



Strathmore Pre-School
Old Hale Way, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1XR
Tel: 07593 742755
Email: preschool@strathmore.herts.sch.uk

Chair's & Treasurer's Report

School Year 1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024

Firstly, thank you all for attending Strathmore Pre-School's AGM. This is a brief summary of the key points from the past year at the Pre-School.

OFSTED

Our last Ofsted inspection was in October 2018, when the Pre-School was delighted to achieve an Outstanding rating.

The Committee and myself are hugely proud of all the work that Diane and the team put in with the children and the setting to achieve and continue to maintain this level.

Staffing News

We began September 2023 with the following staff:

Diane Grazette - Leader & SENCo
Leonie Nicholson-Hay - Deputy Leader
Julie Hook - Administrator
Annabel Breadin – Practitioner/Deputy Leader/SENCo
Meenu Dhunna - Bank Staff
Kayleigh Shiers - Bank Staff

Leonie began maternity leave during the Autumn term and Annabel took on the role of Acting Deputy Leader for the remainder of the year.

Committee News

The Committee has remained the same for this year, with membership as follows:

- Michelle Moore – Chair

Registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee in England & Wales.
Registered Office: Strathmore Pre-School. Old Hale Way, Hitchin, SG5 1XR
Registered No: 7274228 Registered Charity No: 1137736

- Katherine Martinez – Treasurer
- Shelly Leitch – Safeguarding Officer
- Esther Horton – Secretary
- Tim Craig – Committee member

Finance

The overall cash balances of the Pre-School accounts at the end of the academic year amounted to just £735. This is significantly lower than in previous years, although refunds from HMRC remain outstanding, amounting to approximately £6259, in relation to maternity pay owed to the pre-school, but not yet paid. There are of course other items of expenditure to be paid out once the full refunds are received and any remaining funds following this will be distributed in accordance with PSLA guidelines.

Income:

Our income this year was £68211, a small decrease of £1077 over 2023. The difference between fee income and funding was less significant this year, with fee income of £36249 and funding of £30187, more in line with 2022.

Expenditure:

Overall expenditure was £86609 this year, illustrating another increase of £4938 over the previous year. Once again, this was predominantly due to an increase in overall staffing costs.

Overall, we ended the year showing a loss of £18398 in this year's audited accounts.

Summary

This has been a challenging year for the Pre-School, as it has been for many other settings. There have been ongoing issues and concerns regarding the availability of qualified staff, two staff members commencing maternity leave around the same time and the shortfall created by government underfunding of "free" hours.

Due to the increase in expenditure and the shortfall in income, the reserves have been hit in consecutive years. The cost of living crisis and the struggle to recruit staff have been affecting the number of pupils we can enroll, and in turn our income levels. We began this year looking to maximize income and considering where any other cash injections might come from. Despite our best efforts, we have unfortunately not been able to achieve the increases that we'd hoped to.

Throughout the year we gave ongoing consideration to the sustainability of our situation, and ultimately came to the conclusion that the Pre-School would not be able to continue beyond this year. This was an incredibly difficult decision for all involved and we kept communication open with staff and families to make the transition as transparent and supported as possible.

We have notified Ofsted of our decision to close and completed the process of selling our resources, vacating the premises, and securing our data. This document outlining the financial position of the past year and closing of the Pre-School will hopefully serve as our final report.

My thanks go to all of the staff for their hard work and commitment to the Pre-School, and particularly to Diane for her dedicated leadership over the years, especially during what has been a challenging last few years. My thanks as well to Julie for all that she has done to keep the Pre-School and the Committee running, and for her generous and unwavering support. I'd also like to thank my fellow Committee members for giving their time and enthusiasm to keep the Pre-School running as long as we have.

Strathmore Pre-School has meant so much to so many over the years. It has been an honour to have my children attend the school, and to have the opportunity to support the staff and the school as a member of the Committee. I wish them all the very best for the future.

With thanks and best wishes,

Michelle Moore
Chair

Strathmore Pre-School
Charity No 1137736
Income & Expenditure Account
31-Aug-24

Fees

Fees	36,249.00
Funding	30,187.10
Donations	0.00
Book Bags	0.00
Uniform	0.00
Books /Photos	0.00
Fund Raising	101.00
Equipment Sale	701.64
Bank Interest	27.55
Other	945.00
Total Income	68,211.29

Rent	6,434.87
Teaching Staff	64,923.50
Admin Staff	4,530.26
Payroll admin	717.75
Pension/NEST	1,275.00
HMRC	1,596.50
Photocopying	183.87
Phone	213.67
Stamps & Stationery	212.18
Equipment	440.66
Training	583.20
Accountant	360.00
Legal & Professional	2,232.91
Fundraising expenses	0.00
Refunds	24.00
Bank charge & fines	66.22
Publicity	0.00
Insurance	125.88
Other	1,206.66
Dep'n	105.00
Dep'n/loss on sale of fxd ass	1,377.41
Total Exp	86,609.54

Profit / (Loss)	-18,398.25
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Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets	0
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Current Assets

Bank	734.75
Bank Reserve	0
Total Cash Funds	734.75

Current Liabilities

Accruals	0
Creditors	0

Net current Assets	734.75
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Reserves

Bal Brought Forward	19,133.00
Profit/Loss in period	-18,398.25
Closing Reserves	734.75



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
STRATHMORE PRE SCHOOL

On accounts for the year
ended

31ST AUGUST 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1137736

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2024.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

17/07/2025

Name:

SHAUN O'REILLY

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

MAAT

Address: 66 BEDFORD ROAD, SG5 2UD

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.