

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Charity number: 1072893

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees are pleased to present their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Reference and administration details

Charity name:	St Mary's Pre-School Playgroup	
Charity registration number:	1072893	
Address of Charity:	St Mary's Church Hall 322 Woodbridge Road Ipswich	
Trustees:	T Underwood	(Chair) (Resigned and re-appointed 31/08/2024)
	J Stoggell	(Treasurer) (Resigned and re-appointed 31/08/2024)
	L Underwood	(Secretary) (Resigned and re-appointed 31/08/2024)
Committee members:	J Wilkie	(Resigned 31/08/2024)
	J Al Kero	(Resigned 31/08/2024)
Support team:	E Jessop	(Pre-School Manager)
	H Stoggell	(Pre-School Deputy Manager)
	P Crabb	(Pre-School Business Manager)
Independent examiner:	A Robinson FCA Lovewell Blake LLP First Floor Suite Unit 2 Hillside Business Park Bury St Edmunds IP32 7EA	

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Objectives and activities

The primary purpose of the Charity is to help children and young people with educational training, by providing pre-school care for children aged two to five years old for eight sessions per week. Each session lasts for three hours and a lunch club is also provided, if required, three days per week.

The Charity aims 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.

The Charity raises additional funds from the public to support the activities of the Charity but does not work with commercial participators. The purposes of the Charity are exclusively charitable and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

In planning the objectives and activities of the Charity, the Trustees have reviewed the guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

Achievements and performance

It gives me great pleasure to reflect on what has been a successful and rewarding year for the preschool. Once again, the dedication and collaboration of our staff, management, and committee have enabled us to build on our strengths while identifying and addressing areas for further development. Our continuous efforts have been driven not only by the aim of achieving high standards and ratings but, most importantly, by our commitment to providing the very best for the children in our care.

Throughout the year, the preschool has continued to offer a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for children and their families. This consistency has been at the heart of everything we do. I am immensely proud of the way our team has remained focused on the needs of the children, demonstrating care, professionalism, and a genuine passion for early years education.

As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and optimism, knowing that we have a strong foundation, a clear vision, and a dedicated team ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the year to come.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. They confirm that in planning and carrying out the Charity's activities they have had regards to this guidance.

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial review

The financial year ending 31 August 2024 presented a number of challenges, yet we are pleased to report a strong and positive outcome. Although we initially budgeted for a deficit of £1,146, we ultimately closed the year with a healthy surplus of £29,617. While starting the year with a projected deficit is not uncommon, we have a strong track record of improving our position over time — and this year was no different.

This turnaround can be attributed to several key factors. Most notably, we welcomed a higher number of new children to the preschool, reflecting our growing reputation within the community. Our increased income was further supported by the extension of our opening hours from September 2023, allowing us to offer 30 hours of childcare — an additional 6 hours per week for families. This enhancement not only provided greater flexibility for parents but also strengthened the setting's financial position. In addition, we benefited from an unexpected but much-appreciated increase in funding rates from Suffolk County Council. However, it is important to note that such funding adjustments remain unpredictable and cannot be reliably incorporated into our initial budgeting, due to the uncertainty surrounding both their timing and scale.

Reserves policy

The Charity's reserves policy is to maintain reserves at a level adequate to protect its ongoing work from significant fluctuations in service income. This policy is reviewed annually. The Charity aims to hold sufficient reserves to cover three months' running costs plus statutory redundancy costs. This value is set aside in a separate bank account which totals £48,436 (2023: £42,874) at the date of review post year end. The committee recommend that £7,310 (2023: £3,626) be transferred from the year end surplus to top up the reserve account to the required level of £55,746 (2023: £47,500).

Trustees consider that the Charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue.

Plans for future periods

It is the Trustees' intention that the Charity will continue to provide services in line with the objectives and activities as noted in these financial statements.

The Charity is focused over the next financial year on a number of key areas aimed at protecting the pre-school's financial position, improving the quality of provision and developing opportunities for growth and stability.

Looking ahead, the financial outlook for the year commencing 1 September 2024 appears significantly more promising. We remain cautiously optimistic that this positive trajectory will continue, supported by strong enrolment, committed staff, and ongoing community trust in our provision.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

St Mary's Pre-School Playgroup was established on 10 December 1988. Its constitution: the 'Pre-School Learning Alliance Constitution Document January 2016' was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1072893) on 29 February 2016.

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Appointment and recruitment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and the Trustees can co-opt up to 3 further Trustees any time after the AGM. The minimum numbers of the Committee, including Trustees and Members is 5 and the maximum is 12, together with up to a further 3 co-opted members. The Trustees of the Charity are currently all parents of current children or parents of previous children. The one exception to this is, the current Treasurer who was co-opted in March 2020 due to his background in finance and following the resignation of the previous Treasurer.

Trustees

The current Trustees are shown in the reference and administration details of these accounts, including those who have served during the year and any appointment and resignation dates as required.

Trustees' induction and training

All new Trustees will be provided with a Committee Welcome Pack which includes copies of:

- The Charity's constitution
- The latest accounts of the Charity
- Code of conduct
- Confidentiality agreement

Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission guidance notes CC3 - "The Essential Trustee, what you need to know, what you need to do" and PB3 - "Public benefit: Reporting".

In addition, Trustees are encouraged to read Charity Commission and other newsletters and to attend courses designed to keep them abreast of their duties and responsibilities.

Organisational structure

The Trustees administer the Charity and meet regularly throughout the year. During these meetings all charitable matters are discussed including the raising of funds, income structure, ongoing performance and to approve forthcoming charitable expenditure.

The Charity monitors performance against budgeted targets and reports annually at the Annual General Meeting where Trustees' resignation and appointments are made in line with the necessary roles and requirements of the foreseeable future.

Risk management

Management has reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate these risks. St Mary's Pre-School Playgroup benefits from a diligent and dedicated team of Trustees. Costs are closely monitored to ensure the Charity operates within its means whilst taking into account other key factors including quality of provision. The Charity maintains a separate bank account to cover its reserves, all of which minimise its exposure to risk.

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Charity's internal policies in place to mitigate risk are listed on the Charity's website and summarised below:

- Children's right and entitlements.
- Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Looked after children.
- Uncollected children.
- Missing child.
- Online safety policy including use of mobile phones and cameras.
- Employment.
- Student placements.
- Induction of employees and volunteers.
- First aid.
- The role of the key person and settling in.
- Staffing.
- Administering medicines.
- Managing children who are sick, infectious or with allergies.
- Recording and reporting accidents and incidents.
- Nappy changing.
- Food and drink.
- Food hygiene.
- Promoting positive behaviour.
- Health and safety general standards.
- Risk assessments.
- Maintaining children's safety and security on premises.
- Supervising children on outings and visits.
- Fire safety and emergency evacuation.
- Animals in the setting.
- Smoking.
- Staff safety including home visits.
- Valuing diversity and promoting inclusion and equality.
- Supporting children with SEND.
- British values.
- Admissions policy.
- Parental involvement.
- Children's records.
- Provider records.
- Transfer of records to school.
- Confidentiality and client access to records.
- Information sharing.
- Working in partnership with other agencies.
- Making a complaint.
- Payment policy.
- Financial reserves policy.
- Trustee's expenses policy.
- Conflict of interest policy.

Related party transactions

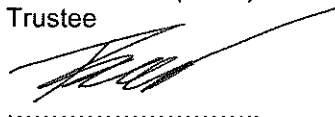
During the year the charity paid H Stoggell amounts for employment services £14,363 (2023: £11,187). H Stoggell is related to the Trustee J Stoggell. There was no other related party transaction in this or the prior year.

Independent examiner reappointment

A resolution to appoint A Robinson FCA of Lovewell Blake LLP as independent examiner will be proposed at the next Annual General Meeting.

The Trustees' annual report was approved on 29/06/25 and signed on behalf of the board of Trustees by:

T Underwood (Chair)
Trustee



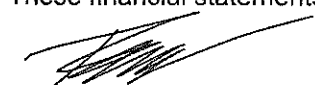
ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	Total £	Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	Total £
Receipts						
Fees and grants	151,578	-	151,578	99,498	-	99,498
Fundraising	-	-	-	74	-	74
Interest received	373	-	373	65	-	65
Higher tariff needs	-	11,765	11,765	-	5,380	5,380
Other	-	-	-	47	-	47
Total Receipts	<u>151,951</u>	<u>11,765</u>	<u>163,716</u>	<u>99,684</u>	<u>5,380</u>	<u>105,064</u>
Payments:						
Rent and rates	11,784	-	11,784	8,497	-	8,497
Wages	92,602	11,765	104,367	81,649	5,380	87,029
Consumables	3,186	-	3,186	3,180	-	3,180
Management and admin	2,741	-	2,741	3,152	-	3,152
Enrolment and insurance	2,553	-	2,553	2,247	-	2,247
Fundraising expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training expenditure	550	-	550	356	-	356
Small equipment	3,783	-	3,783	527	-	527
Other	5,135	-	5,135	5,264	-	5,264
Asset and other costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments	<u>122,334</u>	<u>11,765</u>	<u>134,099</u>	<u>104,872</u>	<u>5,380</u>	<u>110,252</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	<u>29,617</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,617</u>	<u>(5,188)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,188)</u>
Transfer to/(from) funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	29,617	-	29,617	(5,188)	-	(5,188)
Cash and bank balances at 31 August 2023	81,263	-	81,263	86,451	-	86,451
Cash and bank balances at 31 August 2024	<u>110,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110,880</u>	<u>81,263</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,263</u>

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	
	2024 £	2023 £
Cash funds		
Bank current account	<u>110,880</u>	<u>81,263</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Other monetary assets		
Prepayments	<u>1,073</u>	<u>1,002</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Assets retained for the Charity's own use		
Furniture and equipment		
At cost	10,414	10,414
At Net book value	<u>1,151</u>	<u>1,536</u>
	2024 £	2023 £
Liabilities		
Trade creditors	-	927
Accruals	2,582	2,518
Other creditors	200	-
Deferred income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>2,782</u>	<u>3,445</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 29/06/25 and are signed on their behalf by:



T Underwood (Chair)
Trustee

ST MARY'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on the afore mentioned pages of these financial statements.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act;
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the 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.



A Robinson FCA
Independent examiner
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30/06/2025