

	Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
	From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
		1	September	2023		31	August

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Stepping Stones of Sopley		
Other names charity is known by	N/A		
Registered charity number (if any)	1077865		
Charity's principal address	Bransgore & Thorney Hill District Hall		
	Burnt House Lane		
	Bransgore		
	Postcode	BH23 8DD	

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Nicola Andrews	Chairperson		Committee
2	Lauren Gavin	Treasurer		Committee
3	Helen Freegard	Secretary		Committee
4				
5				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Stepping Stones of Sopley

1077865

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1-Sep-23	To	31-Aug-24
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fees	27,565	-	-	27,565	31,959
HCC Funding	77,774	-	-	77,774	91,051
Fundraising	1,935	-	-	1,935	1,611
Other	120	-	-	120	120
Bank interest	468	-	-	468	384
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	107,862	-	-	107,862	125,125
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	107,862	-	-	107,862	125,125
A3 Payments					
Wages	123,136	-	-	123,136	118,729
Rent, Cleaning & Utilities	5,274	-	-	5,274	4,947
Administration	896	-	-	896	867
Insurance & Licences	5,188	-	-	5,188	4,326
Equipment	199	-	-	199	774
Advertising & Stationery	80	-	-	80	345
Fundraising Expenses	31	-	-	31	930
Maintenance & Repair	1,208	-	-	1,208	3,287
Consumables	2,866	-	-	2,866	3,114
Training	2,215	-	-	2,215	1,206
Telephone	942	-	-	942	600
Sub total	142,035	-	-	142,035	139,126
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	142,035	-	-	142,035	139,126
Net of receipts/(payments)	34,173	-	-	34,173	14,001
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	59,383	-	-	59,383	73,383
Cash funds this year end	25,210	-	-	25,210	59,383

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
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B1 Cash funds

Cash at bank	25,143	-	-
Cash in hand	67	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	25,210	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Stepping Stones of Sopley

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 August 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1077865

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 August 2024**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

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

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

Signed:

Alice Keynes

Date:

11/05/2025

Name:

Alice Keynes

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

FCA, ICAEW

Address:

40 Wiltshire Gardens

Bransgore

BH23 8BJ

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.

None

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution adopted 22 September 1997, as amended 21 September 2006.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Committee-run charity (unincorporated), managed by trustees.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected and appointed by existing committee members.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

(a) offering appropriate play facilities and training courses, 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 regardless of race, culture, religion or means

(b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local areas

(c) instigating and adhering to and furthering the aim of the pre-school learning alliance.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Having regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit, the trustees believe that the charity is established for objectives which are for the public benefit and is operated in furtherance of these purposes.

The direct benefits flowing from these objectives are that children attending the pre-school have a safe, healthy and stimulating environment in which they can learn through play and that each child will be helped to develop their own unique set of qualities and talents to their full potential.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Stepping Stones Nursery started the academic year under supervision and guidance from Hampshire County Council, following an Ofsted inspection in July 2023. Since money was spent on improvements to the nursery, staff training and staff changes and updating all policies where necessary.

Within this time, the nursery admissions were frozen for one term until we received an improved Ofsted rating, we were inspected in December 2023 and received a rating of 'Good'.

This has had a detrimental effect on funding and massive financial impact on the nursery.

We have been pushing advertising and community events this year to increase Stepping Stones Nursery awareness within the area to increase admissions.

Since Easter 2024, we have slowly been increasing our numbers and staff retention and moral is at a much better level.

We continue working hard to forge stronger links with the schools which our children move onto and have received positive feedback on how we prepare them for this.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

A general reserve fund is maintained by the pre-school in order to provide for any contingencies or unforeseen circumstances and to ensure that the financial viability of the pre-school is maintained. Currently the reserve equates to approximately 5 month's worth of expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None in deficit.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date