

# ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

England & Wales · Charity number 1090086

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [04321656](#)

**Registered** 2002-01-15

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Headlands Primary School  
Bushland Road  
Northampton  
NN3 2NS

**Phone** 01604415362

**Email** [enquiries@acornchildcareuk.org](mailto:enquiries@acornchildcareuk.org)

**Website** [www.acornchildcareuk.org](http://www.acornchildcareuk.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROVIDE A SAFE AND CARING ENVIRONMENT AND TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BY: (A) OFFERING A BALANCED AND STIMULATING CURRICULUM BASED ON APPROPRIATE PLAY FACILITIES ENSURING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS ARE MET AND THAT SUCH GROUPS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN REGARDLESS OF GENDER, RACE, CULTURE OR RELIGION; (B) ENCOURAGING OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES THROUGH WHICH PARENTS MAY HELP CHILDREN; (C) FURTHERING THE AIM OF THE PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE.

**Activities:** Childcare Provision

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Northamptonshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£998,783	£937,607	£126,774	42
2024-03-31	£788,311	£842,584	£65,598	30
2023-03-31	£742,081	£796,793	£119,871	34
2022-03-31	£676,369	£669,608	£174,583	32
2021-03-31	£572,686	£606,845	£167,822	38

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
HILARY CAROLINE SCOTT	Chair	2015-11-04
DAWN QUENNELL		2013-10-03
Laura Walding		2023-04-01

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090086

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# Accounts

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REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04321656 (England and Wales)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1090086

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025  
for  
ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

Cobley Desborough  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Chartered Tax Advisers  
Artisans' House  
7 Queensbridge  
Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
NN4 7BF

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

**Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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## **ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31. March 2025

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#### Objectives and activities

##### Objectives and aims

Our main activities and who we are trying to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on providing a safe and caring environment to enhance the development and education of children by:

(a) Offering a balanced and stimulating curriculum based on appropriate play facilities, ensuring individual needs are met and that such groups offer opportunities for all children, regardless of gender, race, culture or religion.

(b) Encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help children.

(c) Furthering the aims of Preschool Learning Alliance.

(d) Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and working with other professionals to help achieve their full potentials.

(e) Offering support to children from vulnerable backgrounds.

The trustee's policy is to ensure that the highest quality care service is available to the children and is undertaken to further our charitable purpose for public benefit.

Acorn Child Care (UK) offers the following services for children:

Service	Age Group	Capacity per session (No of places)
Acorn Childcare UK		
Nursery:		
Sunflower room	3 months to 2 years	24
Bluebells room	2 years to 3 years	25
Evergreens room	Pre-school 3-4 years	32
OTHER:		
Before and after school	4 to 11 years	35
Playscheme	4 to 11 years	35

Over 200 children attend Acorn each week and they are currently full to capacity.

#### Voluntary Help and Donations in Kind

(a) The trustees and management committee members excluding the paid staff volunteer their administrative services and time free of charge.

(b) The charity received reduced local authority council rates in 2024-25 of £2,395 (full value £11,976) (2023-24 reduced rates of £2,458 - full value £12,288).

The charity is grateful to all of the above named for their voluntary help and donations in kind.

## **ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

In the year the charity obtained the Portage Stamp of Approval given to early year's settings who have demonstrated they deliver inclusive early years education based upon Portage Principles. They have also achieved a 5 star Food Hygiene rating.

#### **Activities and financial review of the year**

Although the charity's main source of income is from government funding, it is still dependent on fees from parents. Future plans include renovating the mobile and upgrading the kitchen.

The statement of financial activities attached to these accounts show the figures in more detail. Investment was also made into staff training and uniform. The trustees confirm that the funds meet their obligations and will continue to do so.

The trustees review the objectives and activities each year to ensure they continue to reflect the organisation's aims. In carrying out this review, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The nursery caters for children from all social and economic backgrounds, and so achieves the criteria for public benefit.

During the year the charity's income and expenditure was in line with expectation and a surplus was made in the year of £61,176 (2024: deficit £54,273). This was mainly due to additional staffing required due to increased levels of children. This means general reserves carried forward are £126,774 (2024: £65,598).

Surplus made due to increase in sessions and update of government funding.

#### **Income Generation**

Income is generated from a combination of fees from parents and government funding.

#### **Strategic report**

##### **Investment policy and objectives**

The trustees believe the most suitable policy for investing funds is in short term deposits which meets the requirement to generate both income and growth without undue risk.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets in the best interest of the charity. In view of the limited sums involved, any surpluses are kept on bank deposits to earn interest.

##### **Reserves policy**

The trustees believe that in order to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve to equate one month's unrestricted fund expenditure should be maintained. It has designated £15,000 (2024: £15,000) towards the maintenance fund for future building repairs and renewals and £60,000 (2024: £50,000) towards one month's wages cover in case of a critical incident such as a flood or a pandemic which may temporarily halt the charity activity..

## **ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **Structure, governance and management**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is a UK charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up on 1 November 2001 but only commenced its activities when operations were transferred over from Acorn Child Care (unincorporated) on 1 April 2002, which ceased trading therefrom. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Acorn ChildCare (UK) is a registered charitable trust (charity number : 1090086) whose registered office is the business address as stated per page 1. As such it is a non profit making organisation. Thus the fee increases are pegged to that which is necessary. Fees are set to cover the nursery's day to day expenses (building service charge, salaries, equipment and materials) and repairs, maintenance and development. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for continuing to pay your fees promptly. This helps us to keep our fees down.

##### **Organisational structure**

The charity consists of the trustees, management committee and the staff. Please refer to the Legal and Administrative details on pages 1. The management committee also includes members who are parents or previous parents of children at the nursery.

There is no maximum number of trustees set out in the Articles of Association but a minimum number of 3. All trustees shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election by the members. Trustees take advantage of the Charities Commission updates and online training and duties and try to actively recruit new trustees from the charity's website and recommendations.

The full committee meets minimum 4 times per academic year with additional meetings for each of the sub-committees: fundraising and finance.

Most trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity when appointed and are encouraged to visit regularly as part of the induction process.

The trustees delegate day to day management to and take advice from the Manager (Debbie Hasson) and Deputy Manager (Lorraine Morrissey) and details of other organisations providing services to the charity are as per page 5.

##### **Risk management**

The trustees have a risk register for identifying the types of risk it faces and implementing ways to mitigate those risks; in particular those related to operations and finances and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The current main risk is the reduction in funding from local authorities and a result of the government's new 30 hour free childcare provision policies.

#### **Reference and administrative details**

##### **Registered Company number**

04321656 (England and Wales)

##### **Registered Charity number**

1090086

## **ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

### **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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#### **Registered office**

Headlands Primary School  
Bushland Road  
Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
NN3 2NS

#### **Trustees**

Mrs D Quennell Trustee  
Miss H C Scott Trustee  
Mrs L Walding

#### **Company Secretary**

Mrs L Walding

#### **Independent Examiner**

Cobley Desborough  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Chartered Tax Advisers  
Artisans' House  
7 Queensbridge  
Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
NN4 7BF

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 14 November 2025 and signed on the board's behalf by:



Miss H C Scott - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Acorn Childcare (Uk)**

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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Acorn Childcare (Uk) ('the Company')**

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

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Acorn Childcare (Uk)**

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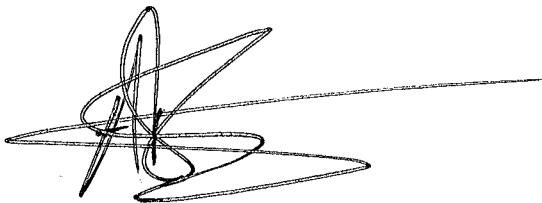
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Ashley Stuart Dunkley FCCA, FMAAT

Cobley Desborough  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Chartered Tax Advisers  
Artisans' House  
7 Queensbridge  
Northampton  
Northamptonshire  
NN4 7BF

14 November 2025

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)****Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>	3				
Income from charitable activities		968,752	29,080	997,832	787,435
Investment income	2	951	-	951	876
<b>Total</b>		<u>969,703</u>	<u>29,080</u>	<u>998,783</u>	<u>788,311</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4				
Expenditure from charitable activities		<u>908,527</u>	<u>29,080</u>	<u>937,607</u>	<u>842,584</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		61,176	-	61,176	(54,273)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		65,598	-	65,598	119,871
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>126,774</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>126,774</u></u>	<u><u>65,598</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Balance Sheet 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	10	12,731	-	12,731	13,021
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	11	9,870	-	9,870	5,484
Cash at bank		131,079	-	131,079	79,731
		<u>140,949</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>140,949</u>	<u>85,215</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(26,906)	-	(26,906)	(32,638)
		<u>114,043</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>114,043</u>	<u>52,577</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
		<u>126,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,774</u>	<u>65,598</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
		<u>126,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,774</u>	<u>65,598</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
		<u>126,774</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,774</u>	<u>65,598</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds	13			<u>126,774</u>	<u>65,598</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>					
				<u>126,774</u>	<u>65,598</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

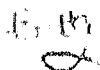
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 14 November 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

The notes form part of these financial statements

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**31 March 2025**

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**Miss H C Scott - Trustee**



**Mrs D Quennell - Trustee**

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)****Cash Flow Statement  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	1	59,810	(44,010)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		<u>59,810</u>	<u>(44,010)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(8,462)	(8,703)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	(1)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(8,462)</u>	<u>(8,704)</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		51,348	(52,714)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>79,731</u>	<u>132,445</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>131,079</u>	<u>79,731</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Notes to the Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### 1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	61,176	(54,273)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	8,752	7,098
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	84
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(4,386)	4,393
Decrease in creditors	(5,732)	(1,312)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operations</b>	<b>59,810</b>	<b>(44,010)</b>

#### 2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.25 £
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank	79,731	51,348	131,079
	<u>79,731</u>	<u>51,348</u>	<u>131,079</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,731</b>	<b>51,348</b>	<b>131,079</b>

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

##### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- in accordance with the property
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on cost

##### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

##### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

##### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

##### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

#### 2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investment income	951	876

#### 3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2025	2024
		£	£
Fees	Income from charitable activities	515,546	549,901
Welfare milk reimbursement	Income from charitable activities	1,266	1,352
Other income	Income from charitable activities	4,213	6,511
LEA grants	Income from charitable activities	448,993	223,543
Higher needs funding	Income from charitable activities	27,814	6,128
		<u>997,832</u>	<u>787,435</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

#### 4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs	Support costs (see note 5)	Totals
	£	£	£
Expenditure from charitable activities	931,815	5,792	937,607

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### 5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs £
Expenditure from charitable activities	5,792

#### 6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation - owned assets	8,752	7,098
Other operating leases	23,000	23,000
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	-	84

#### 7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

##### Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

#### 8. STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	667,859	646,906
Social security costs	42,378	40,680
Other pension costs	12,855	12,233

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Employees for charities activities	42	37
Governance (Trustees)	3	3

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### 8. STAFF COSTS - continued

The number of FTE for 31 March 2025 was 19 (2024: 27).

#### 9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM Charitable activities</b>			
Income from charitable activities	779,955	7,480	787,435
Investment income	876	-	876
<b>Total</b>	<b>780,831</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>788,311</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities</b>			
Expenditure from charitable activities	835,104	7,480	842,584
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>(54,273)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(54,273)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	119,871	-	119,871
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>65,598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,598</b>

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)****Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025****10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Improvements to property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2024	108,685	96,213	204,898
Additions	-	8,462	8,462
At 31 March 2025	<u>108,685</u>	<u>104,675</u>	<u>213,360</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	108,594	83,283	191,877
Charge for year	23	8,729	8,752
At 31 March 2025	<u>108,617</u>	<u>92,012</u>	<u>200,629</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	<u>68</u>	<u>12,663</u>	<u>12,731</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>91</u>	<u>12,930</u>	<u>13,021</u>

**11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	3,100	3,280
Other debtors	6,770	2,204
	<u>9,870</u>	<u>5,484</u>

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,039	1,011
Social security and other taxes	8,580	11,188
Other creditors	16,287	20,439
	<u>26,906</u>	<u>32,638</u>

**13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.4.24	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	65,598	61,176	126,774
	<u>65,598</u>	<u>61,176</u>	<u>126,774</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>65,598</u>	<u>61,176</u>	<u>126,774</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	969,703	(908,527)	61,176
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Higher needs funding	27,814	(27,814)	-
Welfare milk reimbursement	1,266	(1,266)	-
	<u>29,080</u>	<u>(29,080)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>998,783</u>	<u>(937,607)</u>	<u>61,176</u>

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

### 13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	119,871	(54,273)	65,598
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>119,871</u>	<u>(54,273)</u>	<u>65,598</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	780,831	(835,104)	(54,273)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Higher needs funding	6,128	(6,128)	-
Welfare milk reimbursement	1,352	(1,352)	-
	<u>7,480</u>	<u>(7,480)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>788,311</u>	<u>(842,584)</u>	<u>(54,273)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	119,871	6,903	126,774
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>119,871</u>	<u>6,903</u>	<u>126,774</u>

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### 13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	1,750,534	(1,743,631)	6,903
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Higher needs funding	33,942	(33,942)	-
Welfare milk reimbursement	2,618	(2,618)	-
	<u>36,560</u>	<u>(36,560)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,787,094</u>	<u>(1,780,191)</u>	<u>6,903</u>

#### Restricted:

A welfare milk subsidy of £1,266 (2024: £1,352) was received to cover the cost of milk provided to the children.

The charity received £27,814 (2024: £6,128) in respect of special higher needs funding for specific children.

#### Designated:

£15,000 has been set aside from the general fund for future building and outdoor maintenance and repairs.

£60,000 has been set aside in case of critical incident cover to cover one months wages and pension contribution costs.

## **ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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### **14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

The charity is based within Headlands Primary School site and works in association with the school.

Headlands Primary School charged the charity for rent and service charges of £23,000 (£2024: £23,000).

At the balance sheet date, the amount outstanding was £nil.

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Investment income</b>		
Investment income	951	876
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Fees	515,546	549,901
Welfare milk reimbursement	1,266	1,352
Other Income	4,213	6,511
LEA grants	448,993	223,543
Higher needs funding	27,814	6,128
	<u>997,832</u>	<u>787,435</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>998,783</b>	<b>788,311</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Wages	667,859	646,906
Social security	42,378	40,680
Pensions	12,855	12,233
Rent	23,000	23,000
Rates and water	2,395	2,458
Insurance	1,135	2,199
Light and heat	6,316	7,091
Telephone	2,559	1,909
Postage and stationery	6,673	5,655
Sundries	106	6,691
Staff gifts	3,928	691
Subscriptions	5,571	4,834
Training costs	3,220	1,506
Cleaning	22,680	12,050
Repairs and maintenance	58,770	3,551
Motor and travel expenses	92	75
Food and consumables	40,152	39,808
Trips, activities and playscheme costs	20,851	15,215
Toys, play equipment and materials	1,355	1,567
Bad debts	-	1,350
Carried forward	921,895	829,469

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)

### Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Brought forward	921,895	829,469
Bank charges	1,168	1,194
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	8,752	7,098
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	-	84
	<u>931,815</u>	<u>837,845</u>
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Professional fees	5,792	4,739
	<u>937,607</u>	<u>842,584</u>
Total resources expended		
	<u>937,607</u>	<u>842,584</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u>61,176</u>	<u>(54,273)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090086

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# Accounts

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**Registered number**  
**4321656**  
**Charity registered in England & Wales**  
**1090086**

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Report and Accounts**

**31 March 2024**

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Report and accounts  
Contents**

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**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Company Information**

<b>Directors</b>	Hilary Scott (Chairperson) Laura Walding (Secretary) Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)	
<b>Committee Member</b>	Darren Walding	
<b>Childcare Manager</b>	Debbie Hasson	
<b>Deputy Childcare Manager</b>	Lorraine Morrissey	
<b>Business &amp; Finance Manager</b>	Alesha Lewis	
<b>Staff Representatives</b>	Donna Bland	
<b>Auditors</b>	Wilson's Accounting Services Limited Cherry Lodge West Haddon Road Watford Northants NN6 7UN	
<b>Bankers</b>	Yorkshire Bank 7 Gold Street Northampton NN1 1EN	Lloyds Bank 2 George Row Northampton NN1 1DJ
<b>Registered office</b>	Headlands Primary School Bushland Road Northampton NN3 2NS	
<b>Company Registered number</b>	4321656	
<b>Charity Registered Number</b>	1090086	

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing these financial statements.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is a UK charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up on 1 November 2001 but only commenced its activities when operations were transferred over from Acorn Child Care (unincorporated) on 1 April 2002, which ceased trading therefrom. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Acorn ChildCare (UK) is a registered charitable trust (charity number : 1090086) whose registered office is the business address as stated per page 1. As such it is a non profit making organisation. Thus the fee increases are pegged to that which is necessary. Fees are set to cover the nursery's day to day expenses (building service charge, salaries, equipment and materials) and repairs, maintenance and development. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for continuing to pay your fees promptly. This helps us to keep our fees down.

**Organisational structure**

The charity consists of the trustees, management committee and the staff. Please refer to the Legal and Administrative details on pages 1. The management committee also includes members who are parents of children at the nursery.

There is no maximum number of trustees set out in the Articles of Association but a minimum number of 3. All trustees shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election by the members. Trustees take advantage of the Charities Commission updates and online training and duties and try to actively recruit new trustees from the charity's website and recommendations.

The full committee meets minimum 4 times per academic year with additional meetings for each of the sub-committees: fundraising and finance.

Most trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity when appointed and are encouraged to visit regularly as part of the induction process.

The trustees delegate day to day management to and take advice from the Manager (Debbie Hasson) and Deputy Manager (Lorraine Morrissey) and details of other organisations providing services to the charity such as the bank and auditors are as per page 1.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a risk register for identifying the types of risk it faces and implementing ways to mitigate those risks; in particular those related to operations and finances and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The current main risk is the reduction in funding from local authorities and a result of the government's new 30 hour free childcare provision policies. However currently majority of the childcare provision is parent funded and the charity is looking at other means to cover this shortfall.

**Directors**

The following persons served as directors during the year:

Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)

Hilary Scott (Chairperson)

Laura Walding (Secretary)

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

**Related Parties**

The charity works closely with the Headlands Primary School and offers its pupils out of school care. As the charity is based on the school site, it pays rent and service charge to the school.

**Disclosure of Information to auditors**

Each person who was a director at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- she has taken all the steps that she ought to have taken as a director in order to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Our main activities and who we are trying to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on providing a safe and caring environment to enhance the development and education of children by:

- (a) Offering a balanced and stimulating curriculum based on appropriate play facilities, ensuring individual needs are met and that such groups offer opportunities for all children, regardless of gender, race, culture or religion.
- (b) Encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help children.
- (c) Furthering the aims of Preschool Learning Alliance.
- (d) Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and working with other professionals to help achieve their full potentials.
- (e) Offering support to children from vulnerable backgrounds.

The trustee's policy is to ensure that the highest quality care service is available to the children and is undertaken to further our charitable purpose for public benefit.

Acorn Child Care (UK) offers the following services for children:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Capacity per session (No. of places)</b>
<b>Headlands</b>		
<b>NURSERY:</b>		
Sunflower room	3 months - 2.5 years	18
Bluebells room	2.5 years to 4 years	20
Evergreens room	Early Years Foundation Stage	27
<b>OTHER</b>		
Before and after school	4 to 7 years	30
Before and after school	8 to 11 years	20
Playscheme	4 to 7 years	30
Playscheme	8 to 11 years	20

Over 200 children attend Acorn each week but there is still additional spaces to reach capacity,

**Voluntary Help and Donations in Kind**

- (a) The trustees and management committee members excluding the paid staff volunteer their administrative services and time free of charge.
- (b) The charity received reduced local authority council rates in 2023/2024 of £2,457 (full value £12,268) (2022/2023 reduced rates of £589 - full value £12,076).

The charity is grateful to all of the above named for their voluntary help and donations in kind.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

In the year the charity obtained the Portage Stamp of Approval given to early year's settings who have demonstrated they deliver inclusive early years education based upon Portage Principles. They have also achieved a 5 star Food Hygiene rating.

### **Activities and financial review of the year**

Although the charity's main source of income is from fees, it is still dependent on government and local authority funding. The charity achieved a loss in the year and is mindful that it needs to build on its reserves as it needs to renew its old mobile in the coming years and there are also plans to renovate the garden and toilets. Numbers continue to improve and early numbers for September 2024 are very promising.

The statement of financial activities attached to these accounts show the figures in more detail. Investment was also made into staff training and uniform.

The trustees confirm that the funds meet their obligations and will continue to do so.

The trustees review the objectives and activities each year to ensure they continue to reflect the organisation's aims. In carrying out this review, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The nursery caters for children from all social and economic backgrounds, and so achieves the criteria for public benefit.

During the year the charity's income and expenditure was in line with expectation and a loss was made in the year of £54,273 ( 2023: Loss £54,712). This was mainly due to additional staffing required due to increased levels of children. This means general reserves carried forward are £65,598 ( 2023: £119,871).

The charity is in continued negotiations with the Council with a view to securing a long term lease on the premises to give it sustainability. As at the balance sheet date, no contracts have been approved but the trustees hope that the terms will be confirmed soon.

### **Income Generation**

Income is generated from fees to parents, fund raising and grant applications.

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees believe that in order to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve to equate one month's unrestricted fund expenditure should be maintained. It has designated £15,000 towards the maintenance fund for future building repairs and renewals and £50,000 towards one month's wages cover in case of a critical incident which may temporarily halt the charity activity such as a flood or a pandemic. Please refer to the relevant funds note supporting these accounts.

### **Investment policy**

The trustees believe the most suitable policy for investing funds is in short term deposits which meets the requirement to generate both income and growth without undue risk.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets in the best interest of the charity. In view of the limited sums involved, any surpluses are kept on bank deposits to earn interest.

### **Liability Insurance**

The charity has adequate indemnity insurance cover.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

- (a) The coming year will see continued development in the Nursery. The focus will continue to be on maintaining quality and standards.
- (b) ' We are looking at re-furbishing all toilets on site, as well as installing air conditioning in the baby room
- (c) ' We continue to fundraise to upgrade the outside play area.
- (d) To develop our Forest School & Ethos around learning in a natural environment.
- (e) To continue to refurbish our Mobile over the coming years, including replacement windows and cladding

**CUSTODIAN TRUSTEESHIP**

There is no custodian trusteeship. All of the assets of the charity are owned and held in the name of the charity.

**Small company special provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 31 August 2024.



.....  
Hillary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Statement of Directors' Responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for their annual report and for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the incoming resources and application of those resources and of the state of those affairs at the end of the financial year. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors ( who are also the Trustees) are required to:

- Ensure that suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently and in accordance with the SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Directors ( who are also the Trustees) have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for their proper application as required by charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively
- All assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity, or for publication is reliable
- The Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations

In so far as the Directors (trustees) are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



.....  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director  
Approved by the board on 31 August 2024

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Independent Examiners Report  
to the directors of Acorn Childcare (UK)**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 as set out on pages 8 to 19.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of the Independent Examiner's report**

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

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
  - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Sarah Wilson*

Sarah Wilson FCA  
Wilson's Accounting Services Limited  
Cherry Lodge  
West Haddon Road  
Watford  
Northants  
NN6 7UN

*31 August 2024*

**Acorn Childcare (UK)****Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**Company Registered number  
4321656

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Donations and Legacies	2	-	6,128	6,128	18,048
Investment income		876	-	876	442
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b>					
Charitable Activities	3	773,444	1,352	774,796	718,899
Other Incoming Resources	2	6,511	-	6,511	4,692
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>780,831</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>788,311</b>	<b>742,081</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable Activities		763,524	7,480	771,004	707,133
Other Costs		71,580	-	71,580	89,660
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4/5</b>	<b>835,104</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>842,584</b>	<b>796,793</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		<b>(54,273)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(54,273)</b>	<b>(54,712)</b>
Transfers between funds				-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(54,273)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(54,273)</b>	<b>(54,712)</b>
Balance at 1 April 2023		119,871	-	119,871	174,583
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>		<b>65,598</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65,598</b>	<b>119,871</b>

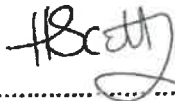
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2024**

**Company Registered number  
4321656**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	13,021	11,499
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	5,484	9,877
Cash at bank and in hand		79,731	132,445
		<u>85,215</u>	<u>142,322</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(32,638)	(33,950)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>52,577</b>	<b>108,372</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b><u>65,598</u></b>	<b><u>119,871</u></b>
<b>Charity Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	12	65,598	119,871
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b><u>65,598</u></b>	<b><u>119,871</u></b>

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Hilary Scott  
Director

Approved by the board on 31 August 2024



Dawn Quennell  
Treasurer

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Cash Flow Statement**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>		
Operating (loss)/profit	(54,273)	(54,712)
Reconciliation to cash generated from operations:		
Depreciation	7,098	7,168
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	84	-
(Increase) /decrease in debtors	4,393	4,132
Increase /(decrease) in creditors	(1,312)	(575)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<u>(44,010)</u>	<u>(43,987)</u>
<b>Cash from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(8,703)	(7,863)
	<u>(8,703)</u>	<u>(7,863)</u>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash</b>	(52,714)	(51,850)
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 1 April	132,445	184,295
<b>Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 March</b>	<u>79,731</u>	<u>132,445</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	79,731	132,445

## **1 Accounting policies**

### ***Basis of preparation***

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Practice and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recorded at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

### ***Going Concern***

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and so the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. Although a loss has been made in the current financial year, this is not expected to be repeated in the following financial year. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest GBP.

### ***Format***

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a statement of financial activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the period.

### ***Company status***

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees as named in the trustees report. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

### ***Income Recognition***

Income received for a specific restricted purpose is credited to a separate restricted fund which is shown in a note to the financial statements. Total incoming resources credited to restricted funds are disclosed on the statement of financial activities which also shows incoming resources in respect of unrestricted funds. Donations and grants received are credited on the statement of financial activities in the year to which they relate.

### ***Donations and Gifts***

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable, provided that there are donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the pre-condition has been met.

Legacies when applicable are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made, property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified. They are included in the statement of financial activities.

Gifts in kind when material and relevant are accounted for at the trustees' estimate of value to the charity or sale value as follows:

- assets received for distribution by the charity are recognised only when distributed;
- assets received for resale are recognised, where practicable, when receivable or otherwise sold;
- gifts of fixed assets for charity use or funds for acquiring fixed assets for charity use are accounted for (as restricted funds) immediately on receipt.

Donated services and income is included at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. An equivalent amount is charged as expenditure. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party. Voluntary help is not included as income.

Donations under Gift Aid together with the associated income tax recoveries are credited as income when the donations are received. During the year there were no legacies or gifts in kind.

#### ***Grants Receivable***

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless they relate to specified future periods, in which case they are deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund, unless it is determined that the acquisition of the assets discharges the restricted fund.

#### ***Investment Income***

Investment income, including associated income tax recoveries, is recognised when receivable.

#### ***Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT***

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not vat registered so all expenditure is taken gross, inclusive of vat.

Expenditure is allocated on an actual use basis on the statement of financial activities between restricted and unrestricted funds, and is further analysed between:

- Cost of raising funds comprise all fundraising costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs incurred directly to the fulfilment of the Charity's objectives.
- Governance costs (relating to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements).

#### ***Support Costs and Governance Costs***

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and accountancy fees.

***Fund accounting***

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

***Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation***

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Leasehold improvements	Over period of lease (under negotiation)
Mobile unit	25% on book value
Fixtures and fittings	25% on straight line basis

***Operating leases***

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

***Pensions and employee benefits***

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service and any unused holiday entitlement is not permitted to be carried forward so all staff ensure they take their holidays before the holiday period ends.

***Debtors***

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs.

***Creditors***

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

***Taxation***

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

<b>2 Income from Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
NCC - Higher Needs Funding (restricted)	-	6,128	6,128	18,048
Fundraising & Other income	6,511	-	6,511	4,692
	<u>6,511</u>	<u>6,128</u>	<u>12,639</u>	<u>22,740</u>

<b>3 Income from Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fees - Headlands (incl. Cedar Rd & LEA)	773,444	-	773,444	717,575
Welfare Milk Reimbursement (restricted)	-	1,352	1,352	1,324
	<u>773,444</u>	<u>1,352</u>	<u>774,796</u>	<u>718,899</u>

<b>4 Expenditure</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs	693,691	6,128	699,819	634,336
Childcare and Centre Facilities	69,833	1,352	71,185	72,797
	<u>763,524</u>	<u>7,480</u>	<u>771,004</u>	<u>707,133</u>

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Analysis of Support Costs incl. Governance costs:</b>				
Centre Running Costs	62,482	-	62,482	80,062
Depreciation	7,098	-	7,098	7,168
Audit and Accountancy (Governance costs)	2,000	-	2,000	2,430
	<u>71,580</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,580</u>	<u>89,660</u>

Amounts paid to the external accountant £2,100 (2023: £2,430)

<b>5 Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs	-	699,819	-	699,819
Depreciation	-	-	7,098	7,098
Centre Running Costs	-	-	62,482	62,482
Other	-	71,185	2,000	73,185
2024 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>771,004</u>	<u>71,580</u>	<u>842,584</u>
2023 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>707,133</u>	<u>89,660</u>	<u>796,793</u>

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Company Registered number  
4321656**

<b>6 Net income for the year</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	7,098	7,168
Accountancy, taxation and other	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,430</u>
	<u>9,098</u>	<u>9,598</u>
<b>7 Staff costs and employee benefits</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	646,906	587,266
Social Security Costs	40,680	36,316
Pension costs	<u>12,233</u>	<u>10,754</u>
	<u>699,819</u>	<u>634,336</u>

No employee received emoluments during the year of more than £60,000.

Included within wages and salaries is £12,233 paid in respect of defined contribution pension scheme payments (2023; £10,754) There was £2,851 outstanding at 31 March 2024 (2023: £2,424)

The average number of employees and trustees during the year was as follows:

	2024		2023	
	Total	FTE	Total	FTE
Employees for charities activities	37	27	34	25
Governance (Trustees)	3	0	3	0
	<u>40</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>25</u>

Key management personnel received remuneration of £137,922 (2023: £132,863)

None of the trustees received remuneration in the current or previous year and there were no expenses paid to trustees in the year or the previous year.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Company Registered number  
4321656**

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Leasehold Improve- ments £</b>	<b>Mobile £</b>	<b>Fixtures &amp; Fittings £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2023	30,685	78,000	88,522	197,207
Additions	-	-	8,703	8,703
Disposals	-	-	(1,012)	(1,012)
At 31 March 2024	<u>30,685</u>	<u>78,000</u>	<u>96,213</u>	<u>204,898</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2023	30,685	77,879	77,144	185,708
Charge for the year	-	30	7,068	7,098
On disposals	-	-	(929)	(929)
At 31 March 2024	<u>30,685</u>	<u>77,909</u>	<u>83,283</u>	<u>191,877</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>12,930</u>	<u>13,021</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>11,378</u>	<u>11,499</u>

**9 Debtors**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Trade debtors	3,280	7,642
Other debtors	<u>2,204</u>	<u>2,235</u>
	<u>5,484</u>	<u>9,877</u>

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Trade creditors	1,011	1,969
Other taxes and social security costs	11,188	8,984
Other creditors	<u>20,439</u>	<u>22,997</u>
	<u>32,638</u>	<u>33,950</u>

**11 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Tangible Fixed Assets	13,021	-	13,021
Current Assets	85,215	-	85,215
Current Liabilities	<u>(32,638)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(32,638)</u>
	<u>65,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>65,598</u>

The balance sheet shows net assets at 31 March 2024 of £65,598 (2023: £119,871). Of this balance £Nil (2023: £Nil) relates to restricted funds.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

<b>12 Movement in Funds</b>	<b>As at 1 April 2023</b>	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>Outgoing Resources</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>As at 31 March 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted:</b>					
Welfare Food/Milk Reimbursement	-	1,352	(1,352)	-	-
Deprivation	-	-	-	-	-
Higher Needs Funding	-	6,128	(6,128)	-	-
	-	7,480	(7,480)	-	-
<b>Unrestricted:</b>					
<b>Designated:</b>					
Building reserve	30,000	-	-	(15,000)	15,000
Critical wages cover	80,000	-	-	(30,000)	50,000
General	9,871	780,831	(835,104)	45,000	598
	119,871	780,831	(835,104)	-	65,598
	119,871	788,311	(842,584)	-	65,598

**Restricted:**

A welfare milk subsidy of £1,352 (2023: £1,324) was received to cover the cost of milk provided to the children.

The charity received £6,128 (2023: £18,048) in respect of special higher needs funding for specific children .

**Designated:**

£15,000 has been set aside for future building and outdoor maintenance and repairs.

£50,000 has been set aside in case of critical incident cover to cover one months wages and pension contribution costs.

**13 Related party transactions**

The charity is based within Headlands Primary School site and works in association with the school.

Headlands Primary School charged the charity for rent and service charges of £23,000 (2023:£23,000).

At the balance sheet date, the amount outstanding was £nil.

**14 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its directors (who are also the trustees) and are listed in the directors report.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**  
*for the information of the trustees only*

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<u>788,311</u>	<u>742,081</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Childcare/Centre Facilities	771,004	707,133
Centre Running and Maintenance	69,580	87,230
Governance Costs	2,000	2,430
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>842,584</u>	<u>796,793</u>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<u>(54,273)</u>	<u>(54,712)</u>

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Schedule to the Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**  
*for the information of the trustees only*

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b>		
NCC- Higher Needs Funding (restricted)	6,128	18,048
Income from Activities for Generating Funds : Fundraising	191	137
Investment Income	876	442
Fees - Headlands (incl. Cedar Rd & LEA)	773,444	717,575
Welfare Milk Reimbursement (restricted)	1,352	1,324
Other Income	6,320	4,555
	<u>788,311</u>	<u>742,081</u>
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b>		
Food and consumables	39,808	39,050
Trips, activities and playscheme costs	15,215	14,542
Toys, play equipment, materials	1,567	2,044
Postage	77	88
Employee costs:		
Wages and salaries	646,906	587,266
Pensions	12,233	10,754
Staff gifts	691	1,240
Employer's NI	40,680	36,316
Subscriptions	4,834	4,396
Stationery and printing	5,578	6,496
Telephone and internet	1,909	1,948
Training costs	1,506	2,993
	<u>771,004</u>	<u>707,133</u>
Cleaning	12,050	16,793
Depreciation	7,098	7,168
Insurance	2,199	2,079
Light and heat	7,091	7,707
Repairs and maintenance	3,551	16,734
Rent	23,000	23,000
Rates	2,458	589
Motor and travel expenses	75	-
Sundry expenses	6,691	8,047
	<u>64,297</u>	<u>82,117</u>
<b>Support Costs</b>		
Professional and payroll bureau	2,739	2,594
Bank charges	1,194	1,362
Bad debts	1,350	1,157
	<u>5,283</u>	<u>5,113</u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>		
Accountancy fees	2,000	2,430
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,430</u>



**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090086

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# Accounts

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Registered number  
4321656  
Charity registered in England & Wales  
1090086

Acorn Childcare (UK)

Report and Accounts

31 March 2023

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Report and accounts  
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**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Company Information**

**Directors** Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Sarah Belcher (Secretary)  
Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)

**Committee Members** Mark Normansell  
Sarah Lord  
Helen Pateman  
Brian Munjanja  
Dana Munjanja  
Nicole Brack

**Childcare Manager** Debbie Hasson

**Deputy Childcare Manager** Lorraine Morrissey

**Business & Finance Manager** Alesha Lewis

**Staff Representatives** Donna Bland

**Auditors** Wilsons Accounting Services Limited  
Cherry Lodge  
West Haddon Road  
Watford  
Northants  
NN6 7UN

**Bankers** Yorkshire Bank  
7 Gold Street  
Northampton  
NN1 1EN  
Lloyds Bank  
2 George Row  
Northampton  
NN1 1DJ

**Registered office** Headlands Primary School  
Bushland Road  
Northampton  
NN3 2NS

**Company Registered number** 4321656

**Charity Registered Number** 1090086

## **Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

### **Directors' Report**

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing these financial statements.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is a UK charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up on 1 November 2001 but only commenced its activities when operations were transferred over from Acorn Child Care (unincorporated) on 1 April 2002, which ceased trading therefrom. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Acorn ChildCare (UK) is a registered charitable trust (charity number : 1090086) whose registered office is the business address as stated per page 1. As such it is a non profit making organisation. Thus the fee increases are pegged to that which is necessary. Fees are set to cover the nursery's day to day expenses (building service charge, salaries, equipment and materials) and repairs, maintenance and development. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for continuing to pay your fees promptly. This helps us to keep our fees down.

#### **Organisational structure**

The charity consists of the trustees, management committee and the staff. Please refer to the Legal and Administrative details on pages 1. The management committee also includes members who are parents of children at the nursery.

There is no maximum number of trustees set out in the Articles of Association but a minimum number of 3. All trustees shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election by the members. Trustees take advantage of the Charities Commission updates and online training and duties and try to actively recruit new trustees from the charity's website and recommendations.

The full committee meets minimum 4 times per academic year with additional meetings for each of the sub-committees: fundraising and finance.

Most trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity when appointed and are encouraged to visit regularly as part of the induction process.

The trustees delegate day to day management to and take advice from the Manager (Debbie Hasson) and Deputy Manager (Lorraine Morrissey) and details of other organisations providing services to the charity such as the bank and auditors are as per page 1.

#### **Risk management**

The trustees have a risk register for identifying the types of risk it faces and implementing ways to mitigate those risks; in particular those related to operations and finances and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The current main risk is the reduction in funding from local authorities and a result of the government's new 30 hour free childcare provision policies. However currently majority of the childcare provision is parent funded and the charity is looking at other means to cover this shortfall.

#### **Directors**

The following persons served as directors during the year:

Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Sarah Belcher (Secretary)

**Acorn Childcare (UK)****Registered number:****4321656****Directors' Report****Related Parties**

The charity works closely with the Headlands Primary School and offers its pupils out of school care. As the charity is based on the school site, it pays rent and service charge to the school.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each person who was a director at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- she has taken all the steps that she ought to have taken as a director in order to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Our main activities and who we are trying to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on providing a safe and caring environment to enhance the development and education of children by:

- (a) Offering a balanced and stimulating curriculum based on appropriate play facilities, ensuring individual needs are met and that such groups offer opportunities for all children, regardless of gender, race, culture or religion.
- (b) Encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help children.
- (c) Furthering the aims of Preschool Learning Alliance.
- (d) Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and working with other professionals to help achieve their full potentials.
- (e) Offering support to children from vulnerable backgrounds.

The trustees' policy is to ensure that the highest quality care service is available to the children and is undertaken to further our charitable purpose for public benefit.

Acorn Child Care (UK) offers the following services for children:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Capacity per session (No. of places)</b>
<b>Headlands</b>		
<b>NURSERY:</b>		
Sunflower room	3 months - 2.5 years	18
Bluebells room	2.5 years to 4 years	20
Evergreens room	Early Years Foundation Stage	27
<b>OTHER</b>		
Before and after school	4 to 7 years	30
Before and after school	8 to 11 years	20
Playscheme	4 to 7 years	30
Playscheme	8 to 11 years	20

Over 200 children attend Acorn each week but there are still additional spaces to reach

**capacity, Voluntary Help and Donations in Kind**

- (a) The trustees and management committee members excluding the paid staff volunteer their administrative services and time free of charge.
- (b) The charity received reduced local authority council rates in 2022/2023 of £589 (full value £12,076) (2021/2022 reduced rates of £150 - full value £11,776).

The charity is grateful to all of the above named for their voluntary help and donations in kind.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

In the year the charity had an Ofsted inspection and continues to provide high quality childcare provision. We have obtained the Portage Stamp of Approval given to early years settings who have demonstrated they deliver inclusive early years education based upon Portage Principles.

### **Activities and financial review of the year**

Although the charity's main source of income is from fees, it is still dependent on government and local authority funding. The charity achieved a loss in the year and is mindful that it needs to build on its reserves as it needs to renew its old mobile in the coming years. The charity has returned to a full staff complement after reducing staffing during covid. Numbers continue to improve and early numbers for September for 2023 are very promising.

The statement of financial activities attached to these accounts show the figures in more detail, however in the year a new security system was introduced for the safety of both children and staff. Investment was also made into staff training and uniform.

The trustees confirm that the funds meet their obligations and will continue to do so.

The trustees review the objectives and activities each year to ensure they continue to reflect the organisation's aims. In carrying out this review, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The nursery caters for children from all social and economic backgrounds, and so achieves the criteria for public benefit.

During the year the charity's income and expenditure was in line with expectation and a loss was made in the year of £54,712 ( 2022: Surplus £6,761). This was mainly due to additional staffing required due to increased levels of children. This means general reserves carried forward are £119,871 ( 2022: £174,583).

The charity is in continued negotiations with the Council with a view to securing a long term lease on the premises to give it sustainability. As at the balance sheet date, no contracts have been approved but the trustees hope that the terms will be confirmed soon.

### **Income Generation**

Income is generated from fees to parents, fund raising and grant applications.

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees believe that in order to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve to equate one month's unrestricted fund expenditure should be maintained. It has designated £30,000 towards the maintenance fund for future building repairs and renewals and £80,000 towards two month's wages cover in case of a critical incident which may temporarily halt the charity activity such as a flood or a pandemic. Please refer to the relevant funds note supporting these accounts.

### **Investment policy**

The trustees believe the most suitable policy for investing funds is in short term deposits which meets the requirement to generate both income and growth without undue risk.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets in the best interest of the charity. In view of the limited sums involved, any surpluses are kept on bank deposits to earn interest.

### **Liability Insurance**

The charity has adequate indemnity insurance cover.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

- (a) The coming year will see continued development in the Nursery. The focus will continue to be on maintaining quality and standards.
- (b) We are looking at re-furbishing all toilets on site, as well as installing air conditioning in the baby room
- (c) We continue to fundraise to upgrade the outside play area.
- (d) To develop our Forest School & ethos around learning in a natural environment.
- (e) To continue to refurbish our Mobile over the coming years, including replacement windows and cladding

**CUSTODIAN TRUSTEESHIP**

There is no custodian trusteeship. All of the assets of the charity are owned and held in the name of the charity.

**AUDITORS**

During the year Kamini Fletcher Limited retired as the charity auditor after several years. The trustees would like to thank her for her continued support over these years. Following consultation, it was agreed that an audit was no longer legally required, and so Wilson's Accounting Services Limited was appointed to carry out the annual independent examination. This replaces the annual audit.

**Small company special provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 31 August 2023.



.....  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Statement of Directors' Responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for their annual report and for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the incoming resources and application of those resources and of the state of those affairs at the end of the financial year. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors ( who are also the Trustees) are required to:

- Ensure that suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently and in accordance with the SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Directors ( who are also the Trustees) have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for their proper application as required by charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively
- All assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity, or for publication is reliable
- The Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations

In so far as the Directors (trustees) are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



.....  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

Approved by the board on 31 August 2023

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Independent Examiners Report  
to the directors of Acorn Childcare (UK)**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 as set out on pages 8 to 19.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

**Basis of the Independent Examiner's report**

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

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and
  - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of Sections 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Sarah Wilson*

Sarah Wilson FCA  
Wilson's Accounting Services Limited  
Cherry Lodge  
West Haddon Road  
Watford  
Northants  
NN6 7UN

*31 August 2023*

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2023 £	2022 £
Donations and Legacies	2	-	18,048	18,048	25,746
Investment income		442	-	442	141
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b>					
Charitable Activities	3	717,575	1,324	718,899	647,365
Other Incoming Resources	2	4,692	-	4,692	3,117
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>722,709</b>	<b>19,372</b>	<b>742,081</b>	<b>676,369</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable Activities		687,761	19,372	707,133	588,478
Other Costs		89,660	-	89,660	81,130
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4/5	<b>777,421</b>	<b>19,372</b>	<b>796,793</b>	<b>669,608</b>
<b>Net Income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		<b>(54,712)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(54,712)</b>	<b>6,761</b>
Transfers between funds				-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(54,712)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(54,712)</b>	<b>6,761</b>
Balance at 1 April 2022		174,583	-	174,583	167,822
Balance at 31 March 2023		<b>119,871</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119,871</b>	<b>174,583</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2023

Company Registered number  
4321656

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	11,499	10,804
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	9,877	14,009
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>132,445</u>	<u>184,295</u>
		<u>142,322</u>	<u>198,304</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(33,950)	(34,525)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>108,372</u>	<u>163,779</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>119,871</u>	<u>174,583</u>
<b>Charity Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	12	119,871	174,583
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>119,871</u>	<u>174,583</u>

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Hilary Scott  
Director

Approved by the board on 31 August 2023



Dawn Quennell  
Treasurer

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Cash Flow Statement**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>		
Operating (loss)/profit	(54,712)	6,761
Reconciliation to cash generated from operations:		
Depreciation	7,168	7,976
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	361
(Increase) /decrease in debtors	4,132	(4,189)
Increase /(decrease) in creditors	(575)	1,536
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<u>(43,987)</u>	<u>12,445</u>
<b>Cash from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(7,863)	(9,885)
	<u>(7,863)</u>	<u>(9,885)</u>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash</b>	(51,850)	2,560
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 1 April	<u>184,295</u>	<u>181,735</u>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 March</b>	<u>132,445</u>	<u>184,295</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	132,445	184,295

## **1 Accounting policies**

### ***Basis of preparation***

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Practice and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recorded at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

### ***Going Concern***

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and so the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. Although a loss has been made in the current financial year, this is not expected to be repeated in the following financial year. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest GBP.

### ***Format***

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a statement of financial activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the period.

### ***Company status***

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees as named in the trustees report.  
In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

### ***Income Recognition***

Income received for a specific restricted purpose is credited to a separate restricted fund which is shown in a note to the financial statements. Total incoming resources credited to restricted funds are disclosed on the statement of financial activities which also shows incoming resources in respect of unrestricted funds. Donations and grants received are credited on the statement of financial activities in the year to which they relate.

### ***Donations and Gifts***

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable, provided that there are donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the pre-condition has been met.

Legacies when applicable are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made, property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified. They are included in the statement of financial activities.

Gifts in kind when material and relevant are accounted for at the trustees' estimate of value to the charity or sale value as follows:

- assets received for distribution by the charity are recognised only when distributed;
- assets received for resale are recognised, where practicable, when receivable or otherwise sold;
- gifts of fixed assets for charity use or funds for acquiring fixed assets for charity use are accounted for (as restricted funds) immediately on receipt.

Donated services and income is included at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. An equivalent amount is charged as expenditure. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party. Voluntary help is not included as income.

Donations under Gift Aid together with the associated income tax recoveries are credited as income when the donations are received. During the year there were no legacies or gifts in kind.

#### ***Grants Receivable***

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless they relate to specified future periods, in which case they are deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund, unless it is determined that the acquisition of the assets discharges the restricted fund.

#### ***Investment Income***

Investment income, including associated income tax recoveries, is recognised when receivable.

#### ***Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT***

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not vat registered so all expenditure is taken gross, inclusive of vat.

Expenditure is allocated on an actual use basis on the statement of financial activities between restricted and unrestricted funds, and is further analysed between:

- Cost of raising funds comprise all fundraising costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs incurred directly to the fulfilment of the Charity's objectives.
- Governance costs (relating to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements).

#### ***Support Costs and Governance Costs***

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and accountancy fees.

***Fund accounting***

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

***Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation***

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Leasehold improvements	Over period of lease (under negotiation)
Mobile unit	25% on book value
Fixtures and fittings	25% on straight line basis

***Operating leases***

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

***Pensions and employee benefits***

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service and any unused holiday entitlement is not permitted to be carried forward so all staff ensure they take their holidays before the holiday period ends.

***Debtors***

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs.

***Creditors***

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

***Taxation***

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

<b>2 Income from Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
NCC - Higher Needs Funding (restricted)	-	18,048	18,048	25,746
<b>Fundraising &amp; Other income</b>	4,692	-	4,692	3,117
	<u>4,692</u>	<u>18,048</u>	<u>22,740</u>	<u>28,863</u>

<b>3 Income from Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fees - Headlands (incl. Cedar Rd & LEA)	717,575	-	717,575	646,747
Welfare Milk Reimbursement (restricted)	-	1,324	1,324	618
	<u>717,575</u>	<u>1,324</u>	<u>718,899</u>	<u>647,365</u>

<b>4 Expenditure</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs	616,288	18,048	634,336	525,166
Childcare and Centre Facilities	71,473	1,324	72,797	63,312
	<u>687,761</u>	<u>19,372</u>	<u>707,133</u>	<u>588,478</u>

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Analysis of Support Costs incl. Governance costs:</b>				
Centre Running Costs	80,062	-	80,062	70,222
Depreciation	7,168	-	7,168	7,978
Audit and Accountancy (Governance costs)	2,430	-	2,430	2,930
	<u>89,660</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,660</u>	<u>81,130</u>

Amounts paid to the external auditor £Nil (2022:£1,955) and to an external accountant £2,430 (2022: £975)

**5 Total Resources Expended**

	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs	-	634,336	-	634,336
Depreciation	-	-	7,168	7,168
Centre Running Costs	-	-	80,062	80,062
Other	-	72,797	2,430	75,227
<b>2023 Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>707,133</u>	<u>89,660</u>	<u>796,793</u>
<b>2022 Total</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>588,478</u>	<u>81,130</u>	<u>669,608</u>

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

**6 Net income for the year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	7,168	7,978
Auditors remuneration	-	1,955
Accountancy, taxation and other	2,430	975
	<u>9,598</u>	<u>10,908</u>

**7 Staff costs and employee benefits**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	587,266	488,835
Social Security Costs	36,316	27,586
Pension costs	10,754	8,745
	<u>634,336</u>	<u>525,166</u>

No employee received emoluments during the year of more than £60,000.

Included within wages and salaries is £10,754 paid in respect of defined contribution pension scheme payments (2022: £8,475) There was £2,424 outstanding at 31 March 2023 (2022: £1,939)

The average number of employees and trustees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Employees for charities activities	34	25	32	21
Governance (Trustees)	3	0	3	0
	<u>37</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>21</u>

Key management personnel received remuneration of £132,863 (2022: £113,092)

None of the trustees received remuneration in the current or previous year and there were no expenses paid to trustees in the year or the previous year.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

**8 Tangible fixed assets**

	Leasehold Improvements £	Mobile £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2022	30,685	78,000	85,692	194,377
Additions	-	-	7,863	7,863
Disposals	-	-	(5,033)	(5,033)
At 31 March 2023	<u>30,685</u>	<u>78,000</u>	<u>88,522</u>	<u>197,207</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2022	30,685	77,838	75,050	183,573
Charge for the year	-	41	7,127	7,168
On disposals	-	-	(5,033)	(5,033)
At 31 March 2023	<u>30,685</u>	<u>77,879</u>	<u>77,144</u>	<u>185,708</u>
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>11,378</u>	<u>11,499</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>10,642</u>	<u>10,804</u>

**9 Debtors**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	7,642	10,343
Other debtors	2,235	3,666
	<u>9,877</u>	<u>14,009</u>

**10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	1,969	2,735
Other taxes and social security costs	8,984	6,640
Other creditors	22,997	25,150
	<u>33,950</u>	<u>34,525</u>

**11 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	11,499	-	11,499
Current Assets	142,322	-	142,322
Current Liabilities	(33,950)	-	(33,950)
	<u>119,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>119,871</u>

The balance sheet shows net assets at 31 March 2023 of £119,871 (2022: £174,583). Of this balance £Nil (2021: £Nil) relates to restricted funds.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

**12 Movement in Funds**

	As at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Restricted:</b>					
Welfare Food/Milk Reimbursement	-	1,324	(1,324)	-	-
Deprivation	-	-	-	-	-
Higher Needs Funding	-	18,048	(18,048)	-	-
	-	19,372	(19,372)	-	-
<b>Unrestricted:</b>					
<b>Designated:</b>					
Building reserve	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Critical wages cover	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
General	64,583	722,709	(777,421)	-	9,871
	174,583	722,709	(777,421)	-	119,871
	174,583	742,081	(796,793)	-	119,871

**Restricted:**

A welfare milk subsidy of £1,324 (2022: £618) was received to cover the cost of milk provided to the children.

The charity received £18,048 (2022: £25,746) in respect of special higher needs funding for specific children .

**Designated:**

£30,000 has been set aside for future building and outdoor maintenance and repairs.

£80,000 has been set aside in case of critical incident cover to cover two months wages and pension contribution costs.

**13 Related party transactions**

The charity is based within Headlands Primary School site and works in association with the school.

Headlands Primary School charged the charity for rent and service charges of £23,000 (2022:£22,042).

At the balance sheet date, the amount outstanding was £nil.

**14 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its directors (who are also the trustees) and are listed in the directors report.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**  
*for the information of the trustees only*

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<u>742,081</u>	<u>676,369</u>
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Childcare/Centre Facilities	707,133	588,478
Centre Running and Maintenance	87,230	78,200
Governance Costs	2,430	2,930
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>796,793</u>	<u>669,608</u>
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>	<u>(54,712)</u>	<u>6,761</u>

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Schedule to the Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**  
*for the information of the trustees only*

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds</b>		
NCC- Higher Needs Funding (restricted)	18,048	25,746
Income from Activities for Generating Funds : Fundraising	137	724
Investment Income	442	141
Fees - Headlands (incl. Cedar Rd & LEA)	717,575	646,747
Welfare Milk Reimbursement (restricted)	1,324	618
Other Income	4,555	2,393
	<u>742,081</u>	<u>676,369</u>
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities</b>		
Food and consumables	39,050	27,392
Trips, activities and playscheme costs	14,542	14,798
Toys, play equipment, materials	2,044	1,448
Postage	88	477
Employee costs:		
Wages and salaries	587,266	488,835
Pensions	10,754	8,745
Staff gifts	1,240	2,578
Employer's NI	36,316	27,586
Subscriptions	4,396	5,338
Stationery and printing	6,496	8,243
Telephone and internet	1,948	1,906
Training costs	2,993	1,132
	<u>707,133</u>	<u>588,478</u>
Cleaning	16,793	14,507
Depreciation	7,168	7,978
Insurance	2,079	2,265
Light and heat	7,707	5,990
Repairs and maintenance	16,734	14,357
Rent	23,000	22,042
Rates	589	150
Motor and travel expenses	-	23
Sundry expenses	8,047	6,112
	<u>82,117</u>	<u>73,785</u>
<b>Support Costs</b>		
Professional and payroll bureau	2,594	2,389
Bank charges	1,362	1,336
Bad debts	1,157	690
	<u>5,113</u>	<u>4,415</u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>		
Audit fees	-	1,955
Accountancy fees	2,430	975
	<u>2,430</u>	<u>2,930</u>

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090086

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# Accounts

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Registered number  
4321656  
Charity registered in England & Wales  
1090086

Acorn Childcare (UK)

Report and Accounts

31 March 2022

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Report and accounts**  
**Contents**

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**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Company Information**

**Directors** Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Sarah Belcher (Secretary)  
Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)

**Committee Members** Mark Normansell  
Sarah Lord  
Helen Pateman  
Nicole Brack

**Childcare Manager** Debbie Hasson

**Deputy Childcare Manager** Lorraine Morrissey

**Business & Finance Manager** Alesha Lewis

**Staff Representatives** Donna Bland

**Auditors** Kamini Fletcher Limited  
Russett House  
Northampton Road  
Chapel Brampton  
Northants  
NN6 8AE

**Bankers** Clydesdale/Yorkshire Bank      Lloyds Bank  
7 Gold Street                              2 George Row  
Northampton                                Northampton  
NN1 1EN                                        NN1 1DJ

**Registered office** Headlands Primary School  
Bushland Road  
Northampton  
NN3 2NS

**Company Registered number** 4321656

**Charity Registered Number** 1090086

## **Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

### **Directors' Report**

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing these financial statements.

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is a UK charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up on 1 November 2001 but only commenced its activities when operations were transferred over from Acorn Child Care (unincorporated) on 1 April 2002, which ceased trading therefrom. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Acorn ChildCare (UK) is a registered charitable trust (charity number : 1090086) whose registered office is the business address as stated per page 1. As such it is a non profit making organisation. Thus the fee increases are pegged to that which is necessary. Fees are set to cover the nursery's day to day expenses (building service charge, salaries, equipment and materials) and repairs, maintenance and development. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for continuing to pay your fees promptly. This helps us to keep our fees down.

#### **Organisational structure**

The charity consists of the trustees, management committee and the staff. Please refer to the Legal and Administrative details on pages 1. The management committee also includes members who are parents of children at the nursery.

There is no maximum number of trustees set out in the Articles of Association but a minimum number of 3. All trustees shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election by the members. Trustees take advantage of the Charities Commission updates and online training and duties and try to actively recruit new trustees from the charity's website and recommendations.

The full committee meets minimum 4 times per academic year with additional meetings for each of the sub-committees: fundraising and finance.

Most trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity when appointed and are encouraged to visit regularly as part of the induction process.

The trustees delegate day to day management to and take advice from the Manager (Debbie Hasson) and Deputy Manager (Lorraine Morrissey) and details of other organisations providing services to the charity such as the bank and auditors are as per page 1.

#### **Risk management**

The trustees have a risk register for identifying the types of risk it faces and implementing ways to mitigate those risks; in particular those related to operations and finances and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The current main risk is the reduction in funding from local authorities and a result of the government's new 30 hour free childcare provision policies. However currently majority of the childcare provision is parent funded and the charity is looking at other means to cover this shortfall.

#### **Directors**

The following persons served as directors during the year:

Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Sarah Belcher (Secretary)

#### **Related Parties**

The charity works closely with the Headlands Primary School and offers its pupils out of school care. As the charity is based on the school site, it pays rent and service charge to the school.

## Acorn Childcare (UK)

Registered number:

4321656

### Directors' Report

#### Disclosure of information to auditors

Each person who was a director at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- she has taken all the steps that she ought to have taken as a director in order to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT

Our main activities and who we are trying to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on providing a safe and caring environment to enhance the development and education of children by:

- (a) Offering a balanced and stimulating curriculum based on appropriate play facilities, ensuring individual needs are met and that such groups offer opportunities for all children, regardless of gender, race, culture or religion.
- (b) Encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help children.
- (c) Furthering the aims of Preschool Learning Alliance.
- (d) Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and working with other professionals to help achieve their full potentials.
- (e) Offering support to children from vulnerable backgrounds.

The trustee's policy is to ensure that the highest quality care service is available to the children and is undertaken to further our charitable purpose for public benefit.

Acorn Child Care (UK) offers the following services for children:

Service	Age group	Capacity per session (No. of places)
<b>Headlands</b>		
<b>NURSERY:</b>		
Sunflower room	3 months - 2.5 years	18
Bluebells room	2.5 years to 4 years	24
Evergreens room	Early Years Foundation Stage	32
<b>SAPLINGS &amp; OAKS:</b>		
Before and after school	4 to 7 years & 8 to 11 years	38
Playscheme	4 to 7 years & 8 to 11 years	38

Over 150 children attend Acorn each week but there is still additional spaces to reach capacity,

#### Voluntary Help and Donations in Kind

- (a) The trustees and management committee members excluding the paid staff volunteer their administrative services and time free of charge.
- (b) The charity received reduced local authority council rates in 2021/2022 of £150 (full value £11,776) (2020/2021 exempt from rates: £11,776).

The charity is grateful to all of the above named for their voluntary help and donations in kind.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)****Registered number:****4321656****Directors' Report****ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The charity achieved an outstanding result from its last Ofsted inspection and continues to give the highest quality childcare provision by insuring the staff are given continued professional training including in safe guarding. We have obtained the Portage Stamp of Approval given to early year's settings who have demonstrated they deliver inclusive early years education based upon Portage Principles. The charity was rated 5 star in it's recent environmental and health inspection.

**Activities and financial review of the year**

Although the charity's main source of income is from fees, it is still dependent on government and local authority funding. Although the charity achieved a surplus in the year, it is still mindful that it needs to build on it's reserves as it needs to renew it's old mobile in the coming years.

The statement of financial activities attached to these accounts show the figures in more detail.

The trustees confirm that the funds meet their obligations and will continue to do so.

The trustees review the objectives and activities each year to ensure they continue to reflect the organisation's aims. In carrying out this review, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The nursery caters for children from all social and economic backgrounds, and so achieves the criteria for public benefit.

During the year the charity's income and expenditure was in line with expectation and a surplus was made in the year of £6,761 ( 2021: Loss £34,159). This is added to general reserves and carried forward as £174,583 ( 2021: £167,822).

The charity is in continued negotiations with the Council with a view to securing a long term lease on the premises to give it sustainability. As at the balance sheet date , no contracts have been approved but the trustees hope that the terms will be confirmed soon.

**Income Generation**

Income is generated from fees to parents, fund raising and grant applications.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees believe that in order to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve to equate one month's unrestricted fund expenditure should be maintained. It has designated £30,000 towards the maintenance fund for future building repairs and renewals and £80,000 towards two month's wages cover in case of a critical incident which may temporary halt the charity activity such as a flood or a pandemic. Please refer to the relevant funds note supporting these accounts.

**Investment policy**

The trustees believe the most suitable policy for investing funds is in short term deposits which meets the requirement to generate both income and growth without undue risk.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets in the best interest of the charity. In view of the limited sums involved, any surpluses are kept on bank deposits to earn interest.

**Liability Insurance**

The charity has adequate indemnity insurance cover.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

- (a) The coming year will see continued development in the Nursery. The focus will continue to be on maintaining quality and standards.
- (b) We continue to aim towards an ecologically sound environment for children, encouraging recycling, reducing and re-using materials.
- (c) We continue to fundraise to upgrade the outside play area.
- (d) To develop our Forest School & Ethos around learning in a natural environment.
- (e) To continue to refurbish our Mobile over the coming years.
- (f) To be fully prepared for future spikes of the pandemic and the safety of children and staff. ( see note 15).

**CUSTODIAN TRUSTEESHIP**

There is no custodian trusteeship. All of the assets of the charity are owned and held in the name of the charity.

**Small company special provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 26 August 2022.



.....  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

## Acorn Childcare (UK) Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for their annual report and for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the incoming resources and application of those resources and of the state of those affairs at the end of the financial year. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors ( who are also the Trustees) are required to:

- Ensure that suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently and in accordance with the SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Directors ( who are also the Trustees) have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for their proper application as required by charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively
- All assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity, or for publication is reliable
- The Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations

In so far as the Directors (trustees) are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



.....  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

Approved by the board on 26 August 2022

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Independent auditors' report**  
**to the directors of Acorn Childcare (UK)**

We have audited the accounts of Acorn Childcare (UK) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

**In our opinion the accounts:**

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure and surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other Information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the directors annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditors report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the directors' report, or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Independent auditors' report  
to the directors of Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees (directors)**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors ( who are also the trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement , whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA's (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material, if individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditors report. We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's directors, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's directors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its directors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kamini Fletcher  
(Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of  
Kamini Fletcher Limited  
Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
26 August 2022

Russett House  
Northampton Road  
Chapel Brampton  
Northants  
NN6 8AE

Kamini Fletcher Ltd is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
Donations and Legacies	<b>2</b>	-	25,746	25,746	111,191
Investment income		141	-	141	113
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b>					
Charitable Activities	<b>3</b>	646,747	618	647,365	456,684
Other Incoming Resources	<b>2</b>	3,117		3,117	4,698
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>650,005</b>	<b>26,364</b>	<b>676,369</b>	<b>572,686</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable Activities		562,114	26,364	588,478	554,222
Other Costs		81,130	-	81,130	52,623
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>4/5</b>	<b>643,244</b>	<b>26,364</b>	<b>669,608</b>	<b>606,845</b>
<b>Net Income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		<b>6,761</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>(34,159)</b>
Transfers between funds				-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>6,761</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,761</b>	<b>(34,159)</b>
Balance at 1 April 2021		167,822	-	167,822	201,981
Balance at 31 March 2022		<b>174,583</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>174,583</b>	<b>167,822</b>

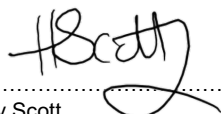
The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2022**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2022</b> £	<b>2021</b> £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	10,804	9,256
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	14,009	9,820
Cash at bank and in hand		184,295	181,735
		<u>198,304</u>	<u>191,555</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
	10	(34,525)	(32,989)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>163,779</u>	<u>158,566</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>174,583</u>	<u>167,822</u>
<b>Charity Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	12	174,583	167,822
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>174,583</u>	<u>167,822</u>

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



.....  
Hilary Scott  
Director  
Approved by the board on 26 August 2022

.....  
Dawn Quennell  
Treasurer

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Cash Flow Statement**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>		
Operating (loss)/profit	6,761	(34,159)
Reconciliation to cash generated from operations:		
Depreciation	7,976	7,572
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	361	-
(Increase) /decrease in debtors	(4,189)	12,736
Increase /(decrease) in creditors	1,536	11,898
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<u>12,445</u>	<u>(1,953)</u>
<b>Cash from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(9,885)	(2,154)
	<u>(9,885)</u>	<u>(2,154)</u>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash</b>	2,560	(4,107)
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 1 April	<u>181,735</u>	<u>185,842</u>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 March</b>	<u>184,295</u>	<u>181,735</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>184,295</u>	<u>181,735</u>

## **1 Accounting policies**

### ***Basis of preparation***

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Practice and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recorded at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

### ***Going Concern***

The Covid 19 pandemic has had an impact on the charity's fee income but the support from the local authorities and with the buffer of the reserves, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. As at the year end, although the charitable company had sufficient net current assets, it is dependent upon the support of its funders to meet future liabilities as they fall due. On the basis of the continued support of the funders, the trustees consider the charitable company will continue operational existence for the foreseeable future and accordingly the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis. The accounts do not include any adjustments that would result from a withdrawal of this support. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest GBP.

### ***Format***

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a statement of financial activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the period.

### ***Company status***

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees as named in the trustees report.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

### ***Income Recognition***

Income received for a specific restricted purpose is credited to a separate restricted fund which is shown in a note to the financial statements. Total incoming resources credited to restricted funds are disclosed on the statement of financial activities which also shows incoming resources in respect of unrestricted funds. Donations and grants received are credited on the statement of financial activities in the year to which they relate.

### ***Donations and Gifts***

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable, provided that there are donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the pre-condition has been met.

Legacies when applicable are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made, property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified. They are included in the statement of financial activities.

Gifts-in kind when material and relevant are accounted for at the trustees' estimate of value to the charity or sale value as follows:

- assets received for distribution by the charity are recognised only when distributed;
- assets received for resale are recognised, where practicable, when receivable or otherwise sold;
- gifts of fixed assets for charity use or funds for acquiring fixed assets for charity use are accounted for (as restricted funds) immediately on receipt.

Donated services and income is included at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. An equivalent amount is charged as expenditure. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party. Voluntary help is not included as income.

Donations under Gift Aid together with the associated income tax recoveries are credited as income when the donations are received. During the year there were no legacies or gifts in kind.

***Grants Receivable***

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless they relate to specified future periods, in which case they are deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund, unless it is determined that the acquisition of the assets discharges the restricted fund.

***Investment Income***

Investment income, including associated income tax recoveries, is recognised when receivable.

***Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT***

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not vat registered so all expenditure is taken gross, inclusive of vat.

Expenditure is allocated on an actual use basis on the statement of financial activities between restricted and unrestricted funds, and is further analysed between:

- Cost of raising funds comprise all fundraising costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs incurred directly to the fulfilment of the Charity's objectives.
- Governance costs (relating to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements).

***Support Costs and Governance Costs***

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and accountancy fees.

***Fund accounting***

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

***Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation***

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Leasehold improvements	Over period of lease (under negotiation)
Mobile unit	25% on book value
Fixtures and fittings	25% on straight line basis

***Operating leases***

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

***Pensions and employee benefits***

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service and any unused holiday entitlement is not permitted to be carried forward so all staff ensure they take their holidays before the holiday period ends.

***Debtors***

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs .

***Creditors***

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

***Taxation***

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

<b>2 Income from Donations and legacies</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
NCC- deprivation Grant (restricted)	-	-	-	-
NCC - Trajectory Grant (restricted)	-	-	-	-
Covid CJRS ( Furlough) Grants	-	-	-	103,894
NCC - Higher Needs Funding (restricted)	-	25,746	25,746	7,297
	<u>-</u>	<u>25,746</u>	<u>25,746</u>	<u>111,191</u>
<b>Fundraising &amp; Other income</b>	3,117	-	3,117	4,698
	<u>3,117</u>	<u>25,746</u>	<u>28,863</u>	<u>115,889</u>

<b>3 Income from Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fees - Headlands (incl. LEA)	646,747	-	646,747	456,071
Welfare Milk Reimbursement (restricted)	-	618	618	613
	<u>646,747</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>647,365</u>	<u>456,684</u>

<b>4 Expenditure</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs	499,420	25,746	525,166	514,314
Childcare and Centre Facilities	62,694	618	63,312	39,908
	<u>562,114</u>	<u>26,364</u>	<u>588,478</u>	<u>554,222</u>

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Analysis of Support Costs incl. Governance costs:</b>				
Centre Running Costs	70,223	-	70,223	42,121
Depreciation	7,977	-	7,977	7,572
Audit and Accountancy (Governance costs)	2,930	-	2,930	2,930
	<u>81,130</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,130</u>	<u>52,623</u>

Amounts paid to the external auditor £1,955 (2021:£1,955) and to an external accountant £975 (2021: £975)

**5 Total Resources Expended**

	<b>Fundraising</b>	<b>Charitable Activities</b>	<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Staff Costs	-	525,166	-	525,166
Depreciation	-	-	7,977	7,977
Centre Running Costs	-	-	70,223	70,223
Other	-	63,312	2,930	66,242
2022 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>588,478</u>	<u>81,130</u>	<u>669,608</u>
2021 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>554,222</u>	<u>52,623</u>	<u>606,845</u>

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2022**

**Company Registered number**  
**4321656**

**6 Net income for the year**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	7,977	7,572
Auditors remuneration	1,955	1,955
Accountancy, taxation and other	975	975
	<u>10,907</u>	<u>10,502</u>

**7 Staff costs and employee benefits**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	£	£
Wages and salaries	488,835	481,167
Social Security Costs	27,586	24,839
Pension costs	8,745	8,308
	<u>525,166</u>	<u>514,314</u>

No employee received emoluments during the year of more than £60,000.

Included within wages and salaries is £8,745 paid in respect of defined contribution pension scheme payments (2021; £8,308) There was £1,939 outstanding at 31 March 2022 (2021: £3,219)

The average number of employees and trustees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Employees for charities activities	32	21	38	21
Governance (Trustees)	3	0	3	0
	<u>35</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>21</u>

Key management personnel received remuneration of £113,092 (2021: £114,110)

None of the trustees received remuneration in the current or previous year and there were no expenses paid to trustees in the year or the previous year.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Improve- ments £	Mobile £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2021	30,685	78,000	79,831	188,516
Additions	-	-	9,885	9,885
Disposals	-	-	(4,024)	(4,024)
At 31 March 2022	30,685	78,000	85,692	194,377
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2021	30,685	77,784	70,791	179,260
Charge for the year	-	54	7,922	7,976
On disposals	-	-	(3,663)	(3,663)
At 31 March 2022	30,685	77,838	75,050	183,573
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2022	-	162	10,642	10,804
At 31 March 2021	-	216	9,040	9,256

9 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	10,343	6,467
Other debtors	3,666	3,353
	14,009	9,820

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	2,735	1,150
Other taxes and social security costs	6,640	5,073
Other creditors	25,150	26,766
	34,525	32,989

11 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	10,804		10,804
Current Assets	198,304	-	198,304
Current Liabilities	(34,525)		(34,525)
	<u>174,583</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>174,583</u>

The balance sheet shows net assets at 31 March 2022 of £174,583 (2021: £167,822). Of this balance £Nil (2021: £Nil) relates to restricted funds.

12 Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
<b>Restricted:</b>					
Welfare Food/Milk Reimbursement	-	618	(618)	-	-
Deprivation	-	-	-	-	-
Higher Needs Funding	-	25,746	(25,746)	-	-
	-	<u>26,364</u>	<u>(26,364)</u>	-	-
<b>Unrestricted:</b>					
Designated:					
Building reserve	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Critical wages cover	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
General	57,822	650,005	(643,244)	-	64,583
	<u>167,822</u>	<u>650,005</u>	<u>(643,244)</u>	-	<u>174,583</u>
	<u>167,822</u>	<u>676,369</u>	<u>(669,608)</u>	-	<u>174,583</u>

**Restricted:**

A welfare milk subsidy of £618 (2021: £613) is receivable to cover the cost of milk provided to the children.

The charity received £25,746 (2021: £7,297) in respect of special higher needs funding for certain children .

**Designated:**

£30,000 has been set aside for future building and outdoor maintenance and repairs.

£80,000 has been set aside in case of critical incident cover to cover two months wages and pension contribution costs.

**13 Related party transactions**

The charity is based within Headlands Primary School site and works in association with the school.

Headlands Primary School charged the charity for rent and service charges of £22,042 (2021:£15,075).

At the balance sheet date, the amount outstanding was £nil.

**14 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its directors (who are also the trustees) and are listed in the directors report.

**15 Post Balance Sheet Event**

The charity resumed negotiations post Covid with the Council, with a view to securing a long term lease on the premises to give it sustainability. As at the balance sheet date, no contracts have been approved but the trustees hope that the terms will be confirmed soon.

**ACORN CHILDCARE (UK)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1090086

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# Accounts

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Registered number  
4321656  
Charity registered in England & Wales  
1090086

Acorn Childcare (UK)

Report and Accounts

31 March 2021

**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Report and accounts  
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**Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Company Information**

<b>Directors</b>	Hilary Scott (Chairperson) Sarah Belcher (Secretary) Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)	
<b>Committee Members</b>	Mark Normansell Sarah Lord Helen Pateman Brian Munjanja Dana Munjanja Nicole Brack	
<b>Childcare Manager</b>	Debbie Hasson	
<b>Deputy Childcare Manager</b>	Lorraine Morrissey	
<b>Business &amp; Finance Manager</b>	Alesha Lewis	
<b>Staff Representatives</b>	Donna Bland Sharon Whaley	
<b>Auditors</b>	Kamini Fletcher Limited Russett House Northampton Road Chapel Brampton Northants NN6 8AE	
<b>Bankers</b>	Yorkshire Bank 7 Gold Street Northampton NN1 1EN	Lloyds Bank 2 George Row Northampton NN1 1DJ
<b>Registered office</b>	Headlands Primary School Bushland Road Northampton NN3 2NS	
<b>Company Registered number</b>	4321656	
<b>Charity Registered Number</b>	1090086	

**Acorn Childcare (UK)****Registered number:****4321656****Directors' Report**

The directors present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing these financial statements.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The charity is a UK charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up on 1 November 2001 but only commenced its activities when operations were transferred over from Acorn Child Care (unincorporated) on 1 April 2002, which ceased trading therefrom. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Acorn ChildCare (UK) is a registered charitable trust (charity number : 1090086) whose registered office is the business address as stated per page 1. As such it is a non profit making organisation. Thus the fee increases are pegged to that which is necessary. Fees are set to cover the nursery's day to day expenses (building service charge, salaries, equipment and materials) and repairs, maintenance and development. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for continuing to pay your fees promptly. This helps us to keep our fees down.

**Organisational structure**

The charity consists of the trustees, management committee and the staff. Please refer to the Legal and Administrative details on pages 1. The management committee also includes members who are parents of children at the nursery.

There is no maximum number of trustees set out in the Articles of Association but a minimum number of 3. All trustees shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and are eligible for re-election by the members. Trustees take advantage of the Charities Commission updates and online training and duties and try to actively recruit new trustees from the charity's website and recommendations.

The full committee meets minimum 4 times per academic year with additional meetings for each of the sub-committees: fundraising and finance.

Most trustees are already familiar with the work of the charity when appointed and are encouraged to visit regularly as part of the induction process.

The trustees delegate day to day management to and take advice from the Manager (Debbie Hasson) and Deputy Manager (Lorraine Morrissey) and details of other organisations providing services to the charity such as the bank and auditors are as per page 1.

**Risk management**

The trustees have a risk register for identifying the types of risk it faces and implementing ways to mitigate those risks; in particular those related to operations and finances and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The current main risk is the reduction in funding from local authorities and a result of the government's new 30 hour free childcare provision policies. However currently majority of the childcare provision is parent funded and the charity is looking at other means to cover this shortfall.

**Directors**

The following persons served as directors during the year:

Dawn Quennell (Treasurer)  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Sarah Belcher (Secretary)

**Related Parties**

The charity works closely with the Headlands Primary School and offers its pupils out of school care. As the charity is based on the school site, it pays rent and service charge to the school.

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Each person who was a director at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- she has taken all the steps that she ought to have taken as a director in order to make herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC BENEFIT**

Our main activities and who we are trying to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on providing a safe and caring environment to enhance the development and education of children by:

- (a) Offering a balanced and stimulating curriculum based on appropriate play facilities, ensuring individual needs are met and that such groups offer opportunities for all children, regardless of gender, race, culture or religion.
- (b) Encouraging other charitable activities through which parents may help children.
- (c) Furthering the aims of Preschool Learning Alliance.
- (d) Meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and working with other professionals to help achieve their full potentials.
- (e) Offering support to children from vulnerable backgrounds.

The trustee's policy is to ensure that the highest quality care service is available to the children and is undertaken to further our charitable purpose for public benefit.

Acorn Child Care (UK) offers the following services for children:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Age group</b>	<b>Capacity per session (No. of places)</b>
<b><u>Headlands</u></b>		
<b>NURSERY:</b>		
Sunflower room	3 months - 2.5 years	18
Bluebells room	2.5 years to 4 years	20
Evergreens room	Early Years Foundation Stage	27
<b>SAPLINGS:</b>		
Before and after school	4 to 7 years	30
Playscheme	4 to 7 years	30
<b>OAKS:</b>		
Before and after school	8 to 11 years	20
Playscheme	8 to 11 years	20
<b><u>Cedar Road</u></b>		
Before and after School	4 to 11 years	30

Over 200 children attend Acorn each week but there is still additional spaces to reach capacity,

**Voluntary Help and Donations in Kind**

- (a) The trustees and management committee members excluding the paid staff volunteer their administrative services and time free of charge.
- (b) The charity was exempt from local authority council rates in 2020/2021 of £11,776 ( 2019/2020: £11,012).

The charity is grateful to all of the above named for their voluntary help and donations in kind.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Registered number:**

**4321656**

**Directors' Report**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The charity achieved an outstanding result from its last Ofsted inspection and continues to give the highest quality childcare provision by insuring the staff are given continued professional training including in safe guarding. We have obtained the Portage Stamp of Approval given to early year's settings who have demonstrated they deliver inclusive early years education based upon Portage Principles.

### **Activities and financial review of the year**

Although the charity's main source of income is from fees, it is still dependent on government and local authority funding. Although the charity achieved a surplus in the year, it is still mindful that it needs to build on its reserves as it needs to renew its old mobile in the coming years.

The statement of financial activities attached to these accounts show the figures in more detail.

The trustees confirm that the funds meet their obligations and will continue to do so.

The trustees review the objectives and activities each year to ensure they continue to reflect the organisation's aims. In carrying out this review, the trustees consider the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The nursery caters for children from all social and economic backgrounds, and so achieves the criteria for public benefit.

During the year the charity's income and expenditure was in line with expectation and a loss was made in the year of £34,159 (2020: Surplus £48,041). This is added to general reserves and carried forward as £167,822 (2020: £201,981). The loss was mainly as a result of the reduced numbers due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The charity is in continued negotiations with the Council with a view to securing a long term lease on the premises to give it sustainability. As at the balance sheet date, no contracts have been approved but the trustees hope that the terms will be confirmed soon.

### **Income Generation**

Income is generated from fees to parents, fund raising and grant applications.

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees believe that in order to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services, a general reserve to equate one month's unrestricted fund expenditure should be maintained. It has designated £30,000 towards the maintenance fund for future building repairs and renewals and £80,000 towards two month's wages cover in case of a critical incident which may temporarily halt the charity activity such as a flood or a pandemic. Please refer to the relevant funds note supporting these accounts.

### **Investment policy**

The trustees believe the most suitable policy for investing funds is in short term deposits which meets the requirement to generate both income and growth without undue risk.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets in the best interest of the charity. In view of the limited sums involved, any surpluses are kept on bank deposits to earn interest.

### **Liability Insurance**

The charity has adequate indemnity insurance cover.

**PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

- (a) The coming year will see continued development in the Nursery. The focus will continue to be on maintaining quality and standards.
- (b) We continue to aim towards an ecologically sound environment for children, encouraging recycling, reducing and re-using materials.
- (c) We continue to fundraise to upgrade the outside play area.
- (d) To develop our Forest School & Ethos around learning in a natural environment.
- (e) Provision mapping for Quality Assurance for the NCC.
- (f) To continue to refurbish our Mobile over the coming years.
- (g) To be fully prepared for future spikes of the pandemic and the safety of children and staff. ( see note 15).

**CUSTODIAN TRUSTEESHIP**

There is no custodian trusteeship. All of the assets of the charity are owned and held in the name of the charity.

**Small company special provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 30 July 2021.

  
.....  
Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Statement of Directors' Responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for their annual report and for the preparation of financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the incoming resources and application of those resources and of the state of those affairs at the end of the financial year. Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors ( who are also the Trustees) are required to:

- Ensure that suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently and in accordance with the SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Directors ( who are also the Trustees) have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for their proper application as required by charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- The charity is operating efficiently and effectively
- All assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity, or for publication is reliable
- The Charity complies with relevant laws and regulations

In so far as the Directors (trustees) are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.



Hilary Scott (Chairperson)  
Director

Approved by the board on 30 July 2021

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Independent auditors' report**  
**to the directors of Acorn Childcare (UK)**

We have audited the accounts of Acorn Childcare (UK) for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

**In our opinion the accounts:**

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure and surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the directors' have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other Information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the directors annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditors report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the directors' report, or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records or returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Independent auditors' report**  
**to the directors of Acorn Childcare (UK)**

**Respective responsibilities of trustees (directors)**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors ( who are also the trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement , whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA's (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material, if individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditors report. We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's directors, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's directors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its directors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Kamini Fletcher (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Kamini Fletcher Limited Accountants and Statutory Auditors 30 July 2021	Russett House Northampton Road Chapel Brampton Northants NN6 8AE
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Kamini Fletcher Ltd is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure account)  
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Company Registered number  
4321656

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 £	2020 £
Donations and Legacies	2	103,894	7,297	111,191	9,768
Investment income		113	-	113	176
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b>					
Charitable Activities	3	456,071	613	456,684	762,788
Other Incoming Resources	2	4,698	-	4,698	5,783
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<u>564,776</u>	<u>7,910</u>	<u>572,686</u>	<u>778,515</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable Activities		546,312	7,910	554,222	663,408
Other Costs		52,623	-	52,623	67,066
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4/5	<u>598,935</u>	<u>7,910</u>	<u>606,845</u>	<u>730,474</u>
<b>Net Income/(expenditure) before transfers</b>		(34,159)	-	(34,159)	48,041
Transfers between funds				-	-
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		(34,159)	-	(34,159)	48,041
Balance at 1 April 2020		201,981	-	201,981	153,940
Balance at 31 March 2021		<u>167,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,822</u>	<u>201,981</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.  
All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.


Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2021

Company Registered number  
4321656

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	9,256	14,674
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	9,820	22,556
Cash at bank and in hand		181,735	185,842
		<u>191,555</u>	<u>208,398</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(32,989)	(21,091)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>158,566</u>	<u>187,307</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>167,822</u>	<u>201,981</u>
<b>Charity Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds	12	167,822	201,981
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>167,822</u>	<u>201,981</u>

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

  
.....  
Hilary Scott  
Director  
Approved by the board on 30 July 2021

  
.....  
Dawn Quennell  
Treasurer

**Acorn Childcare (UK)**  
**Cash Flow Statement**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2021**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>		
Operating (loss)/profit	(34,159)	48,041
Reconciliation to cash generated from operations:		
Depreciation	7,572	8,598
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	349
(Increase) /decrease in debtors	12,736	(13,228)
Increase /(decrease) in creditors	11,898	(11,025)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<u>(1,953)</u>	<u>32,735</u>
<b>Cash from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(2,154)	(8,859)
	<u>(2,154)</u>	<u>(8,859)</u>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash</b>	(4,107)	23,876
Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 1 April	<u>185,842</u>	<u>161,966</u>
<b>Cash at bank and in hand less overdrafts at 31 March</b>	<u>181,735</u>	<u>185,842</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consists of:</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>181,735</u>	<u>185,842</u>

## 1 Accounting policies

### ***Basis of preparation***

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Practice and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recorded at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

### ***Going Concern***

The Covid 19 pandemic has had an impact on the charity's fee income but the support from the local authorities and with the buffer of the reserves, the trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. As at the year end, although the charitable company had sufficient net current assets, it is dependent upon the support of its funders to meet future liabilities as they fall due. On the basis of the continued support of the funders, the trustees consider the charitable company will continue operational existence for the foreseeable future and accordingly the trustees consider it appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis. The accounts do not include any adjustments that would result from a withdrawal of this support. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest GBP.

### ***Format***

The company has taken advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 and presented an income and expenditure account in the form of a statement of financial activities on the grounds that it enables the financial statements to show a true and fair view of the result for the period.

### ***Company status***

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees as named in the trustees report.

In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

### ***Income Recognition***

Income received for a specific restricted purpose is credited to a separate restricted fund which is shown in a note to the financial statements. Total incoming resources credited to restricted funds are disclosed on the statement of financial activities which also shows incoming resources in respect of unrestricted funds. Donations and grants received are credited on the statement of financial activities in the year to which they relate.

### ***Donations and Gifts***

All monetary donations and gifts are included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable, provided that there are donor imposed restrictions as to the timing of the related expenditure, in which case recognition is deferred until the pre-condition has been met.

Legacies when applicable are included when the charity is advised by the personal representative of an estate that payment will be made, property transferred and the amount involved can be quantified. They are included in the statement of financial activities.

Gifts-in kind when material and relevant are accounted for at the trustees' estimate of value to the charity or sale value as follows:

- assets received for distribution by the charity are recognised only when distributed;
- assets received for resale are recognised, where practicable, when receivable or otherwise sold;
- gifts of fixed assets for charity use or funds for acquiring fixed assets for charity use are accounted for (as restricted funds) immediately on receipt.

Donated services and income is included at a valuation which is an estimate of the financial cost borne by the donor where such a cost is quantifiable and measurable. An equivalent amount is charged as expenditure. No income is recognised when there is no financial cost borne by a third party. Voluntary help is not included as income.

Donations under Gift Aid together with the associated income tax recoveries are credited as income when the donations are received. During the year there were no legacies or gifts in kind.

***Grants Receivable***

Revenue grants are credited as incoming resources when they are receivable provided conditions for receipt have been complied with, unless they relate to specified future periods, in which case they are deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund, unless it is determined that the acquisition of the assets discharges the restricted fund.

***Investment Income***

Investment income, including associated income tax recoveries, is recognised when receivable.

***Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT***

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. The charity is not vat registered so all expenditure is taken gross, inclusive of vat.

Expenditure is allocated on an actual use basis on the statement of financial activities between restricted and unrestricted funds, and is further analysed between:

- Cost of raising funds comprise all fundraising costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs incurred directly to the fulfilment of the Charity's objectives.
- Governance costs (relating to compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements).

***Support Costs and Governance Costs***

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity, but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and accountancy fees.

***Fund accounting***

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to these financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

***Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation***

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Leasehold improvements	Over period of lease (under negotiation)
Mobile unit	25% on book value
Fixtures and fittings	25% on straight line basis

***Operating leases***

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

***Pensions and employee benefits***

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the profit and loss account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service and any unused holiday entitlement is not permitted to be carried forward so all staff ensure they take their holidays before the holiday period ends.

***Debtors***

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs.

***Creditors***

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

***Taxation***

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Charities Act and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Company Registered number  
4321656

2 Income from Donations and legacies	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Covid CJRS ( Furlough) Grants	103,894	-	103,894	-
NCC - Higher Needs Funding (restricted)		7,297	7,297	9,768
	<u>103,894</u>	<u>7,297</u>	<u>111,191</u>	<u>9,768</u>
<b>Fundraising &amp; Other income</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>5,783</b>
	<u>108,592</u>	<u>7,297</u>	<u>115,889</u>	<u>15,551</u>

3 Income from Charitable Activities	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Fees - Headlands (incl. Cedar Rd & LEA)	456,071	-	456,071	760,719
Welfare Milk Reimbursement (restricted)	-	613	613	2,069
	<u>456,071</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>456,684</u>	<u>762,788</u>

4 Expenditure	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Staff Costs	507,017	7,297	514,314	592,564
Childcare and Centre Facilities	39,295	613	39,908	70,844
	<u>546,312</u>	<u>7,910</u>	<u>554,222</u>	<u>663,408</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Analysis of Support Costs incl. Governance costs:</b>				
Centre Running Costs	42,121		42,121	55,538
Depreciation	7,572		7,572	8,598
Audit and Accountancy (Governance costs)	2,930		2,930	2,930
	<u>52,623</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,623</u>	<u>67,066</u>

Amounts paid to the external auditor £1,955 (2020:£1,955) and to an external accountant £975 (2020: £975)

5 Total Resources Expended	Fundraising £	Charitable Activities £	Other Costs £	Total £
Staff Costs	-	514,314		514,314
Depreciation	-		7,572	7,572
Centre Running Costs	-		42,121	42,121
Other	-	39,908	2,930	42,838
2021 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>554,222</u>	<u>52,623</u>	<u>606,845</u>
2020 Total	<u>-</u>	<u>663,408</u>	<u>67,066</u>	<u>730,474</u>

Acorn Childcare (UK)  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Company Registered number  
4321656

6 Net income for the year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	7,572	8,598
Auditors remuneration	1,955	1,955
Accountancy, taxation and other	975	975
	<u>10,502</u>	<u>11,528</u>

7 Staff costs and employee benefits

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	481,167	554,252
Social Security Costs	24,839	29,574
Pension costs	8,308	8,738
	<u>514,314</u>	<u>592,564</u>

No employee received emoluments during the year of more than £60,000.

Included within wages and salaries is £8,308 paid in respect of defined contribution pension scheme payments (2020; £8,738) There was £3,219 outstanding at 31 March 2021 (2020: £1,820)

The average number of employees and trustees during the year was as follows:

	2021		2020	
	Total	FTE	Total	FTE
Employees for charities activities	38	21	44	26
Governance (Trustees)	3	0	3	0
	<u>41</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>26</u>

Key management personnel received remuneration of £114,110 (2020: £109,872)

None of the trustees received remuneration in the current or previous year and there were no expenses paid to trustees in the year or the previous year.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Improve- ments £	Mobile £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2020	30,685	78,000	79,575	188,260
Additions	-	-	2,154	2,154
Disposals	-	-	(1,898)	(1,898)
At 31 March 2021	30,685	78,000	79,831	188,516
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 April 2020	30,685	77,711	65,190	173,586
Charge for the year	-	72	7,500	7,572
On disposals	-	-	(1,898)	(1,898)
At 31 March 2021	30,685	77,783	70,792	179,260
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 March 2021	-	217	9,039	9,256
At 31 March 2020	-	289	14,385	14,674

9 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	6,467	12,212
Other debtors	3,353	10,344
	9,820	22,556

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	1,150	652
Other taxes and social security costs	5,073	7,335
Other creditors	26,766	13,104
	32,989	21,091

11 Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Tangible Fixed Assets	9,256		9,256
Current Assets	191,555	-	191,555
Current Liabilities	(32,989)		(32,989)
	<u>167,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,822</u>

The balance sheet shows net assets at 31 March 2021 of £167,822 (2020: £201,981). Of this balance £Nil (2020: £Nil) relates to restricted funds.

12 Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
<b>Restricted:</b>					
Welfare Food/Milk Reimbursement	-	613	(613)	-	-
Higher Needs Funding	-	7,297	(7,297)	-	-
	-	<u>7,910</u>	<u>(7,910)</u>	-	-
<b>Unrestricted:</b>					
Designated:					
Building reserve	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Critical wages cover	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
General	91,981	564,776	(598,935)	-	57,822
	<u>201,981</u>	<u>564,776</u>	<u>(598,935)</u>	-	<u>167,822</u>
	<u>201,981</u>	<u>572,686</u>	<u>(606,845)</u>	-	<u>167,822</u>

**Restricted:**

A welfare milk subsidy of £613 (2020: £2,069) is receivable to cover the cost of milk provided to the children.

The charity received £7,297 (2020: £9,268) in respect of special higher needs funding for certain children

**Designated:**

£30,000 has been set aside for future building and outdoor maintenance and repairs.

£80,000 has been set aside in case of critical incident cover to cover two months wages and pension contribution costs.

**13 Related party transactions**

The charity is based within Headlands Primary School site and works in association with the school.

Headlands Primary School charged the charity for rent and service charges of £15,075 (2020:£17,388).

At the balance sheet date, the amount outstanding was £nil.

**14 Ultimate controlling party**

The charitable company is under the ultimate control of its directors (who are also the trustees) and are listed in the directors report.

**15 Post Balance Sheet Event**

Since the year end the Covid 19 pandemic has continued to hit the country. Though lockdown has been lifted, we are mindful that the number of cases are higher in children. Hence our continued focus is the well-being of our children and staff and we will continue to support them for as long as it takes. The good news is that our numbers are back up to full capacity and we have a waiting list too. We are confident that as long as we do not have another major lockdown, we should be able to return back to normality as much as we can and ensure that the safety of the children and staff is at the forefront.

The charity resumed negotiations post Covid with the Council, with a view to securing a long term lease on the premises to give it sustainability. As at the balance sheet date, no contracts have been approved but the trustees hope that the terms will be confirmed soon.