FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

England & Wales · Charity number 1087964

Details

Other names	FOREST SCHOOL SNPT
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2001-08-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bishopwood Countryside Centre Caswell Bay Swansea SA3 3BS
Phone	01792367118
Email	info@forestschoolsnpt.org.uk
Website	www.forestschoolsnpt.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE BENEFIT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SWANSEA, NEATH AND PORT TALBOT AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS, BY PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR EDUCATION AND RECREATION OUTDOORS AND INDOORS WITH THE AIM OF IMPROVING LIVES OF ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

Activities: Forest School SNPT aim to provide a unique alternative learning experience through interaction in woodlands to all age groups in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot areas.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1087964

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SWANSEA, NEATH AND PORT TALBOT AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS
- City Of Swansea
- Neath Port Talbot

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£108,185	£139,554	-	-
2024-03-31	£135,073	£104,286	-	-
2023-03-31	£64,470	£81,061	-	-
2022-03-31	£104,586	£81,839	-	-
2021-03-31	£58,762	£52,633	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jenny Richards		2024-09-24
Kathryn Thomas		2025-09-16
Tim Orrell		2018-04-04
Tracey Hinton		2025-09-16

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/1087964

FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

England & Wales - Charity number 1087964

Accounts

Forest School SNPT (C.I.O.)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Charity Name: Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot (FSSNPT)
Charity Number: C.I.O. 1087964
Address: Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 3BS
AGM Trustee Report 2024 - 2025

JOINT CHAIR'S STATEMENT

Keeping it Local

Well what a wonderful year it has been! This year we decided to look at the possibility of taking Forest School sessions to the local community, by working in local parks and green spaces, as well as schools. We partnered with Pobl to bring Forest School to two local schools in the Penderi area, which proved really successful and were well attended. We worked with Swansea City AFC Foundation on their "Kicks" programme, supporting children and young people while others played football. Another continued partnership which grew over the year was with Friends of Morriston Park, after we secured UK Shared Prosperity Funding to run Seedling sessions there.

Delivery once again is happening in Neath Port Talbot at Riverside Park, Glantawe. Our focus has been clear and we are delighted that funds raised has enabled us to deliver sessions.

We continued to deliver regular sessions at the Ornamental Gardens, Singleton Park, linking in with Friends of Singleton Park, as well as bringing sessions to local communities such as Brynmill Park, Blaen Y Maes, Pontardawe, Clyne Gardens (via Coeden Fach), Gorseinon, Felindre, St James Park, and Bishops Wood.

We have also delivered training to schools on "Inset" days, supported school trips and held parties. We also worked with the Pupil Referral Unit in Llanelli, providing five days of Forest School for them in Bishops Wood.

We have hosted students from the University of Wales Trinity St David and Swansea University, providing an opportunity to gain an understanding of Forest School and the required techniques and skills. And if that wasn't enough to keep us busy, we also found the time to clear our store room and had a sale of unused items.

We want to thank our Core team, as well as the many sessional staff who have made this an incredible year for Forest School SNPT.
We have recruited Trustees in a fair way by advertising roles available inviting people with various skills to join the committee.

'The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.'

Di Clark & Tim Orrell

Co Chairs of the Board of Trustees

FSSNPT: Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The aim of the organisation is to maintain reserves, to enable it to continue and expand the services currently provided, in addition to developing new projects and opportunities in the future. Our policy is to strive to maintain a reserve of three working months, as well as a reserve for statutory redundancy of £15,940, as at 31 st March 2025.

Further Financial Details

During the 24-25 financial year our primary sources of funds are detailed below:

- £33,948 income generated through various projects (e.g schools, playschemes, seedlings)
- £24,897 from our training portfolio
- £47,865 received in grant funding
- Of the above grant funding received in the year £24,920 is included in restricted reserves as at 31/03/25, as this amount relates to specific activities which are being delivered in the 2025-26 financial year. (As at 31st March 2024 £34,921 was held in restricted reserves).
- £1,475 Interest and Other Income
- Total income: £108,185.

The net cash outflow of £31,369 shown in the 2024-25 accounts is largely due to a grant of £28,283 received in March 2024 which has been spent in 2024-25, delivering a project in Morriston. In addition, some activities have been funded from Forest School's own reserves for a period this year to make sure these valued projects could keep running until more funding was available.

WHAT WE DID

Delivery and Projects

We delivered After School sessions in Coeden Fach and Glantawe Riverside Park, as well as Blaenymaes and Portmead schools.

We have delivered Seedling sessions, Mudbugs, Woodland Explorers and Family Fun sessions across the year. All have been well received by the parents but most of all by the children.
One of our most popular sessions is the delivery for Home Educated children.

Focus on Local

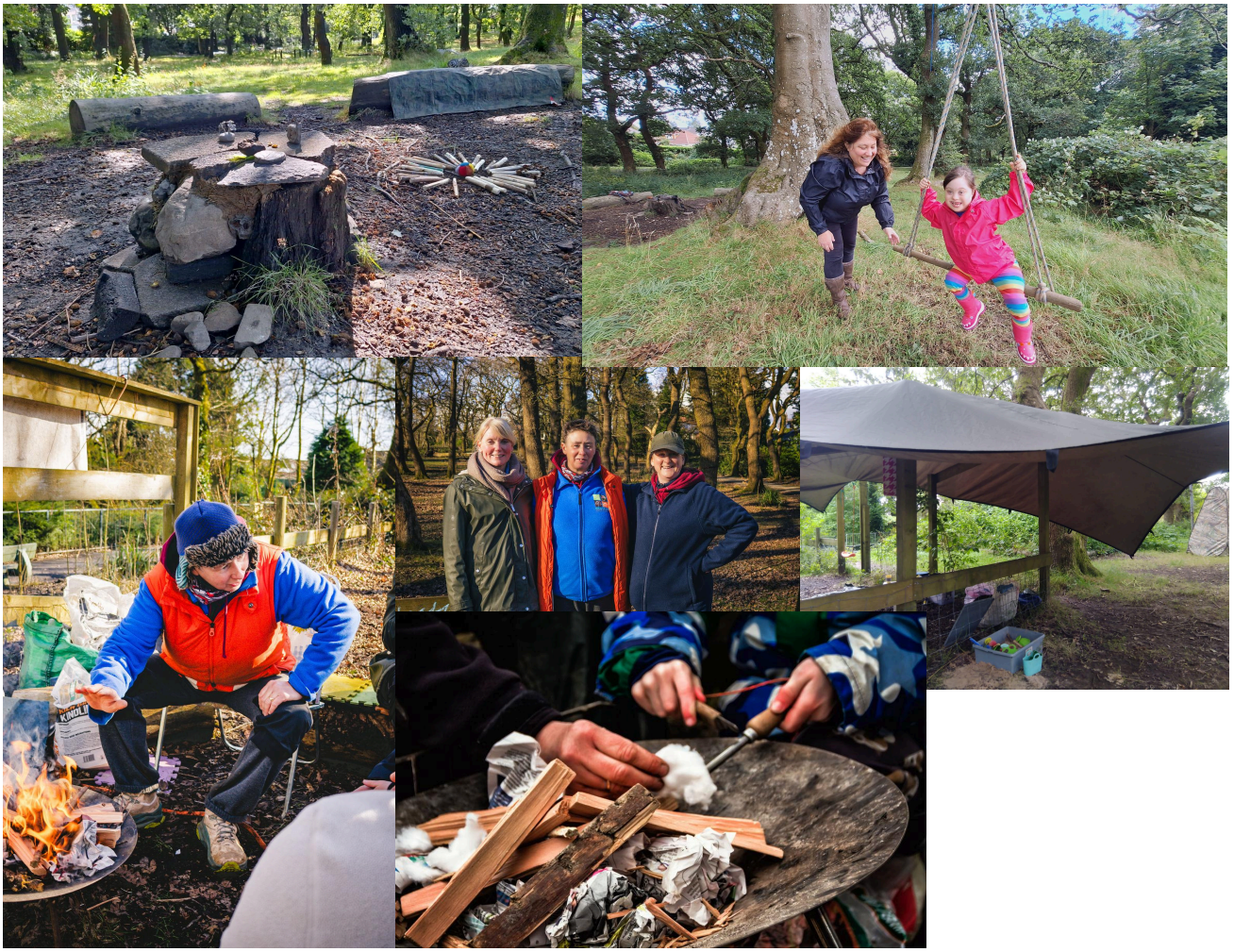
As a small team of dedicated core, sessional and volunteers it is vital that we continue with the amazing work that has been achieved to date.

During the year we have been able to take on two new members of staff, increasing the staff team to 7, or 3.6 FTE's. In January 2024 we managed to expand the administration team to include a Training Administrator, which has been incredible. It is often the case that people hit the ground running and Katy has absolutely done that. Ensuring that we promote the training, engaging with the trainers and trainees, making sure that all the files are ready in time for the commencement of each of our training courses that we run, and much much more. Katy has helped develop posters for our provision, and is a valuable asset to the Trainers, assisting with all the administration for the courses and much more.

Applying for grant funding is a mammoth task and is a constant part of our day to day work to ensure we are able to deliver sessions across the counties.

We were really grateful to be awarded funding from the U.K. Shared Prosperity Fund, this was for a partnership project working with Friends of Morriston Park - Morriston Nature Play.

At the same time we also worked in partnership with Pobl, they were also awarded a U.K. Shared Prosperity grant to fund Forest School sessions in two schools in the Penderi area, as well as holiday provision.



Morriston Nature Play Project

We ran more sessions than anticipated. Our aim was to run 72; however we actually delivered 87 sessions, and were able to engage with more people, which was wonderful.

Volunteers from Friends of Morriston Park learnt new skills and had a planting day with us erecting Willow Structures. The structures are creating a new space for families to enjoy all year round.

We are really happy with what has been achieved over the time of the project, especially when we have had such adverse weather conditions to contend with throughout the year.

We have also had to think on our feet due to some flooding on the access to the area we use, we moved to higher ground and all those that have attended have said how amazing it is to have Forest School available to them.

Pobl and Forest School Partnership Project

(Extract from the final report to the funder).

Forest School provides focussed time exploring the outdoors using a multi-sensory approach and games that develop an awareness of the woodland ecosystem. Challenges and activities such as lighting and cooking on a fire or constructing a shelter are introduced which provide a multitude of authentic learning opportunities, as well as being exciting and engaging. They build on children's interests and ideas to create play and learning opportunities that are more child led and therefore address their individual learning needs and maximise engagement. Sessions were run with junior pupils from both Blaenymaes and Portmead Primary. Community sessions during school holidays were also held, utilising the green spaces within the area and at times working alongside partner organisation activities and events. A total of 445 children and young people benefitted from sessions, this also included 8 adult beneficiaries who completed Forest School training Levels 1,2 and 3.

133 local events and activities were supported including family days at Blaenymaes Primary, Easter and Summer celebrations at the community run Drop In Centre, sessions to support Kicks football with Swansea AFC, and street based sessions alongside the police and Pobl to support community cohesion. Working with Forest School Pobl and running sessions alongside other regeneration area partners has demonstrated the importance of collaboration within the area. It has helped instigate the start of a Penderi Children and Young People Focus Group which provides an opportunity for partners and community to further work together, build relationships, reduce duplication and apply for mutual funding. Forest School Penderi contributed to a SWP Police Award which was based around partnership working. It has also helped with providing evidence used to gain further funding which will look at the collaborations between partners working with CYP and parent carers in the area.

We are really pleased that we secured more funding to continue the project into 2025/26.

We worked in a very small space for a group of children which proved really popular and made such a huge difference to the children.

Felindre Family Fun

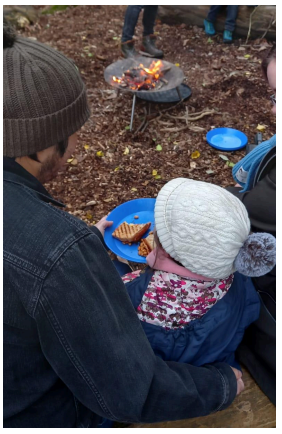
Coeden Fach After School Sessions

Glantawe Riverside After School Sessions

Gwynnefaen Sessions

City Nature Challenge

National Playday



Activities

The funding we receive determines what we are able to provide throughout the year.

And what an incredibly busy year we have had! A huge thank you to all the staff who have made this possible, this includes the core team, sessional and volunteers.

A total of 369 sessions, 72 of which were in Neath Port Talbot, 297 in Swansea, these were made up of the following sessions:

- Seedlings
- Mudbugs
- Woodland Explorers
- Family Holiday Fun
- Kicks, working alongside Swansea City AFC Foundation
- Ysgol Bryn y Môr
- Terrace Road School
- Ysgol Lon Las

We also took part in the City Nature Challenge, which was amazing and children learnt about lots of different creatures which were recorded on an App. The school trips that we held proved very popular, the children loved them.

All of our Sessions offer:

• An opportunity for child-initiated play and learning in a natural woodland / open space environment.

• Support for all aspects of your child's learning and their 'holistic' development.

• A safe space which encourages respect for self, others and the environment.

• An atmosphere of cooperation with Forest School staff, parents and children working together as a team.

• A careful balance of structural activities alongside time and space for free play.

Improvements in well-being, self esteem, physical health benefits, improved communication and social skills.

The main thing is that it is a lot of fun.

An update from Charlotte - Forest School Assistant

"*This year I have worked on Seedlings at Morriston, Singleton Seedlings, year 1,2 and the wellbeing group at Bryn y Môr, and family fun days during the holidays. I also attended the information dissemination events at the Waterfront Museum and the Brangwyn.*

Seedlings - Singleton - it has been very rewarding to be part of our new seedlings sessions at Singleton park. These sessions have gained a lot of interest, been well attended and we've received some amazing feedback. It has been lovely to see the little ones get engrossed in their natural surroundings, lots of immersive play, exploring the different texture, sounds, light and colour all around us. Watching them grow and progress every week has been a privilege. Everyone agrees that we are so lucky to have the beautiful surroundings of the ornamental gardens in Singleton Park. As we had to change the day of the week due to the school returning, we've had some different families attending but these children and carers have also embraced the forest school ethos and have had lots of fun exploring nature in all its glory with us.

Morriston seedlings - this year we have had lots of returning faces. One mum says that it is the highlight of her week as her children love it so much and feel so seen, nurtured and accepted. It's a lovely setting, very different from our Singleton site, with a wide area of oak trees and the stream and river to explore. We also regularly see the parakeets and more recently the ducklings. Lots of energetic exploration of the surroundings, the equipment and their own physicality as well as being able to do focused tasks and crafts. We see so many changes in the children as they progress with these things.

Bryn y Môr - lovely to have the children back after the spring term break. They've come back and taken to it like ducks to water. The new year 1's have totally immersed themselves in child led, creative, collaborative play, learning by doing and innovating when the come across challenges, with the occasional help from us. The wellbeing group are really benefitting from the experiences we provide, enabling them to build skills and self esteem outside the confined space of the classroom, you can literally see them bloom. Some of them have been coming for a few years now and the difference in their confidence is brilliant to see.

Family fun days- these have been run during the holidays at Singleton and Morrison park and have been really well attended. Lots of fun has been had, we've played games, done lots of crafts, lit fires, cooked food and engaged in nature immersion. We've received great feedback and have lots of interest and enquiries for more regular sessions".

Training

We delivered a total of 10 Training courses this year. With a total of 56 Trainees. These included two Level 3 Forest School Leader Courses, two Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning Courses, two Outdoor Play Practitioner Courses and one Coastal Top-Up Course. A Level 2 Forest School Assistant Course was delivered in March 2024, as well as Outdoor First Aid and Outdoor Food Hygiene Courses. We also provided a number of INSET Days for local schools.

The breakdown of the courses is as follows:

Cambium Training Courses which took place: April 2024 - April 2025

- April 2024 - Level 3 Forest School Leader (8 Trainees)
- June 2024 - Outdoor Play Practitioner Course (3 Trainees)
- July 2024 - Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning Practitioner Course (4 Trainees)
- September 2024 - Level 3 Coastal Top-Up (4 Trainees)
- September 2024 - Outdoor Play Practitioner Course (5 Trainees)
- September 2024 - Level 3 Forest School Leader (9 Trainees)
- November 2024 - Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning Practitioner Course (3 Trainees)

Other Training Courses delivered

Outdoor First Aid

- May 2024 (4 Trainees)
- September 2024 (7 trainees)

Outdoor Food Hygiene

June 2024 (9 Trainees)

INSET Days

- St Illtyds School - June 2024
- Glyncollen Primary School - September 2024
- YGG Lon Las - January 2025

Feedback

Our Feedback has been extremely positive and we have received comments such as:

Level 3 Forest School Leader Course Spring

"I thought training offered a very informed approach to learning in a way that mirrored the learning of young people who regularly attend our session".

"New friendships, connections and confidence to run Forest School Sessions and to complete the course paperwork. The course has helped with my mental health. It has given me the validation that I can work in this area, inspire confidence in others, be supportive and effective. I am excited about how I can use and develop art and creativity within Forest Schools".

"The whole training experience has been a pleasure with great staff and an amazing site with immediate access to forest and coast. The whole team were supportive and great to be around. Emma's teaching style was outstanding. She carries her learning, knowledge and experience lightly and imparts this in an engaging, accessible way, promoting self-directed, self development. The balance between outdoor activities, theory, games, checking-in, reflection was just right. An inspirational teacher. I feel ready to take the next steps with completing the portfolio and delivering the FS sessions and look forward to catching up with everyone again for the final tutorial day and hopefully at Forest School Sessions in the future".

CBOL Course

"Wonderful trainer, enthusiastic and very knowledgeable. Great mix of activities, loved all the practical time spent outdoors".

"Lots of activities to run with children straight away. Knowledge and understanding of our local habitats, flora and fauna. How to access an outdoor area successfully and softly. The confidence to go out and teach a meaningful experience and set of skills".

Coastal Top-Up

"Renewed / revived motivation to develop new areas of outdoor learning within a safe but exciting framework".

"Lots of knowledge about the sea shore and the creatures that live there. I have also come away with lots of new ideas plus how to run the sessions".

Level 3 Forest School Leader Course Autumn

"An understanding of what Forest School is, how to lead a session, types of trees/birds (good app recommendations), fire lighting, den building… the list is endless".

"I have gained a full and essential understanding of how to read and understand the woodland. Lots of really useful activities were introduced and I will take away with me to do in my forest area".

Potential for going forward

There have been discussions regarding offering one off CPD Training sessions.

This would be a crossover with Training / Delivery. There has been interest from schools, as well as opportunity for sessionals and qualified FS leaders/ assistants to have refresher training/ sharing of good practice and ensure consistency.

The training would cover separate areas: Practical skills (Fire / tools) Health & Safety (Risk benefit analysis etc.) Forest School Outdoor Cooking. The pricing structure would be bespoke to reflect the trainees requirements.

Level 1

This is a training course we would like to provide. There have been discussions to develop links with local secondary schools (Pentrehafod School) and build on connections with Hafod Primary and Hafod Park project.

Potentially it could be a joint delivery / training opportunity to develop sessions to coincide with ongoing school projects (link in with existing groups of young people) Forest School could provide taught elements leading to Level 1 qualification.

This is an area which needs exploring, including sourcing any funding opportunities. However it is dependent on the capacity of our trainers to deliver.

Nature-Based Practical Activity Leader Course

Cambium has just been signed off as a centre to deliver the Level 2 Extended Award in Learning in the Outdoors programme which will be called Nature-Based Practical Activity Leader.

It is a hands-on course, with a focus on giving learners the confidence and skills to deliver a very practical programme of skills-based learning at their setting. It will be suitable for schools as it covers a lot of practical activities and isn't too theory heavy. This will allow the courses to be more accessible in terms of pricing and time spent out of setting. The assessment is also being designed so that it is as practical and observation-based as possible. Once the course resources and delivery-model for this course are in place we will look into the practicalities of being able to deliver this course.

A few words from our Trainers:

Emma "*As well as delivering training I have very much enjoyed providing INSET days to a number of schools. This proved very valuable for improving the confidence within the staff and guiding them towards making decisions about their Forest School journey. These INSET days have resulted in training places being taken up for CBOL and Level 2 Training*."

"*The Work Based Assessments and visits to the Learner sites are very insightful and interesting to see how Forest School ethos and provision can be applied to a variety of settings and benefit a diverse range of individuals. For example the community led project in Felindre Mawr Community Council which supported the training of an Assistant and Leader demonstrated the strength of community support for Forest School amongst local families.*"

Karen ‘’ *I have really enjoyed working with new trainees, seeing their confidence and skills build up over time. I love visiting the trainees at their Forest School settings for their work based assessments, and seeing the young people benefit from the experiences and pick up on the enthusiasm from their potentially newly qualified forest school leaders.*

I think we are really lucky to have such great trainees who are as passionate as we are about getting children learning and playing in natural outdoor spaces and who also share many of their own learning and experiences with us. I think we provide a collaborative and nurturing community with our training provision which is very special”.

Words from children and parents

“Loved the sand, hot chocolate and being a pea in the hammock.”

“Hello friends - said Lily as she arrived and made friends with everyone.”
'We love getting muddy'

“Mum said he's been telling everyone - I go to forest school, there's this tree with the roots, it was in the ground but it's come out of the ground.”

The parents really enjoyed making sun pictures

“Ivy arrived early and her Mum said she had been singing the welcome song at home and had been keen to make it on time for it.”

“One parent said her daughter woke up excited for Forest School, it was the first thing she said to the baby monitor when she woke up - Forest School today!”

WHO WAS INVOLVED

Trustees

- Diana Clark (Co-Chair)
- Tim Orrell (Co-Chair)
- Ria Banscherus (Secretary - 11/09/23) Resigned February 2025
- Jenny Richards (Trustee) June 2024
- Simon Middlemas (Trustee) October 2024 Resigned February 2025
- Ruth Evans (Freelance Finance)

There are no Custodian Trustees or Advisers for the organisation.

Employees

- Jackie Dorrian (Forest School Manager)
- Karen Jones (Training Lead)
- Emma North (Trainer)
- Pixie Taylor (Project Lead)
- Charlotte Toft FS Assistant
- Sasha North (Forest School Administrator)
- Katy Gibbon (Training Administrator)
- Tom Morris (FS Leader) Left December 2024

The people we could not achieve all that we have without:

The amazing team of freelance sessional Forest School Leaders and Assistants, without them we would not have been able to achieve all that we have throughout the year.

Special thanks go to our external Trainers Denis (Outdoor First Aid) who is incredible! and Anubis UK Ltd who delivered the Outdoor Food Hygiene course.

Huge thanks goes to the volunteers who give up their time to support us in more ways than one.

A massive thank you!

Partners / supporting organisations:

- SCVS
- NPTCVS
- Nature Conservation Team (CCS)
- Childcare & Play Team (CCS)
- Cambium Sustainable
- Outdoor Learning Training

  Network Actif Woods
- POBL
- Friends of Morriston Park
- Friends of Singleton Park
- Coeden Fach
- Riverside Park, Glantawe

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Supported by players of PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

Awarded funds from POSTCODE COMMUNITY TRUST

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA · DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE ·

Funded by UK Government

Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU

Garfield Weston FOUNDATION

CRONFA GYMUNEDOL COMMUNITY FUND

NEATH CLUSTER

UPPER VALLEYS CLUSTER

Oakdale Trust

NEATH PORT TALBOT CVS
CASTELL-NEDD PORT TALBOT

Thank you to our Funders!

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot	1087964

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	-	47,865	-	47,865	76,195
Project Fees	33,948		-	33,948	34,780
Training Fees	24,897		-	24,897	23,112
Donations	396		-	396	-
Bank Interest	640		-	640	818
Other Income	439			439	168
		-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	60,320	47,865	-	108,185	135,073
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,320	47,865	-	108,185	135,073
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Costs	29,670	57,866	-	87,536	58,339
Self-employed Staff Costs	20,761			20,761	23,023
Travel	1,420		-	1,420	1,602
Volunteer Expenses	299		-	299	109
Project & Training Costs	10,679		-	10,679	7,938
Equipment	2,910			2,910	670
Staff Training & DBS	1,069			1,069	
Maintenance & Improvements	471			471	1,855
Postage, Stationery & Printing	402			402	1,470
Telephone	656			656	649
Computer Costs	4,669			4,669	603
Insurance	1,865			1,865	1,650
Accountancy & payroll	4,275			4,275	4,958
Office Rent				-	-
Membership & Subscriptions	851			851	908
HR	1,368			1,368	
Miscellaneous	323			323	512
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	81,688	57,866	-	139,554	104,286
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	81,688	57,866	-	139,554	104,286
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 21,368	- 10,001	-	- 31,369	30,787
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	73,373	34,921	-	108,294	77,507
Cash funds this year end	52,005	24,920	-	76,925	108,294

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank	46,971	-	-
	Paypal	-		
	CAF Bank	4,949	24,920	-
	Cash	85	-	-
	Total cash funds	52,005	24,920	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA, NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

Independent examiner's Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:

Name: *Michael Jones*

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:
Bevan Buckland LLP
Chartered Accountants
Ground Floor, Cardigan House
Castle Court
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9LA
Date: 16-09-25

Signed:- Briana Clark
Trustee Chair(co)

Trustee Chair(co)

Date 16/09/25.

FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

England & Wales - Charity number 1087964

Accounts

Forest School SNPT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024

Charity Name: Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot (FSSNPT)
Charity Number: 1087964
Address: Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 3BS
AGM Trustee Report 2023 - 2024

JOINT CHAIR'S STATEMENT

A year of change.

April 2023 we welcomed the new Manager into post

One school booked us to run 6 days of Forest and Coastal School. Fortunately the whole school didn't all come on the same day! A different year group on each day.
This was absolutely incredible.
Summer 2023 we delivered 50 sessions

We received funding from City & County of Swansea, Coast Funding and Neath Port Talbot for holiday provision. Summer 2023 we delivered 50 sessions, thanks to all of the team for making this a memorable Summer. We also attended Wonderfest and National PlayDay at The National Waterfront Museum.

This year we sadly had to move from Llys Nini and therefore no longer have a permanent site, so we decided to go into the heart of the community and utilise local parks and green spaces. The weather throughout the year has not been the best but staff have created shelters which have been incredible.

In August we were successful in being awarded a grant from the Postcode Lottery. This has enabled us to support delivery of After School Forest School provision, Woodland Explorers, Home Educated Explorers. We were also successful in gaining Shared Prosperity Funding for our partnership work with Friends of Morriston Park for the Morriston Park Nature Play Project, allowing us to offer Seedlings once again in the park. We forged a partnership with Pobl and managed to gain more funding to deliver Forest School Penderi, working in two schools in the area. We have continued to work with schools offering Forest School sessions.

Over the year we have welcomed new sessional staff to the team, and increased our core team. A massive thank you to those who have worked for us for a long time and welcome to the new faces.

Di Clark & Tim Orrell

Co Chair of Trustees

Focus on Growth

New member staff within the Training Team

As a small team of dedicated core, sessional and volunteers it is vital that we continue with the amazing work that has been achieved to date. Offering Forest School sessions and delivering Forest School Training.

During the year we have been able to take on two new members of staff, increasing the staff team to 7. We recognised there was a need to expand a little and recruited a Training Administrator, in January 2024. It is often the case that people hit the ground running and this person did exactly that. Ensuring that we promote the training, engaging with the trainers and trainees, making sure that all the files are ready in time for the commencement of the course and much more. You may have noticed there is a little more publicity around the place. Katy has also been a valuable asset to the Trainers, assisting with all the administration for the courses and much more.

New member staff within the Training Team

We were really grateful to be awarded funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund. We managed to secure a partnership bid with Friends of Morriston Park - Morriston Park Nature Play, this gave us an opportunity to offer Seedling, Woodland Explorers, and holiday provision. As this work had been secured for a year we felt it right that we offer temporary contracts to a FS Assistant to work on a particular project.
We also found out that Pobl had secured funds to run a project with us in two schools in Penderi Ward and holiday sessions.

We are really pleased to welcome new sessional Leaders and Assistants, a total of 20, which is amazing!. Although we have lost a couple of the team in the last twelve months too, which we are really sad about. We also have 5 volunteers, most of our previous volunteers went on to gain Forest School qualifications with us.

FSSNPT: Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The aim of the organisation is to maintain reserves to enable it to continue and expand the services currently provided and in addition to developing new projects and opportunities in the future. Our policy is to strive to maintain a reserve of three working months, in addition to a reserve for statutory redundancy of £8,843 as at 31 st March 2024.

Further Financial Details

During the 23-24 financial year our primary sources of funds are detailed below:
£34,780 income generated through various projects (e.g schools, playschemes, seedlings)
£23,112 from our training portfolio
£76,195 in grant funding
(Of this amount £34,921 is included in restricted reserves as at 31/03/24 as this amount relates to specific activities which are being delivered in the 2024/25 financial year).
£986 Interest and Other Income
Total income: £135,073.

The net cash inflow of £30,787 shown in the 2023/24 accounts is largely due to the receipt of a grant of £28,283 received in March 2024. This grant is to cover costs of a project in Morriston which didn't commence until the 2024/25 financial year.

Activities

Going forward

Seedlings – 0 - 4 years up to 5th birthday and their parents / carers

Mudbugs – fun for 5 – 7 years up to 8th birthday and their grown-ups

Woodland Explorers – sessions for 8 - 12 years up to their 13th birthday

Family Fun for all the family

Home Educated Woodland Explorers

Specific sessions for various groups and organisations

All of our Sessions offer:

• An opportunity for child-initiated play and learning in a natural woodland / open space environment.

• Support for all aspects of your child's learning and their 'holistic' development.

• A safe space which encourages respect for self, others and the environment.

• An atmosphere of cooperation with Forest School staff, parents and children working together as a team.

• A careful balance of structural activities alongside time and space for free play.

Improvements in well-being, self esteem, physical health benefits, improved communication and social skills.

The main thing is that it is a lot of fun.

WHAT WE DID

Training

There have been 8 training courses run this year with 49 trainees.

The training programme this year has been very rewarding, seeing the trainees gain in confidence and the transformation into inspired and capable forest school/coastal school/outdoor learning/play practitioners.

Our training team consists of Emma, Katy and myself. We set out to create safe and supportive courses where trainees gain confidence, build relationships and become inspired. From the feedback we have had after each course, we have certainly achieved this.

Feedback from the trainees has been 100% positive with comments such as:

“New skills, new increased ideas for teaching, increased confidence”

“Having been an Assistant for 10 years I now feel much more aware, further equipped to plan, deliver, monitor and evaluate Forest School sessions.”

“This course has been brilliant, well-paced with lots of time outdoors”

“Wonderful Trainer enthusiastic and very knowledgeable”

During the year we ran two level three forest school practitioner courses, two level 2 forest school practitioner courses, two curriculum based outdoor learning and one level 3 coastal school top up course.

Some of our trainees have since gone on to work with us at Forest school SNPT and have continued their journey in forest school and outdoor learning.

Emma and I have also attended standardisation meetings with other associate trainers from our accreditation Centre at Cambium to ensure the training we provide at Forest School SNPT is at a high standard. I’m also part of the Welsh Outdoor Learning Network which

meets quarterly.

Karen

Cambium Training Courses which took place: March 2023 - April 2024

- March 2023 - Level 2 Forest School Assistant (7 trainees)
- May 2023 - Level 3 Forest School Leader (9 Trainees)
- May 2023 - Coastal Top-Up Level 3 (5 Trainees)
- July 2023 - Level 2 Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning (3 Trainees)
- September 2023 - Level 3 Forest School Leader (8 Trainees)
- September 2023 - Coastal Top-Up Level 3 (6 Trainees)
- November 2023 - Level 2 Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning (4 Trainees)
- February 2024 - Level 2 Forest School Assistant (7 Trainees)

Other Training Courses delivered

- April 2023 - Outdoor First Aid (4 Trainees)
- June 2023 - Outdoor First Aid (8 Trainees)
- October 2023 - Outdoor First Aid (8 Trainees)

NPT College 18 tutors 1 day training

Projects

241 sessions delivered in total for the year, and 15 days of delivery, a massive thank you to all the staff involved with delivery of these sessions. We were fortunate enough to receive funding from the following:

Awards for All - 25 sessions
City and County of Swansea Children and Young People - 19 sessions, Coast funding - 12 sessions
National Playday - 1 day
Communities for Work - 6 sessions
Foster Wales - 3 sessions
Myrddin Park - 1 session
Wonderfest - 1 day
Neath Port Talbot Holiday Playworks - Gnoll Park - 10 sessions

School Work:
Bryn Y Mor School - 26 sessions
Dyffryn y Glowyr - 5 days woods and coast
Lon Las School - 1 day
YGG Tirdeunaw - 1 day
Gower College - 1 session 2 groups
Seeds of Change - 1 day

Penllergare Special Project - 4 sessions
Pobl Blaenymaes and Portmead - 40 sessions

Coeden Fach - 13 sessions
Home Ed - 19 sessions
Riverside Park Glantawe - 11 sessions
Woodland Explorers - 18 sessions
Seedlings Morriston Park - 22 sessions
Enabling Communities - 6 sessions
Singleton Park Seedling specials - 4 sessions

Coast and Children & Young People funding required a focus on ensuring children were able to eat during the holiday periods and we were able to accommodate ensuring that healthy food was available at the sessions.

Quotes from the children - pine cones look like a dinosaur and dinosaur teeth. I can't remember the name.

Words from the children

What they enjoyed-
Bugs animals hunts
Challenges in the river
Blindfold games
Marshmallows
Making clay landscape
Finding minibeasts- loads of millipedes, spiders, slugs, worms and a beetle

Oreo s'mores are good
I'm really good at fire lighting now
I love my magic wand
I'm making a wand for my little sister
Wow (when doing the volcanoes)

'thank you for all the things we have done at forest school, I have enjoyed them all'

Lots of enquiries about more sessions and regular sessions here for seedlings (Riverside)
From a grandma- They've absolutely loved it thank you so much
From a mum - please let me know if you have any more sessions soon, my little one loved today, fantastic
Dad- he was really excited to come back to forest school. He loves it

Words from the team

Work in Penderi

This year in my work as a Forest School Leader I have seen how this work can have such a profound and lasting impact on the health and happiness of children and communities. In the community of Blaen Y Maes, I have been working on a site located in a street with many families and children. A parent who lives on the street gave feedback that since I began running forest school sessions there, she has seen the children working together and playing together in a far more collaborative and less competitive way. She also said, "It has been lovely to see them all as a big group playing rather than causing trouble and destroying things." It is wonderful to see how the principles I introduce in the sessions, like working together and looking after each other, are being carried out of the sessions and into the lives of these children.

Within the empowering, child-centered culture that we are creating in forest school, I have witnessed many wonderful interactions. Watching a boy teaching another boy to tie a knot, I was moved by the self confidence of the teaching child, and his kindness and patience with the learning child. The learning child came away with glowing pride in his work, enthusiastically showing the knots he had made with the nearby adults. I have witnessed again and again that when children are given the opportunity to master simple achievable skills they receive, every time, a boost in self esteem. When they feel good about themselves that has a positive knock on effect, as they are then confident to

share their new skills. This again boosts their self esteem, when they see that they can even be teachers and leaders.
Tom

“I am beyond proud of each and every one of the children! I will do my best to help them continue with the things they have learnt. I have a box in my garden with the game they made, and materials for tent making. I'm hoping to catch them all together to go and get sticks/wood and they can use the box whenever they would like to.

I hear them chanting "PORTMEAD FOREST SCHOOL" often

We literally can't thank you guys enough for coming here, seeing through their past behaviours and problems and letting them just be children. God they really needed these sessions and its paying off!

I've also been learning each week and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to see forest school in action!

You guys and what you do is just...amazing 🥰” Lynsey - Volunteer

A day in the life of an Assistant

This year I have been mostly supporting leaders, usually Pixie, to deliver projects with Ysgol Bryn y Mor, Seedlings and the Home Ed group as well as some holiday provision. I also supported Jess during the last half term of Home Ed to do her 6 sessions as a trainee leader.

Pixie and I have been working with Ysgol Bryn y Mor for the last three years. The children have no access to green spaces at school so it's ideal for them to come to us at Forest School in Singleton Park as they can walk there and back. It was lovely to welcome new year 1's as well as working once again with the returning group of year 2's. We also worked with a Nurture Group from years 3 - 6. The groups came on a three week rotation. It has been satisfying and such a privilege to witness the impact that Forest School has had on the children's physical development and wellbeing. It has been especially rewarding to see the impact on the children who struggle in a classroom environment. This has been very evident whilst working with the nurture group who have blossomed in the natural environment where they can direct their own play and activities. There has been so much self directed play in evidence, making hotels, cafes, potions, forts, dens, climbing trees and creating nature crafts with the beautiful blooms and wonderful foliage available, lots of clay creations, trails, cooking on the fire etc. The mud kitchen has inspired teamwork and creative play. The class teacher commented on their creative play and teamwork and on how they are so much calmer than in school.

Some of the children tell us that they come and visit the area out of school hours and have really taken ownership of 'Our Forest School Island'. Even inviting other friends and family to the site who haven't had the opportunity to experience forest school with us.

Having spoken to some of the parents, we've been told that the reception class can't wait to be in year 1 to start forest school with us.

I have also been working with the Home Ed group, supporting Pixie and then Jess during the last half term to complete her six sessions for her leader training. We have played lots of games that were great fun but also challenged the children's critical thinking and teamwork skills. The children come up with so many fantastic ideas and we just run with them wherever possible. There has been so much child led creative play and imaginative games that they spontaneously come up with. Many of the attendees have come such a long way in being able to regulate their emotions, listen to instructions when necessary and can now work together in play and to create imaginative games, dens, crafts etc. They have really come out of their shell and matured during the year.

Charlotte

Morriston Park Seedlings

We have had a successful and lively year of pre school children and their families from SA6 coming to play at our Friday morning Seedlings sessions .

This was run by Pixie Taylor and Charlotte Toft and supported by our fabulous volunteer Katie Rees.

We made use of two areas of the park. Initially and again more recently, our lower fenced site by the duck ponds. Then due to a very wet winter and spring we went uphill under the large beech tree. Both areas offer different benefits - the bottom site is easier to access and has useful tables for crafts and less intrusion from dogs because of the fence. We used this as a safe base but also could easily go out and play under the extensive area of oak trees where we set up the mud kitchen and swings and hammocks and so developed the confidence and independence of the children.

As the wet winter and spring took it’s toll we moved uphill to the top site by the big beech tree. This area isn't far away but feels wilder and more open and lends itself to exploratory play.

The downside was that it felt much colder due to being exposed to the prevailing wind .

However the stream that ran for most of the seasons down through our camp led to hours of happy water play, building dams, making boats, discovering what floats and sinks.

Other highlights of the year included cooking on the fire and learning about making fire safely. Enjoying hot chocolate by the fire.

Playing games and exploring. Lots of free play and adventuring. Swinging ,climbing, clambering. Making mud pies and potions. Muddy painting, natural crafts with clay, sticks ,leaves etc. And making new friends.

Hoping for less rain than last year though!

Pixie

A day in the life of an Assistant

Volunteering with Forest School SNPT has given me the opportunity to spend time connecting with nature while developing valuable practical skills, such as fire-making, shelter-building and leadership skills, all while promoting children's creativity and confidence in natural settings. It provides a real sense of fulfillment to see children engaging with nature, getting involved in physical activity, having fun and making friends, and as forest school volunteers we can help nurture their interest in the natural world. I’ve also had the chance to meet amazing people and form great friendships.

Katie

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

Trustees:

Diana Clark (Co-Chair)
Tim Orrell (Co-Chair)
Gwen Bezodis (Secretary) - resigned 11/09/23
Ria Banscherus (Secretary - 11/09/23

Employees

Charlotte Toft FS Assistant (February 2024)
Emma North (Trainer)
Jackie Dorrian (Forest School Manager) April 2023
Karen Jones (Training Lead)
Katy Gibbon (Training Administrator) January 2024
Pixie Taylor (Project Lead)
Ruth Evans (Finance)
Sasha North (Administration Assistant)

The people we could not achieve all that we have without:

The amazing team of freelance sessional workers who have helped make all of the above possible. Massive thank you to those who helped clear the site at Llys Nini and help put everything in storage.

Huge thanks goes to the volunteers who give up their time to support us in more ways than one. A massive thank you!

Partners / supporting organisations:

SCVS
Nature Conservation Team (CCS)
Childcare & Play Team (CCS)
Cambium Sustainable
Outdoor Learning Training
Network Actif Woods
NPTCVS
POBL
Friends of Morriston Park
Coeden Fach
Riverside Park, Glantawe

CLOSING CREDITS

We would not be where we are now without the wonderful support of the children, young people and their families. We want to thank all of you who attended our sessions during the year.

Thank you to our Funders

Neath Port Talbot Think Family Partnership
Partneriaeth Teuluoedd Castell-nedd Port Talbot

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Supported by players of PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

Awarded funds from POSTCODE COMMUNITY TRUST

Funded by UK Government

Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU

Diana Clark
DIANA CLARK
Trustee
24th September 2024

Tim O'Neill
TIM O'NEILL
Trustee.
24/9/24.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot	1087964

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2023	To	31/03/2024

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					
	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	-	76,195	-	76,195	13,915
Project Fees	34,780		-	34,780	26,316
Training Fees	23,112		-	23,112	24,042
Donations			-	-	50
Bank Interest	818		-	818	-
Other Income	168			168	147
		-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	58,878	76,195	-	135,073	64,470
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	58,878	76,195	-	135,073	64,470
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Costs	34,382	23,957	-	58,339	38,812
Self-employed Staff Costs		23,023		23,023	19,953
Travel	1,602	-	-	1,602	1,307
Volunteer Expenses		109	-	109	150
Project & Training Costs	7,938	-	-	7,938	5,764
Equipment	670			670	1,156
Maintenance & Improvements	1,855	-		1,855	-
Postage, Stationery & Printing	1,470			1,470	835
Telephone	649			649	570
Computer Costs	603			603	6,053
Insurance	1,650			1,650	1,213
Accountancy & payroll	3,958	1,000		4,958	4,307
Office Rent	-			-	-
Membership & Subscriptions	908			908	803
Miscellaneous	512			512	138
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	56,197	48,089	-	104,286	81,061
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	56,197	48,089	-	104,286	81,061
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,681	28,106	-	30,787	- 16,591
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	70,692	6,815	-	77,507	94,098
Cash funds this year end	73,373	34,921	-	108,294	77,507

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Lloyds Bank	73,288	3,632	-
	Paypal	-		
	CAF Bank	-	31,289	-
	Cash	85	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	73,373	34,921	-
		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)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Basis of preparation

During the year the charitable company (04194600) converted to a CIO. This conversion took place on 9th September 2019 and the charity is now only registered with the charity commission as a CIO - charity number 1087964. These financial statements have been prepared under the principles of merger accounting and on a receipts and payments basis. For disclosure to the user, the comparative has been prepared under the accruals basis as the charity was a company for the comparative period.

	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Diana Clark	DIANA CLARK	24/09/24
	Tim O'Reilly	TIM O'REILLY	24/9/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA, NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

Independent examiner's Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 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 Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:

Name: *Michael Jones*

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional body (if any): Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:
Bevan Buckland LLP
Chartered Accountants
Ground Floor, Cardigan House
Castle Court
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9LA
Date: 20th September 2024

FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

England & Wales - Charity number 1087964

Accounts

Forest School SNPT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

Charity Name: Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot (FSSNPT)
Charity Number: 1087964
Address: Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 3BS
AGM Trustee Report 2022 - 2023

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

In these unprecedented times we have been very aware that every human connection with nature is paramount to our health and wellbeing. We are still recovering from the years of the pandemic and more recently surged straight into a cost of living crisis. Our work has enabled people to reconnect with nature, children and their families to get together to enjoy being outside, to meet new friends and to get muddy once again! Forest School SNPT remains committed to rebuilding this connection through our project work, education programme and training opportunities.

Our professional staff and experienced volunteers have continued to demonstrate great resilience and adaptability, allowing us to be able to offer more than ever, especially in these uncertain times. This has been another challenging year, with many changes taking place, and one in which the trustees and staff held the reins whilst recruiting a new Manager for the organisation. We'd like to extend our thanks to Llys Nini for providing us with our permanent site. We are very grateful to our funders, who continue to support us and look towards the future with optimism.

Di Clark & Tim Orrell

Co Chair of Trustees

Trustee Selection Method

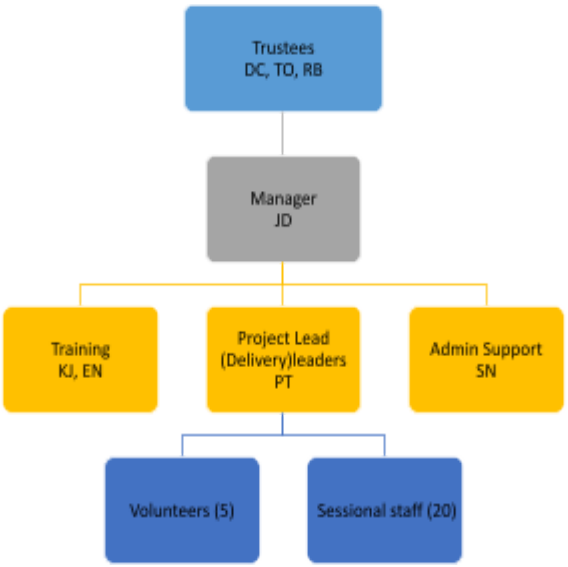
We have a clear recruitment and selection process for appointing new trustees into their roles. Role Descriptions are available for all positions within the Board. New trustees are appointed by existing trustees and are approved at the AGM, by majority vote.. Should the recruitment process fall out of line with the AGM then an EGM will be called to ratify and agree the new trustees in order for them to be welcomed onto the Board.

Governance

The Governing document is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it is fit for purpose.
All policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and are ratified by the Board. The FSSNPT Manager is line managed by one of the Co-Chairs, working closely with the Treasurer, staff members and all Board members to ensure there is a clear decision-making process.

We hold bi-monthly meetings of the Board where Strategic Direction of the organisation is reviewed.

Organisational Structure



FSSNPT employs a part-time FS Manager who has delegated responsibility for the day to day running of the organisation. The FS Manager is supported by 3 other part-time employees as detailed above. There are a further 20 FS Leaders and Assistants who work with us on a sessional basis. We also have 5 volunteers which we will need to look at a recruitment drive for the future.

FSSNPT: Strategy

Charity Objects

To provide facilities for education and recreation outdoors with the aim of improving the lives of our communities. To implement traditional and effective FS techniques, outdoor learning and play across the Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot areas.

Aims

FSSNPT provides opportunities for all ages and abilities to grow in confidence, self-esteem, resilience and independence in woodland settings. All participants are supported with their individual growth and encouraged to explore the environment and connect.

FSSNPT implements 6 key principles in line with the FS community standards:

1. We facilitate a long-term process through regular interaction
2. We provide sessions in natural wooded environments
3. We promote and encourage holistic development
4. We offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks
5. All of our delivery team members are qualified FS practitioners (L3/L2)
6. We use a range of learner-centered processes

Our strategic plan for 22-25 is in development with strong aims, objectives and organisational values.

Quality Assurance

With a high staff: to participant ratio we enable individual learning needs and styles, facilitated by our qualified and experienced Leaders, Assistants and Volunteers.

All sites and activities are risk assessed. Sites range from wooded areas across Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot in addition to local beaches for Coastal School services. Activities are adaptable and broad including (but not limited to):

- Tool use (whittling, sawing, pruning)
- Identification of animals and plants
- Fire use (lighting, safety, maintenance, environmental responsibility and awareness etc)
- Foraging
- Cooking
- Shelter and den building
- Mud play, art and imaginative mud kitchen
- Engineering and problem solving
- Scavenger hunting
- Bushcraft skills
- Swings, climbing and physical exploration
- Nature art and crafts (clay, natural paints, print making etc)
- Woodland Conservation and environmental education

FSSNPT is a training provider, offering a training programme ranging from AGORED accredited Level 1, 2 and 3 courses to CPD, taster sessions and team building, Our training covers topics such as FS leading, assisting, outdoor curriculum coordination, outdoor learning and play, first aid, introduction to the FS ethos and wellbeing in nature.

Activities

Our provision is predominately broken down into the following:

1. **Projects** - either delivered directly to or on behalf of the organiser e.g. local school, community group. These sessions are facilitated either on a site of the organisers (risk assessment dependent) or one of the sites FS utilises. As a FS, we encourage regular and consistent access to our services however we do also offer one-off opportunities for activities, e.g. school trips or taster sessions. Grant funding enables FSSNPT to run a series of funded or subsidised opportunities. We strive to create partnerships with local community groups to provide such opportunities to children, youths, families or adults at risk.
2. **Open sessions** – regular FS sessions for the community to participate in. These are paid for by individuals.
3. **Training** – as a certified AGORED Cymru training provider we provide accredited and non-accredited courses throughout the year enabling others to create, deliver and support other FS settings.

Achievement and Performance

Following the last AGM no further trustees have been appointed, however our previous chair resigned. It was agreed by the Board for Diana Clark and Tim Orrell to Co-Chair until formally appointed at the forthcoming AGM. Gwen Bezodis, as agreed by the Board, has taken on secretarial responsibilities agreed at 2022 AGM.
After a period of furlough, staff returned to their contracted work hours and pace of delivery and training courses have been restored. The previous FS Project Manager resigned from post and a new Manager was appointed formally in May 2022 having supported the oversight of the Charity in a freelance capacity between February 2022 and May 2022.

We hosted a number of education providers and groups across our various sites, one particular school booked us weekly for the entirety returned for the 22-23 year..

FSSNPT: Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The aim of the organisation is to maintain reserves to enable it to continue and expand the services currently provided and, in addition to developing new projects and opportunities in the future. Our policy is to strive to maintain a reserve of three working months, in addition to a reserve for statutory redundancy of £7,975 as at 31 st March 2023.

Further Financial Details

During the 22-23 financial year our primary sources of funds are detailed below:
£26,315 income generated through various projects (e.g schools, playschemes, seedlings)
£24,042 from our training portfolio
£13,915 in grant funding (including HMRC furlough income)
Total income: £64,470

WHAT WE DID

Our training courses have been consistently well attended and we continue to be involved in the development of training in the sector through the Wales-wide network.

We have delivered many sessions which include:
Seedlings working with children and their families 0- 5 years.
Woodland Explorers working with older children aged 5 - 12 years old and their families.

A grant from National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All meant we could offer specific sessions working with Hands Up for Downs and Mixtup, all of which have been extremely successful. A quote from each of these organisations following the sessions is below.

Hands Up for Downs (HUFD) - Thank you to The National Lottery AWARDS FOR ALL Funding for making this project become a reality! 🙌 Staff and young people benefited and enjoyed it all so much 💚

Mixtup - Yesterday's popcorn poppety smoke wafferty afternoon at Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot was awesome! We devised new and wonderful games including the Where's Wíl forest flour trail 🌳 We made our own hoops from willow and whittled target stakes, we worked on our dream catchers and devoured popcorn, crumpets, hot chocolate and orange juice. Thank you Pam and Nigel

DETAIL OF DELIVERY

Training

Level 3 Forest School Leader x 2 courses (16 participants)
Outdoor Paediatric First Aid x 2 course (18 participants)
Coastal School Top Up x 1 course (8 participants)
Forest School Assistant x 2 courses (14 participants)

Trainers perspective: from Emma North FSSNPT Trainer

Over the course of the last year, I have been working alongside Karen as part of the training team. Previous to this I was working as a sessional Forest School leader with Forest School SNPT. I began my journey towards becoming a Level 4 Forest School Trainer in early 2022. As part of the process of becoming a trainer I have shadowed some of the courses Karen has delivered and have run courses of my own. Moving from the delivery of Forest School sessions into training has been very rewarding, although I do miss leading sessions and would love to have the time stay involved with this side of things.
I have over the last year run a Level 2 Forest School Assistant course and a Level 3 Forest School Leader course. Whilst delivering training you get to meet some great like-minded people, some of whom having successfully completed their training have gone on to work for us as sessional leaders and assistants. It is not only good to be able to support individuals in this way but knowing that teachers and teaching assistants are gaining knowledge and skills that enable them to run Forest School sessions in their school settings are great too. We know that Forest School is a really beneficial

process, and it is fantastic that this is increasingly being recognised by the education system.
I hope to complete the level 4 training early 2024 and continue to work for Forest School SNPT long into the future! It is great to see the organisation moving forward and growing under the guidance and expertise of a strong team of trustees and with the vision and dedication of a hard-working staff and sessional team. I believe we are well placed to continue to offer high quality training and Forest School experiences to those who want and need it, and to develop what we can offer in order that our future becomes increasingly secure. Exciting times ahead!

Projects

Seedlings x 75 sessions
Woodland Explorer 18 x sessions
School trips x 2
Communities for Work x 6 sessions
Family Fun Day x 2 sessions
Gnoll Seedlings x 2 sessions
Gower College trip x 1
HUFD x 10 sessions
Mixtup x 10 sessions
Summer Explorers x 5 sessions
NPT Under 5's x 16 sessions

Throughout the year we have been working with Ysgol Bryn Y Mor school offering sessions for outdoor learning.

We have worked with hundreds of children aged 0 - 12 years and their families.

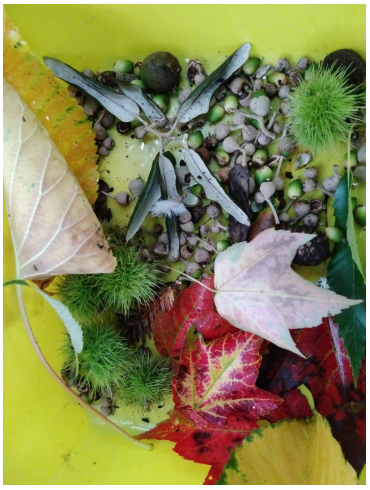
Here is a sample of the feedback we have received:

'I really enjoyed playing with my friends' 'I enjoyed the clay' 'I enjoyed being funny with Nigel with the puppets' (I kept getting attacked by badger/rabbit and squirrel) Lots specified the rope swing as their favourite thing.

Favourite thing was making conker necklaces. I loved going in the hammock and swinging

' I.want to stay here ..!",(Child not wanting to leave at the end) I loved making my leaf bowls best

This is literally the highlight of his week. I'm going to have to start hosing him down



FSSNPT Project Lead highlights: from Pixie Taylor

Seedlings at Llys Nini

We were fortunate to be able to offer funded Seedlings sessions for pre school aged children once again giving many more families the opportunity to come out and enjoy muddy fun throughout the seasons.

Highlights included digging , mud kitchen play and even full body immersion in our mud pit by some little adventurers!

It was rewarding to witness these very young children developing and gaining confidence physically and socially over the course of the year.

YGG Bryn Y Mor

Our forest school sessions with Ysgol Bryn Y Mor continued with all children from Yr 1 and 2 and a small nurture group of years 3 to 6 .

Singleton Park Ornamental Gardens is a perfect location for this project allowing the children to walk there from.their school. They have benefited from getting better acquainted with the nature on their doorstep and learning skills such as den building, climbing trees and following trails and problem solving.

But if you asked them most would say they loved playing Draenog (Hedgehog) Tag and cooking marshmallows.!

Sessional Staff Feedback: from James Morris & Chloe Naylor

"Working for SNPT Forest School since January 2022 has been a fantastic experience for myself, allowing me to expand my knowledge and enabling me to work with a diverse range of individuals, both as colleagues and attendees. Through working regular sessions, I have seen the charity's impact on families, allowing children to get outside and experience Forest School with skilled and engaging sessional leaders - and providing parents opportunities to meet and expand social circles. The opportunities I have had to lead have been really pleasant, and while it took time to find my feet, the communication from management and Forest School assistants gave me the confidence to know I was doing the right thing. Knowing the support of leadership was key in helping me through any issues, notably when showing sensitivity and transparency when dealing with a complaint. Having only worked in school settings before, my sessional work has expanded not only work opportunities and professional knowledge, but my social circle too, and for that I am extremely grateful." James

I started working with Forest School SNPT as a volunteer 7 years ago alongside my university studies. Since then, I have worked on various projects during the holidays and weekends and completed the Agored Cymru Level 2 Award in Assisting Forest School in 2020, leading to receiving paid work. I have learnt so much through working with the organisation over the years and met so many people with similar ideals as myself and that are incredibly down-to-earth. Being surrounded by such people has helped me to improve my confidence, which has led to me doing well in my term-time employment. I am thoroughly looking forward to working with the organisation on projects in the foreseeable future! Chloe

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

Trustees:

Diana Clark (Co-Chair)
Tim Orrell (Co-Chair)
Natalie Coombs (Deputy Chair) - resigned 22/09/22
Gwen Bezodis (Secretary) - resigned 11/09/23
Ria Banscherus

Treasurer

Ruth Evans (Treasurer)

Employees

Sophie Lacey (Forest School Manager) resigned December 2022
Jackie Dorrian (Forest School Manager) April 2023
Pixie Taylor (Project Lead)
Karen Jones (Training Lead)
Emma North (Trainer) March 2023
Sasha North (Administration Assistant)

The people we could not achieve all that we have without:

Cazzie Wood, Charlotte Toft, Pam Mayford, Tonya Evans, Kate Davies, Chloe Naylor, Kath Eagle, Carina Roberts, Nina Xartwright, Emily Parkinson, Carys Lovering, Adele Evans, Nigel Little, Lydia Dixon, Clare Santimano, Laura Evans, James Morris and Rochelle Lewis and anyone who's name is missing (apologies)

Huge thanks goes to the volunteers who give up their time to support us in more ways than one. A massive thank you!

Partners / supporting organisations:

SCVS

Nature Conservation Team (CCS)

Childcare & Play Team (CCS)

Cambium Sustainable

Outdoor Learning Training Network

Actif Woods

NPTCVS

Llys Nini RSPCA Animal Centre

CLOSING CREDITS

We would not be where we are now without the wonderful support of the children, young people and their families. We want to thank all of you who attended our sessions

Our Funders

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot	1087964

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2022	To	31/03/2023

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					
	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	-	13,915	-	13,915	28,178
Project Fees	26,316		-	26,316	49,768
Training Fees	24,042		-	24,042	26,292
Donations	50		-	50	-
Bank Interest	-		-	-	38
Other Income	147			147	310
		-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	50,555	13,915	-	64,470	104,586
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	50,555	13,915	-	64,470	104,586
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Costs	18,884	19,928	-	38,812	36,274
Self-employed Staff Costs		19,953		19,953	24,279
Travel	1,307	-	-	1,307	840
Volunteer Expenses		150	-	150	-
Project & Training Costs	5,764	-	-	5,764	6,664
Equipment		1,156		1,156	3,165
Maintenance & Improvements	-	-		-	3,542
Postage, Stationery & Printing	835			835	952
Telephone	570			570	519
Computer Costs		6,053		6,053	1,441
Insurance	1,213			1,213	1,009
Accountancy & payroll	4,307			4,307	1,528
Office Rent	-			-	1,037
Membership & Subscriptions	803			803	251
Miscellaneous	138			138	338
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	33,821	47,240	-	81,061	81,839
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	33,821	47,240	-	81,061	81,839
Net of receipts/(payments)	16,734	- 33,325	-	- 16,591	22,747
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	53,958	40,140	-	94,098	71,351
Cash funds this year end	70,692	6,815	-	77,507	94,098

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Lloyds Bank	38,360	6,815	-
	Paypal	1,722		
	CAF Bank	-	30,738	-
	Cash	85	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	40,167	37,553	-
		Agreement Error	Agreement Error	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
Diana Clark	DIANA CLARK	7/11/23
RBanschens	RIA BANSCHERUS	7/11/23

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA, NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

Independent examiner's Charity

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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 Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Signed:

Name: *Michael Jones*

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional body (if any): *A*ssociation of Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:
Bevan Buckland LLP
Chartered Accountants
Ground Floor, Cardigan House
Castle Court
Swansea Enterprise Park
Swansea
SA7 9LA
Date: 26th September 2023

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot	1087964

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2022	To	31/03/2023

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					
	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	-	13,915	-	13,915	28,178
Project Fees	26,316		-	26,316	49,768
Training Fees	24,042		-	24,042	26,292
Donations	50		-	50	-
Bank Interest	-		-	-	38
Other Income	147			147	310
		-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	50,555	13,915	-	64,470	104,586
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	50,555	13,915	-	64,470	104,586
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Costs	18,884	19,928	-	38,812	36,274
Self-employed Staff Costs		19,953		19,953	24,279
Travel	1,307	-	-	1,307	840
Volunteer Expenses		150	-	150	-
Project & Training Costs	5,764	-	-	5,764	6,664
Equipment		1,156		1,156	3,165
Maintenance & Improvements	-	-		-	3,542
Postage, Stationery & Printing	835			835	952
Telephone	570			570	519
Computer Costs		6,053		6,053	1,441
Insurance	1,213			1,213	1,009
Accountancy & payroll	4,307			4,307	1,528
Office Rent	-			-	1,037
Membership & Subscriptions	803			803	251
Miscellaneous	138			138	338
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	33,821	47,240	-	81,061	81,839
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	33,821	47,240	-	81,061	81,839
Net of receipts/(payments)	16,734	- 33,325	-	- 16,591	22,747
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	53,958	40,140	-	94,098	71,351
Cash funds this year end	70,692	6,815	-	77,507	94,098

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	Lloyds Bank	38,360	6,815	-
	Paypal	1,722		
	CAF Bank	-	30,738	-
	Cash	85	-	-
	Total cash funds	40,167	37,553	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	Agreement Error	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

Forest School SNPT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

Charity Name: Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot (FSSNPT)
Charity Number: 1087964
Address: Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 3BS
AGM Trustee Report 2022 - 2023

CHAIR'S STATEMENT

In these unprecedented times we have been very aware that every human connection with nature is paramount to our health and wellbeing. We are still recovering from the years of the pandemic and more recently surged straight into a cost of living crisis. Our work has enabled people to reconnect with nature, children and their families to get together to enjoy being outside, to meet new friends and to get muddy once again! Forest School SNPT remains committed to rebuilding this connection through our project work, education programme and training opportunities.

Our professional staff and experienced volunteers have continued to demonstrate great resilience and adaptability, allowing us to be able to offer more than ever, especially in these uncertain times. This has been another challenging year, with many changes taking place, and one in which the trustees and staff held the reins whilst recruiting a new Manager for the organisation. We'd like to extend our thanks to Llys Nini for providing us with our permanent site. We are very grateful to our funders, who continue to support us and look towards the future with optimism.

Di Clark & Tim Orrell

Co Chair of Trustees

Trustee Selection Method

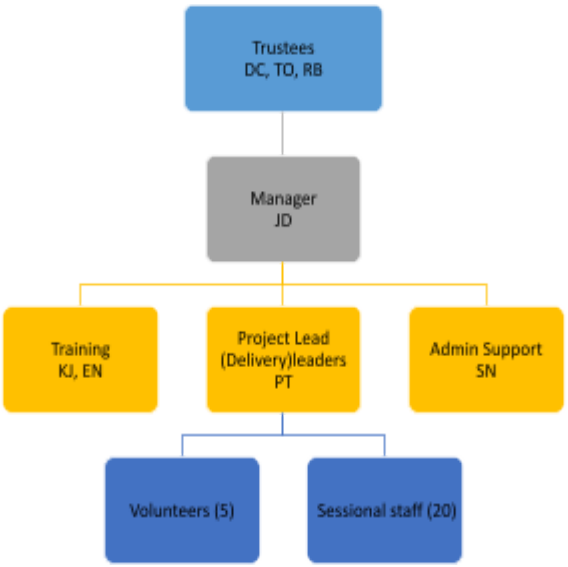
We have a clear recruitment and selection process for appointing new trustees into their roles. Role Descriptions are available for all positions within the Board. New trustees are appointed by existing trustees and are approved at the AGM, by majority vote.. Should the recruitment process fall out of line with the AGM then an EGM will be called to ratify and agree the new trustees in order for them to be welcomed onto the Board.

Governance

The Governing document is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it is fit for purpose.
All policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and are ratified by the Board. The FSSNPT Manager is line managed by one of the Co-Chairs, working closely with the Treasurer, staff members and all Board members to ensure there is a clear decision-making process.

We hold bi-monthly meetings of the Board where Strategic Direction of the organisation is reviewed.

Organisational Structure



FSSNPT employs a part-time FS Manager who has delegated responsibility for the day to day running of the organisation. The FS Manager is supported by 3 other part-time employees as detailed above. There are a further 20 FS Leaders and Assistants who work with us on a sessional basis. We also have 5 volunteers which we will need to look at a recruitment drive for the future.

FSSNPT: Strategy

Charity Objects

To provide facilities for education and recreation outdoors with the aim of improving the lives of our communities. To implement traditional and effective FS techniques, outdoor learning and play across the Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot areas.

Aims

FSSNPT provides opportunities for all ages and abilities to grow in confidence, self-esteem, resilience and independence in woodland settings. All participants are supported with their individual growth and encouraged to explore the environment and connect.

FSSNPT implements 6 key principles in line with the FS community standards:

1. We facilitate a long-term process through regular interaction
2. We provide sessions in natural wooded environments
3. We promote and encourage holistic development
4. We offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks
5. All of our delivery team members are qualified FS practitioners (L3/L2)
6. We use a range of learner-centered processes

Our strategic plan for 22-25 is in development with strong aims, objectives and organisational values.

Quality Assurance

With a high staff: to participant ratio we enable individual learning needs and styles, facilitated by our qualified and experienced Leaders, Assistants and Volunteers.

All sites and activities are risk assessed. Sites range from wooded areas across Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot in addition to local beaches for Coastal School services. Activities are adaptable and broad including (but not limited to):

- Tool use (whittling, sawing, pruning)
- Identification of animals and plants
- Fire use (lighting, safety, maintenance, environmental responsibility and awareness etc)
- Foraging
- Cooking
- Shelter and den building
- Mud play, art and imaginative mud kitchen
- Engineering and problem solving
- Scavenger hunting
- Bushcraft skills
- Swings, climbing and physical exploration
- Nature art and crafts (clay, natural paints, print making etc)
- Woodland Conservation and environmental education

FSSNPT is a training provider, offering a training programme ranging from AGORED accredited Level 1, 2 and 3 courses to CPD, taster sessions and team building, Our training covers topics such as FS leading, assisting, outdoor curriculum coordination, outdoor learning and play, first aid, introduction to the FS ethos and wellbeing in nature.

Activities

Our provision is predominately broken down into the following:

1. **Projects** - either delivered directly to or on behalf of the organiser e.g. local school, community group. These sessions are facilitated either on a site of the organisers (risk assessment dependent) or one of the sites FS utilises. As a FS, we encourage regular and consistent access to our services however we do also offer one-off opportunities for activities, e.g. school trips or taster sessions. Grant funding enables FSSNPT to run a series of funded or subsidised opportunities. We strive to create partnerships with local community groups to provide such opportunities to children, youths, families or adults at risk.
2. **Open sessions** – regular FS sessions for the community to participate in. These are paid for by individuals.
3. **Training** – as a certified AGORED Cymru training provider we provide accredited and non-accredited courses throughout the year enabling others to create, deliver and support other FS settings.

Achievement and Performance

Following the last AGM no further trustees have been appointed, however our previous chair resigned. It was agreed by the Board for Diana Clark and Tim Orrell to Co-Chair until formally appointed at the forthcoming AGM. Gwen Bezodis, as agreed by the Board, has taken on secretarial responsibilities agreed at 2022 AGM.
After a period of furlough, staff returned to their contracted work hours and pace of delivery and training courses have been restored. The previous FS Project Manager resigned from post and a new Manager was appointed formally in May 2022 having supported the oversight of the Charity in a freelance capacity between February 2022 and May 2022.

We hosted a number of education providers and groups across our various sites, one particular school booked us weekly for the entirety returned for the 22-23 year..

FSSNPT: Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The aim of the organisation is to maintain reserves to enable it to continue and expand the services currently provided and, in addition to developing new projects and opportunities in the future. Our policy is to strive to maintain a reserve of three working months, in addition to a reserve for statutory redundancy of £7,975 as at 31 st March 2023.

Further Financial Details

During the 22-23 financial year our primary sources of funds are detailed below:
£26,315 income generated through various projects (e.g schools, playschemes, seedlings)
£24,042 from our training portfolio
£13,915 in grant funding (including HMRC furlough income)
Total income: £64,470

WHAT WE DID

Our training courses have been consistently well attended and we continue to be involved in the development of training in the sector through the Wales-wide network.

We have delivered many sessions which include:
Seedlings working with children and their families 0- 5 years.
Woodland Explorers working with older children aged 5 - 12 years old and their families.

A grant from National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All meant we could offer specific sessions working with Hands Up for Downs and Mixtup, all of which have been extremely successful. A quote from each of these organisations following the sessions is below.

Hands Up for Downs (HUFD) - Thank you to The National Lottery AWARDS FOR ALL Funding for making this project become a reality! 🙌 Staff and young people benefited and enjoyed it all so much 💚

Mixtup - Yesterday's popcorn poppety smoke wafferty afternoon at Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot was awesome! We devised new and wonderful games including the Where's Wíl forest flour trail 🌳 We made our own hoops from willow and whittled target stakes, we worked on our dream catchers and devoured popcorn, crumpets, hot chocolate and orange juice. Thank you Pam and Nigel

DETAIL OF DELIVERY

Training

Level 3 Forest School Leader x 2 courses (16 participants)
Outdoor Paediatric First Aid x 2 course (18 participants)
Coastal School Top Up x 1 course (8 participants)
Forest School Assistant x 2 courses (14 participants)

Trainers perspective: from Emma North FSSNPT Trainer

Over the course of the last year, I have been working alongside Karen as part of the training team. Previous to this I was working as a sessional Forest School leader with Forest School SNPT. I began my journey towards becoming a Level 4 Forest School Trainer in early 2022. As part of the process of becoming a trainer I have shadowed some of the courses Karen has delivered and have run courses of my own. Moving from the delivery of Forest School sessions into training has been very rewarding, although I do miss leading sessions and would love to have the time stay involved with this side of things.
I have over the last year run a Level 2 Forest School Assistant course and a Level 3 Forest School Leader course. Whilst delivering training you get to meet some great like-minded people, some of whom having successfully completed their training have gone on to work for us as sessional leaders and assistants. It is not only good to be able to support individuals in this way but knowing that teachers and teaching assistants are gaining knowledge and skills that enable them to run Forest School sessions in their school settings are great too. We know that Forest School is a really beneficial

process, and it is fantastic that this is increasingly being recognised by the education system.
I hope to complete the level 4 training early 2024 and continue to work for Forest School SNPT long into the future! It is great to see the organisation moving forward and growing under the guidance and expertise of a strong team of trustees and with the vision and dedication of a hard-working staff and sessional team. I believe we are well placed to continue to offer high quality training and Forest School experiences to those who want and need it, and to develop what we can offer in order that our future becomes increasingly secure. Exciting times ahead!

Projects

Seedlings x 75 sessions
Woodland Explorer 18 x sessions
School trips x 2
Communities for Work x 6 sessions
Family Fun Day x 2 sessions
Gnoll Seedlings x 2 sessions
Gower College trip x 1
HUFD x 10 sessions
Mixtup x 10 sessions
Summer Explorers x 5 sessions
NPT Under 5's x 16 sessions

Throughout the year we have been working with Ysgol Bryn Y Mor school offering sessions for outdoor learning.

We have worked with hundreds of children aged 0 - 12 years and their families.

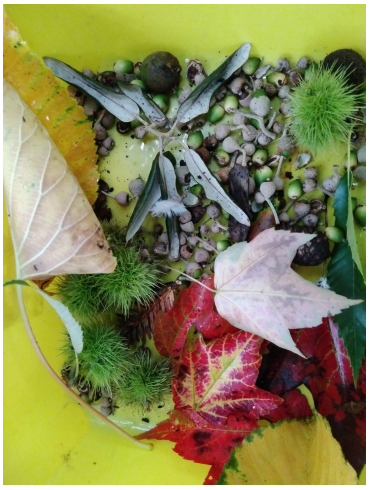
Here is a sample of the feedback we have received:

'I really enjoyed playing with my friends' 'I enjoyed the clay' 'I enjoyed being funny with Nigel with the puppets' (I kept getting attacked by badger/rabbit and squirrel) Lots specified the rope swing as their favourite thing.

Favourite thing was making conker necklaces. I loved going in the hammock and swinging

' I.want to stay here ..!",(Child not wanting to leave at the end) I loved making my leaf bowls best

This is literally the highlight of his week. I'm going to have to start hosing him down



FSSNPT Project Lead highlights: from Pixie Taylor

Seedlings at Llys Nini

We were fortunate to be able to offer funded Seedlings sessions for pre school aged children once again giving many more families the opportunity to come out and enjoy muddy fun throughout the seasons.

Highlights included digging , mud kitchen play and even full body immersion in our mud pit by some little adventurers!

It was rewarding to witness these very young children developing and gaining confidence physically and socially over the course of the year.

YGG Bryn Y Mor

Our forest school sessions with Ysgol Bryn Y Mor continued with all children from Yr 1 and 2 and a small nurture group of years 3 to 6 .

Singleton Park Ornamental Gardens is a perfect location for this project allowing the children to walk there from.their school. They have benefited from getting better acquainted with the nature on their doorstep and learning skills such as den building, climbing trees and following trails and problem solving.

But if you asked them most would say they loved playing Draenog (Hedgehog) Tag and cooking marshmallows.!

Sessional Staff Feedback: from James Morris & Chloe Naylor

"Working for SNPT Forest School since January 2022 has been a fantastic experience for myself, allowing me to expand my knowledge and enabling me to work with a diverse range of individuals, both as colleagues and attendees. Through working regular sessions, I have seen the charity's impact on families, allowing children to get outside and experience Forest School with skilled and engaging sessional leaders - and providing parents opportunities to meet and expand social circles. The opportunities I have had to lead have been really pleasant, and while it took time to find my feet, the communication from management and Forest School assistants gave me the confidence to know I was doing the right thing. Knowing the support of leadership was key in helping me through any issues, notably when showing sensitivity and transparency when dealing with a complaint. Having only worked in school settings before, my sessional work has expanded not only work opportunities and professional knowledge, but my social circle too, and for that I am extremely grateful." James

I started working with Forest School SNPT as a volunteer 7 years ago alongside my university studies. Since then, I have worked on various projects during the holidays and weekends and completed the Agored Cymru Level 2 Award in Assisting Forest School in 2020, leading to receiving paid work. I have learnt so much through working with the organisation over the years and met so many people with similar ideals as myself and that are incredibly down-to-earth. Being surrounded by such people has helped me to improve my confidence, which has led to me doing well in my term-time employment. I am thoroughly looking forward to working with the organisation on projects in the foreseeable future! Chloe

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

Trustees:

Diana Clark (Co-Chair)
Tim Orrell (Co-Chair)
Natalie Coombs (Deputy Chair) - resigned 22/09/22
Gwen Bezodis (Secretary) - resigned 11/09/23
Ria Banscherus

Treasurer

Ruth Evans (Treasurer)

Employees

Sophie Lacey (Forest School Manager) resigned December 2022
Jackie Dorrian (Forest School Manager) April 2023
Pixie Taylor (Project Lead)
Karen Jones (Training Lead)
Emma North (Trainer) March 2023
Sasha North (Administration Assistant)

The people we could not achieve all that we have without:

Cazzie Wood, Charlotte Toft, Pam Mayford, Tonya Evans, Kate Davies, Chloe Naylor, Kath Eagle, Carina Roberts, Nina Xartwright, Emily Parkinson, Carys Lovering, Adele Evans, Nigel Little, Lydia Dixon, Clare Santimano, Laura Evans, James Morris and Rochelle Lewis and anyone who's name is missing (apologies)

Huge thanks goes to the volunteers who give up their time to support us in more ways than one. A massive thank you!

Partners / supporting organisations:

SCVS

Nature Conservation Team (CCS)

Childcare & Play Team (CCS)

Cambium Sustainable

Outdoor Learning Training Network

Actif Woods

NPTCVS

Llys Nini RSPCA Animal Centre

CLOSING CREDITS

We would not be where we are now without the wonderful support of the children, young people and their families. We want to thank all of you who attended our sessions

Our Funders

FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

England & Wales - Charity number 1087964

Accounts

FOREST SCHOOL
SWANSEA · NEATH · PORT TALBOT

YSGOL GOEDWIG
ABERTAWE • CASTELL-NEDD • PORT TALBOT
www.forestschoolsnpt.org.uk

Trustee Report

2021-2022

Reference and Administration details

Charity Name: Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot (FSSNPT)
Charity Number: 1087964
Address: Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 3BS

Trustees

- Diana Clark (Co-Chair) – to be approved at 2022 AGM
- Tim Orrell (Co-Chair) – to be approved at 2022 AGM
- Natalie Coombs (Deputy Chair)
- Gwen Bezodis (Secretary) to be approved at 2022 AGM
- Ria Banscherus

Treasurer

- Ruth Evans (Treasurer)

Employees

- Sophie Lacey (Forest School Manager)
- Pixie Taylor (Project Lead)
- Karen Jones (Training Lead)
- Sasha North (Assistant)]

Structure

The organisation changed from a limited company (LTD) to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) in September 2019.

Trustee Selection Method

A fair and open recruitment process is implemented, whereby prospective trustees meet with members of the Board to discuss the opportunity. New trustees are appointed by existing trustees within a Board meeting and approved at the Annual General Meeting by a majority vote.

Governance

We are undergoing a thorough review of organisational policies, this has been a priority of the Board and Manager's as reflected in our minutes. The FSSNPT Manager is line managed by one of the Co-Chairs, working closely with the Treasurer, staff members and all Board members to ensure there is a clear decision-making process.

Organisational Structure

FSSNPT employs a part-time FS Manager who is responsible for ensuring the charity delivers its services and meets its objectives. The FS Manager is supported by 2 other part-time employees as detailed above. There are a further 16 FS Leaders and Assistants on a sessional basis. During the 21-22 period FSSNPT did not utilise the support from volunteers due to COVID.

FSSNPT: Strategy

Charity Objects

To provide facilities for education and recreation outdoors with the aim of improving lives of our communities. To implement traditional and effective FS techniques, outdoor learning and play across the Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot areas.

Aims

FSSNPT provides opportunities for all ages and abilities to grow in confidence, self-esteem, resilience and independence in woodland settings. All participants are supported with their individual growth and encouraged to explore the environment and connect.

FSSNPT implements 6 key principles in line with the FS community standards:

1. We facilitate a long-term process through regular interaction
2. We provide sessions in natural wooded environments
3. We promote and encourage holistic development
4. We offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks
5. All of our delivery team members are qualified FS practitioners (L3/L2)
6. We use a range of learner-centered processes

Our strategic plan for 22-25 is in development with strong aims, objectives and organisational values.

Quality Assurance

With a high staff:participant ratio we enable individual learning needs and styles, facilitated by our qualified and experienced Leaders, Assistants and Volunteers.

All sites and activities are risk assessed. Sites range from wooded areas across Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot in addition to local beaches for Coastal School services. Activities are adaptable and broad including (but not limited to):

- Tool use (whittling, sawing, pruning)
- Identification of animals and plants
- Fire use (lighting, safety, maintenance, environmental responsibility and awareness etc)
- Foraging
- Cooking
- Shelter and den building
- Mud play, art and imaginative mud kitchen
- Engineering and problem solving
- Scavenger hunting

- Bushcraft skills
- Swings, climbing and physical exploration
- Nature art and crafts (clay, natural paints, print making etc)
- Woodland Conservation and environmental education

FSSNPT is a training provider, offering a training programme ranging from AGORED accredited Level 1, 2 and 3 courses to CPD, taster sessions and team building, Our training covers topics such as FS leading, assisting, outdoor curriculum coordination, outdoor learning and play, first aid, introduction to the FS ethos and wellbeing in nature.

Activities

Our provision is predominately broken down into the following:

1. **Projects** - either delivered directly to or on behalf of the organiser e.g. local school, community group. These sessions are facilitated either on a site of the organisers (risk assessment dependent) or one of the sites FS utilises. As a FS, we encourage regular and consistent access to our services however we do also offer one-off opportunities for activities, e.g. school trips or taster sessions. Grant funding enables FSSNPT to run a series of funded or subsidised opportunities. We strive to create partnerships with local community groups to provide such opportunities to children, youths, families or adults at risk.
2. **Open sessions** – regular FS sessions for the community to participate in. These are paid for by individuals.
3. **Training** – as a certified AGORED Cymru training provider we provide accredited and non-accredited courses throughout the year enabling others to create, deliver and support other FS settings.

Achievement and Performance

Following the last AGM no further trustees have been appointed, however our previous chair resigned. It was agreed by the Board for Diana Clark and Tim Orrell to Co-Chair until formally appointed at the forthcoming AGM. Gwen Bezodis, as agreed by the Board, has taken on secretarial responsibilities until confirmed at the 2022 AGM. Sophie Lacey resigned from their position as Trustee, and through a fair and transparent recruitment process secured employment with FSSNPT as their Manager. The appointment process for the role was approved by the Charities Commission.

After a period of furlough, staff returned to their contracted work hours and pace of delivery and training courses have been restored. The previous FS Project Manager resigned from post and a new Manager was appointed formally in May 2022 having supported the oversight of the Charity in a freelance capacity between February 2022 and May 2022.

During the 21-22 period, we adapted to the COVID restrictions in place and the evident interest in the opportunities to retrain and pursue careers in outdoor learning and play - particularly in line with the new Welsh Curriculum. We continued to run our Level 3 FS Leader and Level 2 FS Assistant courses, however we also provided blended learning opportunities (mix of online and in-person) with Cambium Sustainable:

- Level 3 Forest School Leader (Blended) = 8
- Level 3 Outdoor Curriculum Coordinator = 4

- Level 3 Forest School Leader = 12
- Level 3 Coastal School = 7
- Level 2 Forest School Assistant =8
- Level 2 Outdoor Play Practitioner = 5
- Level 2 Outdoor Learning Practitioners = 15

  Total trainees enrolled during 2021 - 2022 = 59 trainees

We received several grants from Swansea and Neath Port Talbot council enabling us to provide playschemes and regular free or subsidised services to our local communities ensuring accessibility for all. These targetted lower income families who would benefit from cost-effective services. The subsidised sessions in particular were popular and well-attended, this is a format we wish to replicate in the future.

We hosted a number of education providers and groups across our various sites, one particular school booked us weekly for the entirety of the 21-22 academic year (returning for the 22-23 year also). Funding received from Cooperative Bank enabled FSSNPT to run a small scheme over the summer to gain valuable feedback to plan a series of further funded afterschool clubs and take-home kits for participants across 4 schools to continue their FS experience.

We received Postcode Lottery funding contributing to our core costs which has given us flexibility for the year during unpredictable times.

FSSNPT: Financial Review

Reserves Policy

The aim of the organisation is to maintain reserves to enable it to continue and expand the services currently provided. In addition to developing new projects and opportunities in the future. Our policy is to strive to maintain a reserve of three working months, in addition to a reserve for statutory redundancy of £8,974 on 31st March 2022.

Further Financial Details

During the 21-22 financial year our primary sources of funds are detailed below:

- £49,768 income generated through various projects (e.g schools, playschemes, seedlings)
- £26,292 from our training portfolio
- £28,178 in grant funding (including HMRC furlough income)

  Total income: **£104,586**

Declaration

I declare that the above report is approved by the Board of Trustees.	
Print Name	DIANA CLARK
Signature	Diana Clark.
Position	CO-CHAIR OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Date	10/11/2022.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot	1087964

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2021	To	31/03/2022

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					
	-	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	-	28,178	-	28,178	32,570
Project Fees	49,768		-	49,768	13,887
Training Fees	26,292		-	26,292	11,923
Donations	-		-	-	50
Bank Interest	38		-	38	-
Other Income	310			310	332
		-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	76,408	28,178	-	104,586	58,762
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	76,408	28,178	-	104,586	58,762
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Costs	21,956	14,318	-	36,274	29,632
Self-employed Staff Costs	24,279	-		24,279	5,450
Travel	840	-	-	840	306
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Project & Training Costs	6,664	-	-	6,664	5,543
Equipment	-	3,165		3,165	4,251
Maintenance & Improvements	-	3,542		3,542	-
Postage, Stationery & Printing	952			952	605
Telephone	519			519	441
Computer Costs	1,441			1,441	1,047
Insurance	1,009			1,009	1,255
Accountancy & payroll	1,528			1,528	2,198
Office Rent	1,037			1,037	1,000
Membership & Subscriptions	251			251	304
Miscellaneous	338			338	601
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	60,814	21,025	-	81,839	52,633
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	60,814	21,025	-	81,839	52,633
Net of receipts/(payments)	15,594	7,153	-	22,747	6,129
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	38,364	32,987	-	71,351	65,222
Cash funds this year end	53,958	40,140	-	94,098	71,351

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 £
B1 Cash funds	Lloyds Bank	53,758	9,615	-
	CAF Bank	-	30,525	-
	Cash	200	-	-
	Total cash funds	53,958	40,140	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Basis of preparation

During the year the charitable company (04194600) converted to a CIO. This conversion took place on 9th September 2019 and the charity is now only registered with the charity commission as a CIO - charity number 1087964. These financial statements have been prepared under the principles of merger accounting and on a receipts and payments basis. For disclosure to the user, the comparative has been prepared under the accruals basis as the charity was a company for the comparative period.

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Diana Clark	DIANA CLARK	26/09/22

Bevan Buckland LLP
Langdon Road
Langdon House
SA1 Waterfront
Swansea
SA1 8QY

26th September 2022

Dear Sirs

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022, for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material aspects, in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.

We confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of the trustees, management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, of inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can properly make each of the following representations to you:

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees under the Charities Act 2011 for preparing financial statements, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

   We confirm that in our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view and in particular that where any additional information must be disclosed in order to give a true and fair view that information has in fact been disclosed. We confirm that the selection and application of the accounting policies used in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriate, and we approve these accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022.

2. We confirm that all accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit, in accordance with your terms of engagement, and that all the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all management, trustees' and members' meetings, have been made available to you. We have given you unrestricted access to persons within the charity in order to obtain audit evidence and have provided any additional information that you have requested for the purposes of your audit.

3. We confirm the charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the assets, except for those disclosed in the financial statements.

4. We confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and data used by us in making accounting estimates, and the related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

5. We confirm that we have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

6. We confirm that the charity has no liabilities or contingent liabilities other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

7. We confirm that all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

8. We confirm that there have been no events since the balance sheet date which require disclosing or which would materially affect the amounts in the financial statements, other than those already disclosed or included in the financial statements.

9. We confirm that there have been no material transactions with related parties.

10. We confirm that all related party relationships and transactions have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

11. We confirm that the charity neither had, at any time during the year, any arrangement, transaction or agreement to provide credit facilities (including advances and credits granted by the charity) for trustees, nor provided guarantees of any kind on behalf of the trustees.

12. We confirm that the charity has not contracted for any capital expenditure other than as disclosed in the financial statements.

13. We confirm that the charity has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.

14. We confirm that we are not aware of any possible or actual instance of non-compliance with those laws and regulations which provide a legal framework within which the charity conducts its activities and which are central to the charity's ability to conduct its activities.

    We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud. There have been no deficiencies in internal control of which we are aware.

15. We have disclosed to you our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the charity, and any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements communicated to us by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others involving management or employees who have a significant role in internal control or others.

16. We confirm that, in our opinion, the charity's financial statements should be prepared on the going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. In reaching

this conclusion, we have taken into account all relevant matters of which we are aware, and have considered a period of at least one year from the date on which the financial statements will be approved.

17. We confirm that all grants, donations and other income, including those subject to special terms or conditions or received for restricted purposes, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions during the period regarding the application of such income.

18. We confirm that the bank balance as at 31st March 2022 matches the amount included within the receipts and payments accounts for year ended 31st March 2022.

19. We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that:

- so far as each trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you as auditors are unaware;
- and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully,

Diana Clark.
.....

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

Trustee.....DIANA CLARK.....

Date.....10/11/2022.....

FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

England & Wales - Charity number 1087964

Accounts

FOREST SCHOOL
SWANSEA • NEATH • PORT TALBOT
YSGOL GOEDWIG
ABERTAWE • CASTELL-NEDD • PORT TALBOT
www.forestschoolsnpt.org.uk

"Connecting people to nature and each other"

Trustee Report 2020 - 2021

Reference and administration details

Charity name: Forest School SNPT
Charity number: 1087964
Address: Bishop's Wood Countryside Centre, Caswell, Swansea, SA3 3BS

Trustees
Jessica Kidd – Chair
Deborah Hill
Timothy Orrell

Project Manager
Holli Yeoman

Structure, governance and management

The organisation changed to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in September 2019.

Trustee selection method
New trustees are appointed by the existing trustees and approved at the Annual General Meeting by a majority vote.

Additional governance issues
The management committee seeks to ensure that the trustee body reflects the diversity of the wide needs of Forest School and the charity's work with children and young people and the natural environment. The aim is to have representatives from the Local Authority, Education, Environment and Outdoor Learning, as well as clients and service users.

Organisational structure
The charity employs a Project Manager who is responsible for ensuring the charity delivers its services and meets its targets, along with the other 2 permanent staff, both Forest School Leaders, one Project Lead and one Training Lead. There are a further 8 leaders and assistants who work on a sessional basis and usually approximately 5 volunteers. All staff are part-time.

Objectives and activities

Charity objects

The objects of the CIO are to promote the benefit of children and young people in Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot and neighbouring areas by providing facilities for education and recreation outdoors and indoors with the aim of improving lives of all children and young people

Charity aims

Forest School provides opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities to grow in confidence, self esteem and independence in special woodland settings, where they are supported in their learning and encouraged to explore the environment and appreciate nature.

What makes Forest School special is its concentration on regular repeat visits, ideally over a whole year and the ethos of child-initiated learning and high staff: child ratio, enabling individual's learning needs and styles to be supported. Woodlands are a fantastic learning environment, they are exciting, robust, resource-rich and safe (as long as properly managed and risk assessed).

Sessions are run by a team of qualified Forest School Leaders, Assistants and volunteers. The activities cover a broad range from woodland crafts and arts, bush craft, cooking, tool use, woodland management and conservation, play and environmental education topics.

There is also a commitment to supporting and training others to provide similar activities and benefits, and we offer a training programme ranging from INSETs in schools to accredited qualifications for individual Forest School Leaders and Assistants.

This year we have reviewed our aims and vision in light of the developing terrain of outdoor learning and climate crisis, and arrived at a new focus for the next three years, which will champion more explicitly the value of nature connection and the therapeutic elements of our work.

Charity activities

Our provision is divided into projects, which we deliver directly to participants, and training, which enables others to become practitioners in the field and carry out their own delivery.

Projects can be going into schools, or bringing them out to one of our sites for regular, usually weekly, sessions. We also provide one-off programmes of activities for school ‘trips’. Other grant-funded work can be working with specific groups with their own disadvantage or need, for example creating more accessible activities for those with physical disabilities, or work in a geographical community such as partnering with a local ‘Friends of’ the Park.

Playschemes form another core part of our project activity, offering open access outdoor play, supported by the Local Authority’s Play Team. There has been

increasing focus on funding for under 5s projects which are run as parent and toddler sessions, and are our most popular cohort at the moment.

Training is another branch of our work, with courses where individuals come to us to form a group to be trained in an Agored Cymru qualification running up to 4 times per year. Training teachers within their own setting is also an important part of spreading the message and empowering those who already work with children and young people to use the outdoors to greater benefit.

Achievements and performance

It has been an unusual year due to the pandemic, although not altogether bad, with some quite positive surprises.

We suspended all of our activity from April, with delivery staff on furlough and the Project Manager on reduced hours. We were grateful to receive covid emergency funding from two different sources, one was the Moondance Foundation, and the other was the Welsh Government. These, and the furlough income, helped us to ride out the lack of activity. There was also a local grant specific to making activities covid-safe which helped a lot with readiness to re-open.

Another plus was that we were one of the first organisations to be up and running again as things opened up due to the extra level of safety in our work taking place outdoors. There was in fact extra funding in the summer to get kids out playing and back in contact with the world and each other, which gave us a busier than usual schedule for August.

The training side of our work was also transformed as our training partner developed a blended course, where trainees could work through the theory part of the course online at home in their own time. The demand for this was huge, and meant we had a very busy autumn delivering the practical days. We also ran our first entirely online course, a new qualification training Forest School Leaders to Coordinate an Outdoor Curriculum.

Funders of our two big project grants were flexible about us postponing delivery, and we had an unusual (for us) piece of work where we were contracted by Powys Education Service to deliver one to one sessions twice a week for almost the whole year with a child who wasn’t able to attend to school.

Our grant for core costs, in its second year of a tapered 3-year arrangement, was set aside for development in agreement with the funder, Garfield Weston, as the books had balanced without needing to include it in covering our core costs for this year.

In support of future development, we engaged the help of Social Business Wales in facilitating a review of our governance and organisational strategy. It felt like a natural time to review, with the forced stop and a bigger picture across the world of re-assessing priorities and focusing on what’s important. It led to a commitment to clarify our vision and to recruit some new trustees to add energy and skills to the management committee.

Financial review

Policy on reserves

The aim of the organisation is to maintain reserves to enable it to continue and expand the services currently provided and develop new projects in the future. Our policy is to aim to maintain a reserve of three working months as well as a reserve for statutory redundancy of £9,255 as at 31st March 2021.

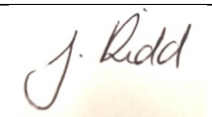
Further financial details

Our principal sources of funds this year have been from the three covid grants, smaller project grants from City and County of Swansea Childcare and Play Team, and the one to one work with Powys Council. Other income has come from fees from training.

Declaration

The trustees have declared that they approve the report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature	
Name	Jessica Kidd
Position	Chair of trustees

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Forest School Swansea Neath & Port Talbot	1087964

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	4/1/2020	To	3/31/2021

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 £
A1 Receipts				
	-	-	-	-
Grant Income	-	32,570	-	32,570
Project Fees	13,887		-	13,887
Training Fees	11,923		-	11,923
Donations	50		-	50
Bank Interest	-		-	-
Other Income	332			332
		-	-	-
***Sub total**(Gross income for AR)*	26,192	32,570	-	58,762
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	26,192	32,570	-	58,762
A3 Payments				
	-	-	-	-
Staff Costs	5,778	23,854	-	29,632
Self-employed Staff Costs	-	5,450		5,450
Travel	306	-	-	306
Volunteer Expenses	-	-	-	-
Project & Training Costs	5,543	-	-	5,543
Equipment	2,188	2,063		4,251
Maintenance & Improvements	-			-
Postage, Stationery & Printing	605			605
Telephone	441			441
Computer Costs	1,047			1,047
Insurance	1,255			1,255
Accountancy & payroll	2,198			2,198
Office Rent	1,000			1,000
Membership & Subscriptions	304			304
Miscellaneous	601			601
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,266	31,367	-	52,633
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,266	31,367	-	52,633
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,926	1,203	-	6,129
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	33,438	31,784	-	65,222
Cash funds this year end	38,364	32,987	-	71,351

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

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
	Lloyds Bank	38,164	2,500
	CAF Bank	-	30,487
	Cash	200	-
	Total cash funds	38,364	32,987
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

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

B3 Investment assets

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

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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

B5 Liabilities

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

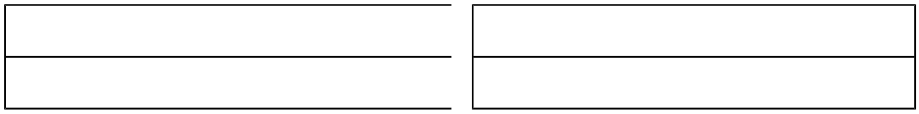
Basis of preparation

During the year the charitable company (04194600) converted to a CIO. This conversion took place on 9th September 2019 and the charity registered with the charity commission as a CIO - charity number 1087964. These financial statements have been prepared under the princ accounting and on a receipts and payments basis. For disclosure to the user, the comparative has been prepared under the accruals basis a company for the comparative period.

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

Signature _____

Print Name



CC16a

[redacted]

Last year

to the nearest £

-
25,464
24,350
21,788
510
22
170
-
72,304

-
-
72,304

-
37,197
8,481
1,834
254
5,219
869
401
703
454
412
1,248
3,035
-
30
93
-
60,230

-
60,230
12,074
-
53,147
65,221

[redacted]

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

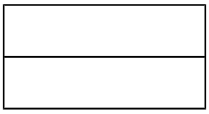
Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

/ is now only
ciples of merger
as the charity was a

Date of approval



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOREST SCHOOL SWANSEA, NEATH AND PORT TALBOT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Forest School Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot ('the Charity')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Henry Lloyd Davies
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Bevan Buckland LLP
Chartered Accountants
Langdon House
Langdon Road
SA1 Swansea Waterfront
Swansea
SA1 8QY

27th October 2021