

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CHARITY NUMBER 1132245

| CONTENTS | PAGE |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Report of the Trustees | 1 - 3 |
| Independent Examiner's Report | 4 |
| Statement of Financial Activities | 5 |
| Balance Sheet | 6 |
| Notes to the Accounts | 7 - 9 |

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Charity registration number | 1132245 |
| Principal address | Western Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1ND |
| Trustees | G McCoy - chair M L R Butler S Cosier I Killeen - appointed 14/11/2024 C Millen - appointed 14/11/2024 M A Pout S Orpin - resigned F O A Russell - resigned J Elvy - resigned |
| Bankers | National Westminster Bank plc |
| Independent examiner | Richard Abel FCA CTA of Edwards & Co |

GOVERNANCE

Governing Document

The charity is an unincorporated association governed by its constitution adopted on registration in 2009. It follows the 2008 model used by the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

Appointment of Trustees

The trustees, described in the governing document as Committee members, are elected for one year at the annual general meeting. Retiring trustees are eligible for re-election unless they have already served on the Committee in any capacity for four consecutive years.

The Committee may co-opt members but they shall retire at the next annual general meeting.

At least 60 per cent of the Committee members shall at the time of their election be parents or guardians of children in groups run by the charity.

Parents and carers of children attending the nursery are invited to join the Committee when they first attend the nursery. Potential new trustees are nominated by other parents or carers and approved by current trustees.

Affiliations

The charity is a member of The Pre-school Learning Alliance and is required by its constitution to remain a member thereof and seek their approval for certain changes in its own constitution.

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives

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

- offering play facilities and training courses, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children, regardless of race, culture, religion or means.
- encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.

Public Benefit

In accordance with section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011, the trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on the requirement that the objectives and work undertaken by the charity are in line with charitable objects and do provide benefit for the public.

This, like other pre-schools, provides young children with a place to learn and play close to their homes. They learn how to socialise with other children and they further benefit by acquiring skills useful for a good start in school.

Activities and Achievements

St. Mary's Nursery is situated in a purpose built unit with its own facilities and playground. We aim to:

- provide a secure and caring environment with the appropriate adult / child ratio of trained staff;
- ensure that the environment provided meets the appropriate health and safety requirements for the age group;
- provide suitable equipment and experiences to help young children to achieve outcomes as described in the statutory framework for The Early Years Foundation Stage - staying safe and being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution.

We encourage parents and carers to become involved in their children's care and education by inviting them to spend time in the nursery, meet and speak with their child's key person on a regular basis and attend meetings and events within the nursery.

There are no restrictions on the children that can access our facilities, including religion, disability or ethnicity or geographical restrictions. Families in poverty are not excluded. Those who cannot afford to pay for extra sessions have the same chances to access our nursery as those who can pay.

We do, however, have to adhere to restrictions in numbers. The nursery is currently licensed by Ofsted to provide 24 places per session for children aged between three and five. We are able to offer free grant-funded sessions for children from the first term after their third birthday for a full 38 weeks of each school year. In order to claim these funded hours you will need to do nothing other than to show your child's birth certificate or passport – we will claim the funding on your behalf. We currently run a six-term year as operated by Ashford St. Mary's C.E. Primary School and holidays are usually run in line with the School too.

The qualifications of our staff are above those required by the Early Years Foundation Stage. Staff continually take part in training courses in order to keep up to date with education, health and safety and safeguarding issues.

More information can be found on our website <http://stmarysnursery.co.uk/>.

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Review of the Financial Position

Total income increased from £118,781 to £126,928. The largest component is fees and KCC support which increased by 5%.

Expenditure increased from £101,629 to £118,521 due to staff costs 17% higher and a general increase in other costs. The detailed list of expenditure can be found in notes 3 and 4 on page 8 with wages being the largest cost.

The result is that income exceeded expenditure by £8,407, increasing funds carried forward to £31,754.

Reserves Policy

The trustees would like to have sufficient funds to enable expenses to be met for three months should there be a delay or reduction in receiving income. The amount required would be approximately £30,000. Therefore the cash funds held are inadequate at present.

Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the financial period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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 Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 26 June 2025 and signed on their behalf

G McCoy
Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF
ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Mary's Nursery Ashford ("the Charity") for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Richard Abel

Richard Abel FCA CTA
Edwards & Co
Chartered Accountants

Unit 1 Goat Lees
Trinity Road
Ashford, Kent TN25 4AB

26 June 2025

ST. MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

| | note | 2024 £ | 2023 £ |
|---|------|----------------------|----------------------|
| INCOME FROM: | | | |
| Charitable activities - pre-school | 2 | 126,782 | 118,763 |
| Interest received | | 146 | 18 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL INCOME | | <u>126,928</u> | <u>118,781</u> |
| EXPENDITURE ON: | | | |
| Charitable activities - pre-school | 3 | 114,875 | 98,454 |
| - support costs | 4 | 3,646 | 3,175 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | <u>118,521</u> | <u>101,629</u> |
| NET INCOME AND NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS | | | |
| | | 8,407 | 17,152 |
| Total funds brought forward | | 23,347 | 6,195 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | <u><u>31,754</u></u> | <u><u>23,347</u></u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD
BALANCE SHEET
AT 31 AUGUST 2024

| | 2024 | | 2023 | |
|---|--------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Debtors and prepayments | | 16,402 | | 13,500 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | <u>19,325</u> | | <u>12,826</u> |
| | | 35,727 | | 26,326 |
| CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year | | | | |
| Taxation and social security | 2,031 | | 2,085 | |
| Accruals and deferred income | <u>1,942</u> | | <u>894</u> | |
| | | <u>(3,973)</u> | | <u>(2,979)</u> |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 31,754 | | 23,347 |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u><u>31,754</u></u> | | <u><u>23,347</u></u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS OF THE CHARITY | | | | |
| Unrestricted funds | | <u><u>31,754</u></u> | | <u><u>23,347</u></u> |

The notes on pages 7 to 9 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the trustees on 26 June 2025 and signed on their behalf

G McCoy
Trustee

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the charity, 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 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

(b) Significant judgements - going concern

When preparing the financial statements, the Trustees have assessed whether there are significant doubts about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no material uncertainties of which the Trustees are aware in making their assessment.

The Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient cash reserves to enable it to meet its obligations as they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements. As such, the Trustees are satisfied that the charity has adequate resources to continue to operate for the foreseeable future and they continue to adopt the going concern basis for preparing these financial statements.

(c) Incoming resources

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.

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount.

(d) Volunteers and donated services and facilities

No value is incorporated into these financial statements for the services provided by volunteers or where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers.

(e) Resources expended

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 costs related to the category.

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Assets which cost less than £500 are not capitalised.

(g) Financial instruments

The charity enters into basic financial instruments that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable, loans to and from banks, other third parties and related parties. Basic financial instruments are recognised at amortised cost, with changes recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(h) Rental agreements

Rentals payable are charged to expenditure evenly throughout the term of the agreement.

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

(i) Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Fees and vouchers for the rendering of services | 124,241 | 117,870 |
| School meals | 1,764 | 848 |
| Other income | 777 | 45 |
| | <u>126,782</u> | <u>118,763</u> |

3. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries (see note 5) | 97,010 | 82,752 |
| Rent | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Business rates | 908 | 902 |
| Meals and refreshments | 2,744 | 2,778 |
| Equipment and toys | 2,767 | 3,160 |
| Training and publications | 1,265 | 74 |
| Insurance | 836 | 848 |
| Hire of equipment | 1,118 | 246 |
| Repairs | 941 | 260 |
| Cleaning | 579 | 494 |
| Trips and parties | 463 | 433 |
| Photography | - | 192 |
| Sundry costs | 244 | 315 |
| | <u>114,875</u> | <u>98,454</u> |

4. SUPPORT COSTS

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Telephone and internet | 1,380 | 995 |
| Postage and stationery | 163 | 39 |
| Subscriptions | 332 | 303 |
| Payroll fees | 397 | 447 |
| Computer costs | 71 | - |
| Bank charges and interest | 313 | 497 |
| | <u>2,656</u> | <u>2,281</u> |
| Governance costs | | |
| - Independent examination | 990 | 894 |
| | <u>3,646</u> | <u>3,175</u> |

ST MARY'S NURSERY ASHFORD
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

| | 2024 | 2023 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Wages and salaries | 93,677 | 80,948 |
| Social security costs | 1,496 | 398 |
| Employer's contributions to defined contribution pension scheme | 1,837 | 1,406 |
| | <u>97,010</u> | <u>82,752</u> |

The average number of full time employees was 5 (2023 - 5), none of whom earned above £60,000.

6. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

None of the charity trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from this charity or a related entity in this or the previous year.

7. RELATED PARTIES

There are no related party transactions.

8. TAXATION

The nursery is a registered charity and no provision is considered necessary for taxation.