stars applied for the Warwickshire Inclusion Award WInCKS for the first time this year. We were rewarded for our detailed application by being awarded a GOLD status. We are delighted with this recognition of our hard work with our SEN children.

Next Steps

Our priority is to manage the next year with careful budgeting and balancing of the staff wages against children's places.

To continue promoting Little Stars by using social media, our website and posters and word of mouth to ensure we have more children on our books.

Improving communication with families and encouraging parents to get involved in the children's learning and support with fundraising activities.

Supporting the welfare of our wonderful team of staff and providing support with the increased workload due to high SEN needs, and behaviour problems. Ensure there is an enabling environment for staff to build their confidence in the curriculum and to develop themselves.

Address: Leamington Spa Baptist Church, Chandos Street, Leamington Spa CV32 4RN

Trustees for the Period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023: Ian Doncaster, Amanda Kilgour, Sara Rouse, Blessing Simango and Karen Barge

Training and Development

Staff have continued with their development, completing all statutory training such as safeguarding and first aid.

Emphasis on in house training and staff meetings has been on safeguarding, our curriculum, autism and behaviour strategies.

Planning fully around the children's needs and next steps and using small learning groups to address those needs.

Community Engagement

We took every opportunity to go to church and have stories or have fun with egg hunts, and musical statue games and stories – or put in a display such as at Christmas or Remembrance Day.

We worked closely with the groups at church like Tiny Stars Toddler group and the Thursday church group to support some intergenerational play. We came together to celebrate the Kings Coronation by holding a party.

We continue to support the Summer Stay and Play and be part of the organisational team.

Finally, we want to thank Leamington Spa Baptist Church, Parents, Staff, Trustees and our friends for their continued support during this last year.

Trustees

Little Stars Christian Preschool

2021-2022	Receipts	2022-23
91,967.30	Grants Warwickshire CC	96,317.12
19,834.69	Fees	17,017.29
962.25	Fundraising	2,987.18
1,515.56	Donations	361.93
867.76	Other	1,536.29
<u>115,147.56</u>		<u>118,219.81</u>
		-
	Expenses	-
93,204.59	Salaries	117,243.92
4,307.97	Administration	2,668.37
547.65	Cleaning	691.14
797.97	Insurance	821.53
1,383.36	Playgroups Materials & Equipment	4,157.39
660.73	Printing, postage Postage & Stationery	1,052.45
3,900.00	Contribution to Church	3,900.00
463.00	Training & Development	1,383.40
1,094.02	Other Costs	1,231.11
<u>106,359.29</u>		<u>133,149.31</u>
8,788.27	Net Deficit	- 14,929.50
36,746.74	Balance b/f	45,535.01
<u>45,535.01</u>	Blance c/f	<u>30,605.52</u>

Little Stars Christian Preschool Receipts and Payments Statement for the Period 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023																
Receipts	Actual Autumn Term	Budget	Variance	ActualSpring Term	Budget	Variance	% age	Summer Term	Budget	Variance	% age	2022/23 Actuals	Budget	Variance	% age	
Grants Warwickshire CC	30,415.10	28,925.30	1,489.80	27,280.00	23,431.60	3,848.40	16%	38,622.02	25,300.90	13,321.12	53%	96,317.12	77,657.80	18,659.32	5%	18.7 k more than budgeted which covers the £11.6 k under budget on Fees
HMRC Job Retention Scheme Grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees	4,448.45	4,843.00	-394.55	5,992.55	9,570.00	-3,577.45	-37%	6,576.29	14,220.00	-7,643.71	-54%	17,017.29	28,633.00	-11,615.71	-4%	8% lower than budget - most children move to the Rainbows class towards the end of the year so Fees income is replaced by Grant Income
Fundraising	2,086.02	2,038.02	48.00	125.00	-	125.00	100%	776.16	-	776.16	0%	2,987.18	2,038.02	949.16	2%	
Donations	61.93	-	61.93	240.00	-	240.00	100%	60.00	-	60.00	100%	361.93	61.93	300.00	0%	
Other	635.38	-	635.38	389.62	-	389.62	-	511.29	-	511.29	100%	1,536.29	-	1,536.29	-	Milk Scheme, Trips and Refunds
Total Income	37,646.88	35,868.25	1,778.63	34,027.17	33,001.60	1,025.57	3%	46,545.76	39,520.90	7,024.86	17.78%	118,219.81	108,390.75	9,829.06	9%	Income received for the year 9% more than budgeted
Expenses																
Salaries	36,104.64	35,248.09	856.55	28,813.47	28,134.20	679.27	2%	52,325.81	46,997.00	5,328.81	11%	117,243.92	110,379.29	6,864.63	6%	6% Overspend due to use of Bank staff to support with children with very challenging needs and to cover staff sickness - One to One support funding provided for one of the staff
HMRC Job Retention Scheme Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-
Administration	1,590.84	1,500.00	90.84	423.64	1,314.00	890.36	-68%	653.89	1,800.00	-1,146.11	-64%	2,668.37	4,614.00	-1,945.63	-42%	42% underspend due to E Archer becoming a salaried member of staff in the Summer term
Cleaning	262.65	160.00	102.65	161.03	120.00	41.03	34%	267.46	200.00	67.46	34%	691.14	480.00	211.14	44%	44% overspend due to the rigorous cleaning as mitigating action to reduce the spread of viruses
Insurance	-	-	-	-	877.00	-877.00	-100%	821.53	-	821.53	100%	821.53	877.00	-55.47	-	
Playgroups Materials & Equipment	562.92	386.00	176.92	1,315.49	2,037.50	-722.01	-35%	2,278.98	960.00	1,318.98	137%	4,157.39	3,383.50	773.89	23%	23% overspend driven by the Cost for the shed which utilised some of the Covid Sustainability Grant
Printing, Postage & Stationery	318.02	192.00	126.02	162.34	154.00	8.34	5%	572.09	240.00	332.09	138%	1,052.45	586.00	466.45	80%	
Contribution to Church	1,300.00	1,300.00	-	1,300.00	1,500.00	-200.00	-13%	1,300.00	1,600.00	-300.00	-19%	3,900.00	4,400.00	-500.00	-11%	11% underspend due to the lower LSB contribution than budgeted as we eased back from a Covid disrupted year
Training & Development	556.20	230.00	326.20	653.00	580.00	73.00	13%	174.20	30.00	144.20	481%	1,383.40	840.00	543.40	65%	65% overspend to utilise the £2,930 Covid Training Grant
Other Costs	603.10	786.87	-183.77	794.95	845.00	-50.05	-6%	333.06	600.00	-266.94	-44%	1,231.11	2,231.87	-1,000.76	-45%	Food, Gifts, Trips and Milk which was reclaimed from the Milk Scheme
Total Expenditure	41,298.37	39,802.96	1,495.41	33,123.92	35,561.70	-2,437.78	-7%	58,727.02	52,427.00	6,300.02	12%	133,149.31	127,791.66	5,357.65	4%	Costs 4 % more than budgeted for the year
Net Income/ Deficit	-	3,651.49	-3,694.71	903.25	-2,560.10	3,463.35	-135%	12,181.26	-12,906.10	724.84	-6%	14,929.50	-19,400.91	4,471.41	-23%	Net deficit lower than budgeted by 23% (£4.5k)
Balance b/f	45,535.01	-	-	41,883.52	-	-	-	42,786.77	-	-	-	45,535.01	45,535.01	-	-	
Balance c/f	41,883.52	-	-	42,786.77	-	-	-	30,605.52	-	-	-	30,605.52	26,134.10	4,471.41	-	
Bank Balance at 30/09/2023												36,278.55				
Bank Balance at 31/08/2022																
2022-23 Notes to Account																
Income																
1	5% - £18.7 k more than budgeted which covers the £11.6 k under budget on Fees															
2	8% lower than budget - most children move to the Rainbows class towards the end of the year so Fees income is replaced by Grant Income															
3	Income received for the year 9% more than budgeted															
2022/23 Net Funds Raised																
Fundraising Activity - Amount Raised																
	Amazon smile donation	13.41														
	Bags2school	285.50														
	Easy Fundraising	69.92														
	Regency run	500.00														
	Sports sponsorship	135.50														
	Wreath Making	1,576.13														
	Grand Total	2,580.46														
4	Income received for the year 9% more than budgeted															
Expenditure																
5	6% Overspend due to use of Bank staff to support with children with very challenging needs and to cover staff sickness - One to One support funding provided for one of the staff															
6	42% underspend due to E Archer becoming a salaried member of staff in the Summer term															
7	44% overspend due to the rigorous cleaning as mitigating action to reduce the spread of viruses															
8	23% overspend driven by the Cost for the shed which utilised some of the Covid Sustainability Grant															
9	Food, Gifts, Trips and Milk which was reclaimed from the Milk Scheme															
10	Costs 4 % more than budgeted for the year															
11	Net deficit lower than budgeted by 23% (£4.5k)															

Description	Sum of Amount
Bags for school	80
Easy Fundraising	23.17
Wreaths	1611.11
Christmas Quiz	13
Total Result	1727.28

LITTLE STARS CASH BOOK 2013/2014

Receipts

Several	Details	Sheet Ref.
2022/23		
01/09/22	Brought forward	
	9/7/2022 WCC county fund	
	9/8/2022 Satvik Chauhan	
	9/12/2022 Camille Coleman	
	9/15/2022 Nursery Milk	
	9/20/2022 WCC county fund	
	9/22/2022 WCC county fund	
	9/28/2022 Tiny Stars	
	9/29/2022 Camille Coleman	
	9/30/2022 Victoria Pop	
	9/30/2022 Victoria Pop	
	9/23/2022 Persephone Lee	
	10/3/2022 Umesh Nesha	
	10/7/2022 Reyansh Murme	
	10/11/2022 Esme Overden	
	10/11/2022 Camille Coleman	
	10/12/2022 Nursery Milk	
	10/25/2022 WCC county fund	
	11/3/2022 Wreaths	
	11/4/2022 BAG2SCHOOL	
	11/5/2022 Wreaths	
	11/6/2022 Wreaths	
	11/6/2022 Wreaths	
	11/10/2022 Wreaths	
	11/8/2022 Wreaths	
	11/8/2022 Wreaths	
	11/8/2022 Wreaths	
	11/8/2022 Wreaths	
	11/8/2022 Wreaths	
	11/10/2022 Wreaths	
	11/11/2022 Wreaths	
	11/14/2022 Wreaths	
	11/15/2022 WCC county fund	
	11/15/2022 Persephone Lee	
	11/15/2022 Alfie Mack	
	11/15/2022 Wreaths	

11/15/2022 Wreaths
11/17/2022 WCC county fund
11/17/2022 Wreaths
11/17/2022 Wreaths
11/18/2022 Various wreaths
11/19/2022 Various wreaths
11/21/2022 Various wreaths
11/22/2022 Various wreaths
11/23/2022 Various wreaths
11/21/2022 Hugh Wiltshire
11/22/2022 Joseph Church
11/22/2022 Easy Fundraising
11/25/2022 donation
11/25/2022 Various wreaths
11/26/2022 Various wreaths
11/28/2022 Various wreaths
11/29/2022 Various wreaths
11/29/2022 **Various wreaths**
11/29/2022 Various wreaths
11/29/2022 DepositAvyukt Shukla
11/28/2022 Charlie Packer
11/30/2022 Milk scheme
11/30/2022 Aviram Goswami

12/2/2022 Victoria Pop
12/3/2022 Andriya Anil
12/5/2022 Wren Nursery Alfie Mack
12/8/2022 Standard Life refund
12/11/2022 Steph Barnard Wreath
12/12/2022 Sara Rouse overpaid exs
12/13/2022 Reyansh Murme
12/13/2022 Umesh Nesha
12/16/2022 Tiny Stars
12/16/2022 Ian Doncaster staff welfare
12/16/2022 Christmas quiz

Autumn Term Totals

1/17/2023 WCC
1/17/2023 Jessica Ovenden
1/17/2023 Charlie Packer
1/19/2023 WCC
1/19/2023 Alfie Mack
1/20/2023 Tiny stars

1/21/2023 Charities Aid Foundation (Blessing & Peter)
1/25/2023 Aviram Goswami
1/25/2023 Nicole Karakabzamolova
1/27/2023 Hugh Wiltshire
1/27/2023 Training refund
1/30/2023 Reyansh Murme
1/30/2023 Joseph Church
1/30/2023 Victoria Pop
1/31/2023 Persephone Lee

2/6/2023 WCC inclusion grant
2/14/2023 Satvik Chauhan
2/21/2023 Donation
2/22/2023 Standard life Sara refund

3/3/2023 Alfie Mack
3/6/2023 LSBC climbing frame
3/7/2023 WCC County Fund
3/7/2023 Aviram Goswami
3/8/2023 Milk scheme
3/8/2023 Persephone Lee
3/9/2023 WCC County Fund
3/10/2023 Sara Rouse climbing frame refund
3/10/2023 Andriya Anil
3/10/2023 Avyan Chatterjee
3/10/2023 Jessica Overend
3/14/2023 Charlie Packer
3/15/2023 Bags2school
3/16/2023 Hugh Wiltshire
3/24/2023 Nicole Karakabzamalova
3/24/2023 Joseph Church
3/27/2023 WCC County Fund

Spring Term Totals

4/10/2023	Leon Giralde deposit
4/21/2023	Andrew loan
4/24/2023	Amazon
4/28/2023	Andrew loan

5/2/2023	WCC County Fund
5/3/2023	Charlie Packer
5/4/2023	WCC County Fund
5/4/2023	Persephone Lee

5/4/2023	Jessica Ovenden
5/4/2023	Alfie Mack
5/9/2023	Aviram Goswami
5/12/2023	Hugh Wiltshire
5/13/2023	regency run
5/14/2023	Olivia Balogh
5/16/2023	Easy Fundraising
5/19/2023	Amazon smile donation
5/23/2023	Reyansh Murme
5/24/2023	Joseph Church

6/1/2023	Milk scheme
6/6/2023	Timothy Church
6/12/2023	Charlie Packer
6/12/2023	Mivaan Mathapati
6/14/2023	Persephone Lee
6/14/2023	Avyan Chatterjee
6/14/2023	Alfie Mack
6/15/2023	Aviram Goswami
6/16/2023	Elisa Baggesi
6/16/2023	Anna & Jerry Watts bible gift
6/17/2023	Dexter Archibald
6/19/2023	Mivaan Mathapati
6/20/2023	WCC County fund 3 year actual and inclusion grant
6/22/2023	WCC County fund 2 year actual
6/23/2023	Tiny Stars
6/26/2023	Bags2School
6/26/2023	Hugh Wiltshire
6/27/2023	Jessica Overden
6/27/2023	Joseph Church

7/7/2023	Sports sponsorship
7/7/2023	Camille Coleman
7/7/2023	Reyansh Murme
7/7/2023	Avyan Chatterjee
7/11/2023	Avyan Chatterjee
7/18/2023	WCC County fund
7/18/2023	Olivia Balogh
7/21/2023	Sports sponsorship
7/24/2023	parents donations for party food
7/27/2023	Nicole Karakabzamalova

Totals

Session Fees & Lunch £	Grants £	Job Retention Scheme Grant	Fund Raising General £	Gift Aid £
	2,400.00			
	13,400.52			
	4,160.10			
258.75				
276.00				
300.00				
46.00				
			10	
	2,930.00			
			25	
			80	
			50	
			75	
			75	
			25	
			50	
			25	
			25	
			25	
			25	
			75	
			25	
	5,741.58			
362.25				
120.75				
			150.00	

		25.00
	1,782.90	
		25.00
		25.00
		275.00
		75.00
		125.00
		225.00
		150.00
293.75		
437.50		
		23.17
		25.00
		75.00
		150.00
		25
		25
		34.85
400.00		
393.75		
362.25		
201.00		
490.20		
		25.00
143.75		
362.50		
		13.00

4,448.45	30,415.10	-	2,086.02
-----------------	------------------	----------	-----------------

	11,257.40
787.50	
487.50	
	3,922.38
230.00	

487.50
86.25
306.25

120.75
393.75
349.30
345.00

2,600.00

172.50

7,599.90

375.00

258.75

1,681.02

200.00

562.50
375.00

125.00

200.00
86.25
168.75

219.30

5,992.55	27,280.00	-	125.00	-
-----------------	------------------	---	---------------	---

21,483.28

431.25

2,416.05

310.50

656.25	
207.00	
450.00	
262.50	
	500
34.50	
	46.75
	13.41
103.50	
225.00	

34.50
562.50
11.50
379.50
114.04
253.00
525.00

40.25	
	13,292.26
	1,035.45

	80.5
287.50	
825.00	
262.50	

	58
109.25	
75.00	
243.75	
	394.98
120.75	
	77.5
51.75	

6,576.29	38,622.02	-	776.16	-
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17,017.29	96,317.12		2,987.18	-
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Details	Donations	
	General	Gift Aid
	£	£

60.00

1.25

0.68

61.93

-

50.00

100.00

40.00

50.00

- 240.00 -

5.00

50.00

5.00

- 60.00 -

361.93 -

Details

Contra

Trips

£

153.97

104.16

115.32

373.45

-

197.16

- 197.16 -

186.00

107.14

- 186.00 107.14

756.61 107.14

Details	Uniforms	Deposits	Other Funds	Petty cash Epenses	Petty Cash With held £
					30.00

9
18

4.00

25

25

73.97

30

16.96

60

31.00

50.00

180.93

37,646.88

30

22.46

47.5

92.50

- - - **192.46** - -

25

45.00

153.15

50

20

50

-	-	125.00	218.15	-	-
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		175.00	591.54	37,646.88
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[illegible]

[illegible]



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Little Stars Christian Preschool

On accounts for the year
ended

August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1070709

Set out on pages

—

(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 DD / MM / YYYY.

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").

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 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 (other than that disclosed below *) 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:

AS Varney

Date:

27/06/24

Name:

ADAM VARNEY

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

AAT Level 4

Address:

6 Barlow Close, Milcombe,
Oxfordshire, OX15 4SB.

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.

Accounts

Little Stars Christian Preschool is volunteer led Charity, governed by a constitution, whose main objective is to provide early years education of the highest quality in a Christian environment.

2021-22 brought us hope that things would finally return to normal. With families' lives having been disrupted for so many month unending, we did not know what to expect but we were happy to welcome all the children and parents in September. The year started with a lot of regulations and guidance on how to keep our setting safe from Covid. We introduced rigorous cleaning of the children's toys at the end of each day. This meant that days became longer for staff who had stay behind cleaning. In March 2022, the Department of Education lifted restrictions and recommended that we follow Government, local guidance and our own Covid risk assessments and guidance.

Board of Trustees

We had a minimum of five board of trustees throughout the 2021-22 academic year.

Constitution and Policies

All our Policies and Procedures are up to date, ensuring compliance with the Ofsted and Early Learning Years Alliance Guidelines. We believe in continuous development and continue to evaluate and update our policies and procedures to make Little Stars a better and safe place for both children and employees. We have updated our COVID-19 guidance document and risk assessment to ensure that it was in line with government and other regulatory bodies' guidelines.

Inline with our Business Plan, we continued improving our visibility by publicising our preschool and posting updates regularly on the different social media platforms like Facebook.

Finance and Fundraising

The primary source of our income continues to be the Early Years Funding from Warwickshire County Council and the fees charged to parents and carers.

Our numbers improved in 2021/22 but we are still building up to get to where we used to be prior to the Covid Pandemic. Lower numbers translate into lower funding from Grant Income and or Fees Income which continues to have a negative impact on our finances. We are thankful to Leamington Spa Baptist Church who have not increased our contribution throughout the Covid period which has helped a lot with our finances.

Our fundraising activities were mostly through non-contact activities like Easy Fundraising online shopping platform, Bags 2 School and Guess the Smarties tubes. It was good to get the opportunity once again this year to marshal at the Regency Run. The total amount we raised through fundraising activities this year £962 which will help us in replacing old playing equipment for the children.

We are grateful for the generosity and continued support from all our parents and staff who helped us raise these funds.

Our friends and supporters made philanthropic donations of £1,516 during this academic year, we are ever grateful to for their generosity and continued support even in these challenging times.

Reserves policy

Our Reserves Policy requires that we hold an estimated contingency of funds for expenditure for a period of 3months (currently amounting to £23,000). These will be used for the following purposes:

- Payment of staff salaries and essential running costs for a period of three months, to be able to meet expenditure obligations before the Grant Money from the Council is received and or remittance of funds is delayed.
- To meet unexpected staff training requirements that is not funded.
- To provide funds in instances when the Early Years Funding Money is not adequate to cover operational expenditure.
- To have adequate funds in periods when there is a reduction in the number of children on the register.

This policy is reviewed annually to reflect the needs of the Preschool and adjustments made for inflation.

Staffing

Our Deputy Manager left us in early November due to the impact of Covid in the last year on her mental wellbeing. In January, another staff member left to care for her elderly family member.

We struggled to recruit a new deputy so instead have employed an almost full time level 3 in January. We also employed a skilled SEN worker in late September to help us with our three special needs children, she will start her Early Years qualifications later this year.

The rest of the team remains stable with three staff members per room. The manager covers for days off and a regular bank staff member and volunteer help for a couple of mornings.

The financial administrator has been in preschool 1 morning a week the whole year and keeps everything in order. Our other administrator has supported the manager with various administrative tasks.

Children on Roll

The Sunshine room was a remarkably busy room this year since we had low numbers in Rainbows, we compensated by maximising the number of children in the Sunshine class many of whom were just two year olds. A higher number of children than we normally had also had to be assessed for special needs.

The room started off noticeably quiet but ended with twenty three Sunshines, four of whom moved to the Rainbow Room in March when they were developmentally able.

Of the 23 Sunshines – 15 had English as a second language and three from a very dual language background. Many had limited experience of being with other children, or adults, playing and sharing due to their living environment during lockdowns. Settling these children in was quite a challenge.

There were three children with quite challenging extra needs, which we supported without any 1:1 and financial support. One child had incredibly challenging behavioural problems.

The Rainbow room had slightly lower numbers, ending the year with eighteen children, sixteen of whom use English as a second language.

This year group's development seems to have been negatively impacted by Covid. Their living experiences provided limited opportunities to develop and their ability to listen, pay attention, do as they are asked, share and have independence in toileting, eating and drinking was extremely limited at the beginning of the year. Although this has vastly improved it has taken a lot of time to try and bridge the gap.

Three of the Rainbow children had remarkably high SEN needs, and we employed a 1:1 to help us to support their development, we received a small inclusion grant to help us, but this does not cover all of the hours they do or the work outside of that.

We all love messy play and outdoor play and are grateful to the church for allowing us to play outdoors every day except Thursdays. It has dramatically improved the children's experiences as they have been sheltered and many live in flats with no gardens.

We have had a lot of families with safeguarding problems, and families struggling to manage behaviour and boundaries issues. They have been supported with courses, meetings and collaborating with other professionals to improve their homelives.

Most families are just doing the funded hours, instead of adding extra hours and paying for them, which seems a direct effect of Covid, home working, and the effects of the challenging financial environment the country is currently facing.

We had children from many faiths, cultures and languages are represented too.

Next Steps

Our main priority next year is to monitor our finances and balance staff wages in view of the expected high increase in the minimum wage, against children's places. This will be accomplished with careful budgeting and reviewing our staffing structure.

To promote Little Stars using Facebook, our website and posters and word of mouth to increase the number of children attending.

Once again, offer an open day in early Summer to promote Little Stars to prospective parents.

Upgrade our outdoor provision – sand pit, learning shed and resources - balancing the workload for setting up (as staff need to be paid to set up and put it away) and encouraging church to let us make it more attractive for families.

Support the welfare of our wonderful team of staff, supporting the heavy workload due to high SEN needs, and behaviour problems to enable time to build confidence in curriculum and enabling environment.

Training and Development

Staff have continued with their professional development, completing all statutory training such as safeguarding and first aid.

Emphasis on in house training and staff meetings has been on safeguarding, our curriculum, and the new 2 year progress checker an assessment of children.

Planning fully around the children's needs and next steps and using small learning groups to address those needs.

Community Engagement

Families are now welcome in the setting, and it has been wonderful to show them the classrooms and share the children's learning with less restrictions.

We once again joined in with the Church Thursday group which gave everyone some lovely intergenerational play.

We have started using the main church again and have had lots of fun with egg hunts, and musical statue games and stories.

We worked closely with the Tiny Stars Toddler group team to support their reopening in September. The reduction in covid restrictions has made having sessions on Wednesdays easier again and we hope this will grow in popularity.

We supported the Easter and October "Stay and Plays" and hope there will be a summer one too.

Finally, we want to thank Leamington Spa Baptist Church, Parents, and our friends for their continued support during this last year.

Trustees

Little Stars Christian Preschool

Littlestars Christian Preschool
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Period 1 September 2021
to 31 August 2022
Charity Number : 1070709

2020-2021	Receipts	2021-22
£		£
58,659.75	Grants Warwickshire CC	91,967.30
4,253.16	HMRC Job Retention Scheme Grant	-
17,716.21	Fees	21,372.19
506.20	Fundraising	962.25
1,038.60	Donations	1,515.56
941.94	Other	1,032.71
83,115.86		116,850.01
	Expenses	
73,753.34	Salaries	92,894.00
4,253.16	HMRC Job Retention Scheme Expenditure	-
3,144.66	Administration	5,145.61
578.04	Cleaning	660.11
782.45	Insurance	797.97
1,261.12	Playgroups Materials & Equipment	1,488.47
483.39	Printing & Stationery	660.73
3,300.00	Contribution to Church	3,900.00
460.55	Training & Development	463.29
938.01	Other Costs	1,998.89
88,954.72		108,009.07
- 5,838.86	Net Deficit(-)/Surplus	8,840.94
42,812.62	Balance b/f	36,973.76
36,973.76	Balance c/f	45,814.70

Signed by: K.B Simango
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Littlestars
Christian Preschool



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

Little Stars Christian Preschool

On accounts for the year
ended

30/08/22

Charity no
(if any)

1070709

Set out on pages

(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 30/08/2022

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 (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) 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:

A.J Varny

Date:

30/08/23

Name:

ADAM VARNY

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

AAT

Address:

6 Barlow Close

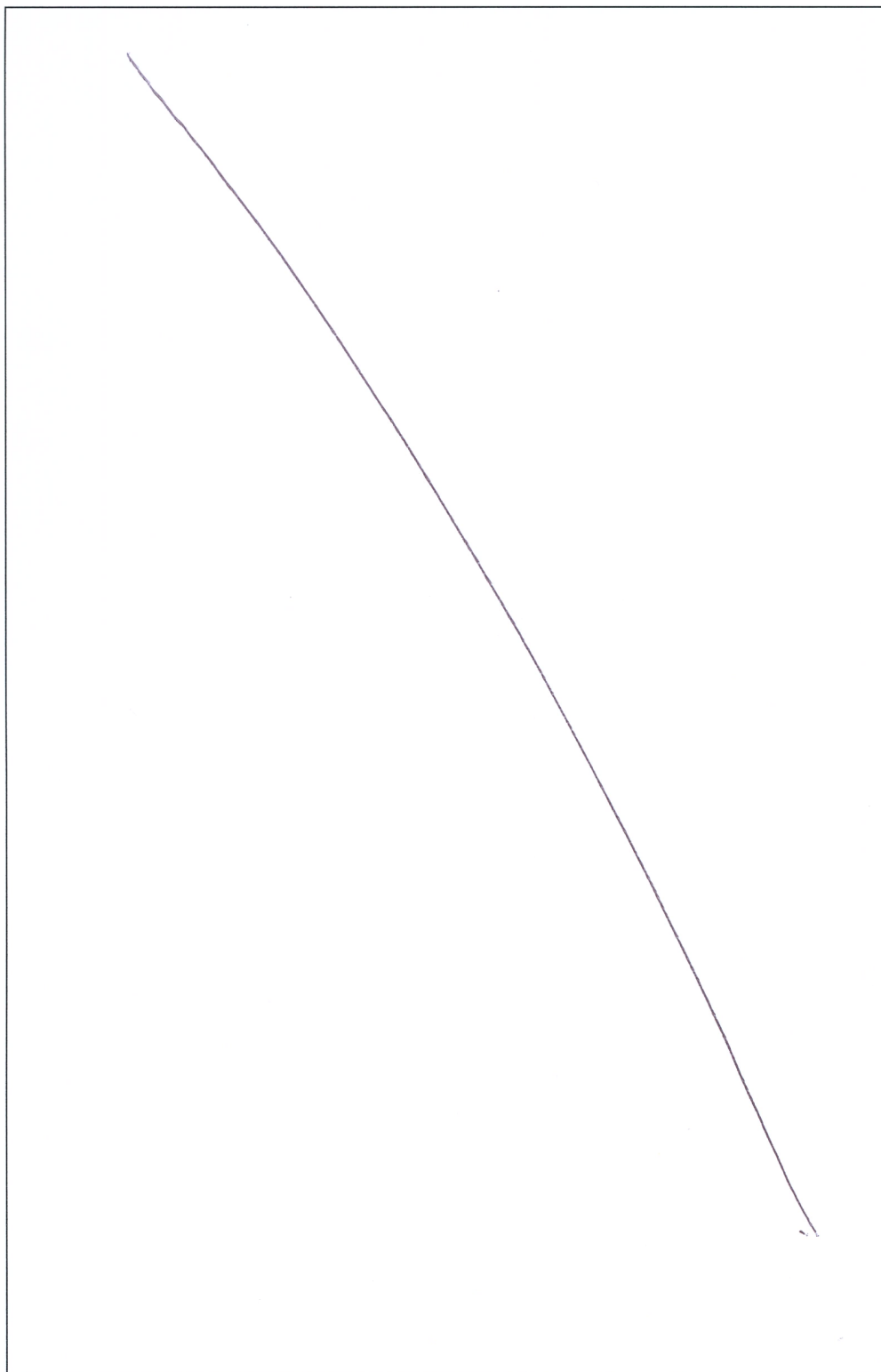
Milcombe

Oxfordshire, OX15 4SB

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.



Accounts

Little Stars Christian Preschool is volunteer led Charity, governed by a constitution, whose main objective is to provide early years education of the highest quality in a Christian environment.

2020-21 was yet another challenging year due to COVID-19, we are grateful that despite many lives being disrupted, and our setting facing many challenges when children or staff were off sick due to Covid, we were able to continue offering services to children for many days. We learnt to rely on and trust that God would give us the strength to cope each new day even though things were scary and stressful sometimes. We are grateful that He was with us the whole way through to the end of the Academic Year.

Board of Trustees

We had a minimum of five board of trustees throughout the 2020-21 academic year. Simon Archer, who was the chair for the past years resigned in February 2021 to continue serving the Lord in another role at LSBC. We are thankful for all his help on strategic planning, always availing himself to assist the management team and leading us during his tenure. As Simon was departing, we welcomed Ian Doncaster to the Board in February 2021. He joins us with a wealth of experience from running his SME.

Constitution and Policies

All our Policies and Procedures are up to date, ensuring compliance with the Ofsted and Early Learning Years Alliance Guidelines. We believe in continuous development and continue to evaluate and update our policies and procedures to make Little Stars a better and safe place for both children and employees. We developed a thorough COVID-19 guidance document and risk assessment which is regularly updated in line with government and other regulatory bodies' guidelines.

Inline with our Business Plan, we started improving our visibility by publicising our preschool and posting updates regularly on the different social media platforms like Facebook.

Finance and Fundraising

The primary source of our income continues to be the Early Years Funding from Warwickshire County Council and the fees charged to parents and carers.

Our numbers after the initial lockdown were extremely low which had a negative impact on our finances. The Council supported us in the Autumn Term by basing their grant on the number of children we had the same period in the last academic year (2019-20).

We benefited from the Job Retention Scheme from September 2020 to May 2021 when we could not fully open the setting to all children. We continued furloughing some of our staff to minimise costs as we had a limited number of children during this period.

Our fundraising activities were restricted to non-contact activities like Easy Fundraising online shopping platform, Bags 2 School, Photos and Guess the sweets. We raised £506 which will help us in replacing old playing equipment for the children.

We are grateful for the generosity and continued support from all our parents and staff who helped us raise these funds.

Our friends and supporters made philanthropic donations of £1000 during this academic year, we are ever grateful to for their generosity and continued support even in these challenging times.

Reserves policy

Our Reserves Policy requires that we hold an estimated contingency of funds for expenditure for a period of 3months (currently amounting to £23,000). These will be used for the following purposes:

- Payment of staff salaries and essential running costs for a period of three months, to be able to meet expenditure obligations before the Grant Money from the Council is received and or remittance of funds is delayed.
- To meet unexpected staff training requirements that is not funded
- To provide funds in instances when the Early Years Funding Money is not adequate to cover operational expenditure
- To have adequate funds in periods when there is a reduction in the number of children on the register

This policy is reviewed annually to reflect the needs of the Preschool and adjustments made for inflation.

Staffing

We started the year with one staff member on furlough due to family circumstances until November 2020 when she returned on a part time basis. She worked in both classrooms, and gradually increased her hours by the end of the summer term. The financial administrator was also on furlough until March 2021.

Other staff members were a stable and a happy team, three to each classroom with the manager covering their days off. We were unable to use bank staff due to concerns about Covid infections, so a decision was made to work with no outside help or volunteers.

Children on Roll

By the end of the academic year there were 20 Sunshines and 10 Rainbows, but it took many months to get to this total due to Covid – many of whom were just 2 year olds.

The number of Rainbows was incredibly low as twelve families had to move back to their home country having been relocated due to work – which had a huge impact on Little Stars.

It took some families many months to build up the confidence to send their children back to preschool throughout this Covid year with only three families returning in March. We provided home learning and doorstep visits to ensure the families were well and supported.

Fifteen out of the twenty Sunshines and six out of the ten Rainbows had English as a second language – which made the classrooms more challenging. Many of the children had no prior experience of an English speaking environment, having been in lockdown, isolating and had never left their parents – all of which added to the time and support needed to help them settle in a new environment.

Some of our families struggled financially during lockdown so we supported them with food and clothes parcels and arranged for them to receive weekly food parcels from a local charity. We are grateful to the trustees and our friends for their donations of food and clothing for these families.

We noticed that many families only used the free fifteen hours, not paying for any extra hours which was a direct effect of Covid 19, family finances and home working.

We are pleased that we had children from many faiths throughout the year.

Next Steps

Our priority is to get more children into the Preschool by advertising through social media which we hope will help build our numbers up to pre pandemic totals.

With the number of children in our setting still low, we have to constantly monitor our finances by balancing staff wages and hours against children's places.

We will also do our best to support our wonderful staff, who have remained loyal and worked well together through particularly challenging times. We will help with managing the high workload due to the high Special Educational Needs of some children, curriculum changes and impact of cleaning and setting up enabling learning environments.

They have been a marvellous team and we are humbled by their commitment.

Training and Development

We had a lot of capacity challenges due to the additional cleaning requirements and need to furlough staff to manage our overheads. In spite of these challenges, we continued supporting our staff's continuous development and they updated their First Aid skills and did Early Years Learning courses and safeguarding updates. All staff completed their food hygiene qualifications in line with the changes in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Staff attended some online training courses about the new curriculum and are working through the changes in assessing children's developmental progress.

We continued to have half termly inhouse staff training and fortnightly staff meetings.

Community Engagement

Community engagement activities were non-existent in this academic year due to restrictions caused by Covid 19. Our focus was on keeping our staff and children safe, so we maintained our safety bubbles at Stars.

We were unable to have parents in during the year, but as the rules relaxed in the last few weeks of the year, parents came in for the leaving ceremony which ended with an outside party. It was lovely to mix with them more freely.

The new minister visited us a few times and joined in our leaving ceremony.

We engaged with the Church and the Toddler Group, working together to offer a Summer Stay and Play Sessions on Wednesday mornings in the summer holidays to give families something free and safe to do.

We are ever grateful to our manager and staff who worked together as a team and courageously remained open to offer children a place to go and learn and play throughout the peak of the pandemic.

Finally, we want to thank Leamington Spa Baptist Church, Parents, and our friends for their continued support during these challenging times.

Trustees

Little Stars Christian Preschool

Littlestars Christian Preschool
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Period 1 September 2020
to 31 August 2021
Charity Number : 1070709

2019-2020	Receipts	2020-21
70,764.60	Grants Warwickshire CC	58,659.75
5,270.78	HMRC Job Retention Scheme Grant	4,253.16
13,219.40	Fees	17,716.21
2,097.27	Fundraising	506.20
848.00	Donations	1,038.60
1,503.78	Other	941.94
93,703.83		83,115.86
	Expenses	
79,097.88	Salaries	73,753.34
5,270.78	HMRC Job Retention Scheme Expenditure	4,253.16
2,396.17	Administration	3,144.66
463.38	Cleaning	578.04
773.56	Insurance	782.45
1,917.50	Playgroups Materials & Equipment	1,261.12
562.29	Printing, postage Postage & Stationery	483.39
3,900.00	Contribution to Church	3,300.00
729.60	Training & Development	460.55
4,033.55	Other Costs	938.01
99,144.71		88,954.72
- 5,440.88	Net Deficit	- 5,838.86
48,253.50	Balance b/f	42,812.62
42,812.62	Balance c/f	36,973.76

Signed by: K.B Simango
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Littlestars
Christian Preschool



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

Little Stars Christian Preschool

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1070709

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached..

Signed:

Graham Howe

Date:

31st May 2022

Name:

Graham Howe

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

Retired Independent Financial Consultant

Address:

Flat 7 Grosvenor Court

Accounts

Little Stars Christian Preschool is volunteer led Charity, governed by a constitution, whose main objective is to provide early years education of the highest quality in a Christian environment.

2019 -2020 was a challenging year in many ways due to COVID-19 but we are thankful that our lives, as a setting, for both our children and staff were preserved. We learnt to rely and trust that God would give us the strength to cope each new day and though things were scary and stressful sometimes, we are grateful that He was with us the whole way through to the end of the Academic Year.

Board of Trustees

Natasha Barlow, our secretary, resigned from the board during the year. We are thankful for her time and all she did for Stars. We pray that the Lord will bless her.

Constitution and Policies

All our Policies and Procedures are up to date, ensuring compliance with the Ofsted and Early Learning Years Alliance Guidelines. We believe in continuous development and continue to evaluate and update our policies and procedures to make Little Stars a better place for both children and employees. We developed a thorough COVID-19 guidance document and risk assessment which is regularly updated in line with government guidelines.

Inline with our Business Plan, we are working on improving our visibility by publicising our preschool on the different social media platforms which are now used young families.

Finance and Fundraising

The primary source of our income continues to be the Early Years Funding from Warwickshire County Council and the fees charged to parents/carers.

Our numbers after the initial lockdown were very low which had a negative impact on our finances. The Council supported us, along with other local settings, through this difficult time by basing their grant on the number of children we had in the last academic year (2018-19).

We also benefited from the Job Retention Scheme which was launched by the Chancellor in 2019 to protect jobs. We furloughed some of our staff as we only had the Rainbow children in the summer term due to social distancing restrictions and the need to ensure children and staff were safe.

Our fundraising activities were restricted this year due to COVID-19. Parent representatives and Staff organised a Christmas Wreath making event which was well attended by our supporters and parents. We also raised some funds through the Easy Fundraising online

shopping platform. We raised £1,549 which will be used to purchase resources and update playing equipment for the children.

We are grateful for the generosity and continued support from all our parents and staff who helped us raise these funds.

Our friends and supporters made philanthropic donations of £848. We are ever grateful to for their generosity and continued support.

Reserves policy

Our Reserves Policy requires that we hold an estimated contingency of funds for expenditure for a period of 3months (currently amounting to £23,000). These will be used for the following purposes:

- Payment of staff salaries and essential running costs for a period of three months, to be able to meet expenditure obligations before the Grant Money from the Council is received and or remittance of funds is delayed.
- To meet unexpected staff training requirements that is not funded
- To provide funds in instances when the Early Years Funding Money is not adequate to cover operational expenditure
- To have adequate funds in periods when there is a reduction in the number of children on the register

This policy is reviewed annually to reflect the needs of the Preschool and adjustments made for inflation.

Staffing

This was a good year up to lockdown, with a lovely, stable, and happy team who are always ready to do their very best for the children.

One of our staff successfully completed her apprenticeship just before lockdown and has been great support working with both Sunshines and the Rainbows.

We welcomed a new member of staff in October 2019 who comes in once a week to helps us with Billing and Finance.

We were very fortunate to have very reliable volunteers who helped us a lot during the year up to the start of lock down in March 2020 – covering for staff sickness, training courses and a multitude of other support.

We said farewell to one of staff member who took on a new role as a Teaching Assistant at one of the local schools. We are grateful for all her contributions over the 3 years she was at Little Stars.

Children on Roll

The numbers on roll this academic year were: -

18 Rainbows and 27 Sunshines (These were the numbers before the start of the lockdown)

Some of our families have needed lots of extra support again this year as they faced financial and emotional problems. We thank our church friends for their prayers when things have seemed very tough for our families and for the support to staff when things have been worrying.

We have lots of our children with English as a second language which has been challenging in the Sunshine room, but these children and the staff do so well at learning each other's languages.

10 out of 18 rainbows had English as a second language (EAL) and only 4 out of 27/28 sunshine spoke English.

We are also pleased that we had children from many faiths.

Next Steps

Our numbers will be very low in the next academic year due to COVID-19 which has resulted in many companies closing or requiring employees to work from home. We have 11 Rainbow families and 9 Sunshines (who only want a few hours a week) with 3 more starting in January.

Our staff have been brilliant again this year, working hard amidst all the challenges. They managed to build great relationships with our families, sharing the children's progress, going on training days to other settings to further extend their skills. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all members of staff for their resilience and togetherness which was evident when they returned on 1st June in the middle of the pandemic. We are humbled by their commitment and commend them for going over and above the call of duty, thank you, you are amazing.

Training and Development

In the coming year we will continue to invest in our staff by enrolling them in training which will enhance and ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding knowledge and skills. All staff completed many modules of online training during the first lockdown in April and May – both statutory and child development and some looked at areas such as children's bereavement, children's wellbeing and even yoga.

Community Engagement

We have continued to enjoy great relationships with our church friends and other groups which are using the building, working together, and supporting each other.

We especially enjoy meeting with the Tuesday and Thursday folks and loved sharing our Christmas dinner and excitement with them.

We have enjoyed the Family Light Party Praise, the Christingle and were sad that the Easter party had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

We are looking forward to a new minister in the coming year.

Many of our church friends helped with our Friday story reading. They have been a great help in keeping the bible stories alive and fun.

Pre Covid, we frequently popped into the church to look at the displays, have a quiet story or a loud one which the children enjoyed a lot.

We work closely with Tiny Stars, advertising them to any newcomers. Many of our families who have preschool age children enjoy the safe and welcoming environment Tiny Stars provides for both children and parents.

This year, we didn't have opportunities to spend time with our Tuesday friends due to illnesses, but when the world is calmer, we will find a new way of integrating with our elderly friends and Chandos.

We are ever grateful to our manager for her hard work and resilience during the pandemic. She worked tirelessly supporting both parents and staff and keeping them abreast of all the changes and requirements from the Government while ensuring that Little Stars remained a safe and happy place for the children to learn.

Finally, we would like to thank our Manager and staff once again, for their unwavering support and continued desire to provide a loving and caring environment for all the children they look after.

We would also like to thank Leamington Baptist Church, Parents, and our friends for their continued support.

Trustees

Little Stars Christian Preschool

Littlestars Christian Preschool
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Period 1 September 2019
to 31 August 2020
Charity Number : 1070709

2018-2019	Receipts	2019-20
82,053.20	Grants Warwickshire CC	70,764.60
-	HMRC Job Retention Scheme Grant	5,270.78
21,038.02	Fees	13,250.31
3,219.99	Fundraising	1,549.42
2,295.76	Donations	848.00
1,653.71	Other	1,853.28
110,260.68		93,536.39
	Expenses	
86,849.95	Salaries	79,161.16
-	Salaries - (HMRC Job Retention Scheme)	5,270.78
3,386.83	Administration	2,663.49
215.97	Cleaning	463.38
768.60	Insurance	773.56
2,189.53	Playgroups Materials & Equipment	1,926.40
870.22	Printing & Stationery	562.29
3,900.00	Contribution to Church	3,900.00
1,165.00	Training & Development	729.60
6,790.59	Other Costs	3,526.61
106,136.69		98,977.27
4,123.99	Net Deficit	- 5,440.88
44,129.51	Balance b/f	48,253.50
48,253.50	Balance c/f	42,812.62

Signed by: K.B Simango
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Littlestars
Christian Preschool



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Little Stars Christian Preschool

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st August 2020

**Charity no
(if any)**

1070709

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

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**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

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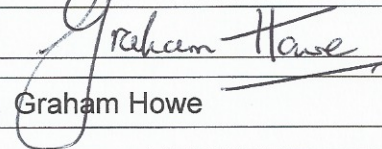
**Independent
examiner's statement**

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- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

1. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached..

Signed:



Date:

16th February 2021

Name:

Graham Howe

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

Retired Independent Financial Consultant

Address:

Flat 7 Grosvenor Court

Kenilworth Road
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 5TF

Section B

Disclosure

Not Applicable