

FRESHFORD PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 1153406

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2013-08-14

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

Contact

Address Freshford Memorial Hall
Freshford Lane
Freshford
Bath
BA2 7UR

Phone 07928013998

Email business@freshfordpreschool.co.uk

Website www.freshfordpreschool.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY WORKS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT HAVING AS ITS OBJECTS THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR BY:1) PROMOTING THEIR CARE AND SAFETY;2) PROMOTING THEIR EDUCATION AND PROMOTING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT;3) PROMOTING THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING;4) PROVIDING SERVICES TO SUPPORT THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS;5) PROVIDING SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS HOLDING MEMBERSHIP OF THE CIO; AND6) FURTHERING THE AIMS OF THE PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE.

Activities: We are a community run Pre-school based at Freshford Memorial Hall, Freshford near Bath. We offer fun, creative and stimulating education and care for children aged between 2 years 6 months and 5 years during term times. We are proud of our unique atmosphere which is shaped by our ethos, "Explore, Create, Discover".

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Bath And North East Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£135,341	£128,429	-	-
2024-08-31	£112,384	£109,166	-	-
2023-08-31	£90,827	£95,577	-	-
2022-08-31	£85,709	£97,865	-	-
2021-08-31	£91,864	£79,715	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rhiannon Meredith	Chair	2022-11-08
Emilia Lascelles		2022-11-08
Gabrielle Anderson		2025-11-13
Kelly Casey		2025-11-13
Pippa Payne		2022-11-08
Polly Edelston		2022-11-08
Teresa Schofield		2025-11-13

Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/9/2024 **Period start date** **To** 31/8/2025 **Period end date**

Charity name: Freshford Preschool

Charity registration number: 1153406

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Freshford Preschool works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people by: (1) promoting their care and safety; (2) promoting their education and promoting parental involvement; (3) promoting their health and wellbeing; (4) providing services to support them and their families and carers; (5) providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and (6) furthering the aims of the Early Years Alliance.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Freshford Preschool has now been fully operational for sixteen school years. By providing a Preschool within the centre of the village of Freshford we believe we improve the quality of life of both parents and Children locally. The children socialise and bond as a year group which eases the transition of those moving on to Freshford Primary School, just down the road. Parents have a convenient childcare facility close to the village school and the Galleries shop & cafe. In addition, we also attract more children from further afield who go on to other local primary schools. These families are attracted by our ethos, our focus on outdoor learning and Forest School and our rural community setting, which helps to create a very positive learning environment. In December 2022, our preschool was rated as 'Outstanding', as in 2016, which reflects the sustained quality and standards we aim for, from staff, parents, volunteers and children together to create a positive and enjoyable environment. As in previous years, over the 2024/2025 financial year, the Preschool continued to accept the Early Years Entitlement Grant

		from Bath and North East Somerset Council, (including the extended '30 hours' grant for eligible families via the Working Parent Family Fund). The EYE grant covered up to 15 hours of universal childcare per week for all 2,3 and 4 year olds. The Working family grant provided up to 22 hours of funded childcare per week at our setting for eligible 3 and 4 year olds (or '15 hours' per 2 year old). This funding could be used for all sessions without any restrictions. In 2024-2025, the EYE funding was utilised in the following way: In Sept 2024, we had 23 registered children with 9 3-4 year olds receiving the Working family EYE funding, 8 3-4 year olds receiving universal funding, 3 2-year olds on Working family EYE funding and 3 2-year olds being unfunded. In January 2025, we had 27 registered children with 13 3-4 year olds receiving the Working family EYE funding, 12 3-4 year olds receiving universal funding and 2 2-year olds receiving the working family EYE funding. We aim for and believe that the activities at the Preschool have fostered the social, emotional, physical, creative, spiritual and cognitive development needs of each child. The activities have also fulfilled the latest 2024 curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage and reflected the interests and ideas of the children, with weekly activities being updated by the staff team from ongoing daily observations of the children and their play. With regards to health and wellbeing, examples of good practice include the children following supervised teeth-brushing after snack time, introduction of & accreditation by SunSafe practices when outside particularly in spring/summer, weekly baking of seasonal snacks for forest school, and activities such as yoga, sports and music – further adventures and events from the year 2024/2025 are outlined in the Section 'Achievements & Performance'. Each family with a child attending the Preschool has the right for one parent or carer to vote at General Meetings of the Preschool, to which they are invited, and to join the Preschool committee and trustees. The Preschool committee fulfils a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the Preschool throughout the year. During 2024/2025 they carried out a wide range of tasks, all on a voluntary basis including a thorough overhaul of our Employees Handbook and Operational policies and
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		procedures guidelines together with the Business Manager, taking the latest employment legal guidelines and EYFS updates into account; approving pay rises for the salaries of staff members and continuing with the Living Wage Foundation guidance; maintaining the rota of volunteer helpers; repainting the Preschool room, clearing the Preschool garden and organising fundraising events throughout the year. During 2024/2025, the Preschool provided part-time family friendly employment for 5 permanent members of staff and 1 apprentice from the surrounding area. Our apprentice completed her Level 2 Early Years Apprenticeship, and to our delight continued at our setting to start her Level 3 qualification. The Preschool also offered regular supply work to another 5 individuals who live in the local area.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In managing the Preschool, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. At the start of the academic year 2024-2025, all Trustees were sent the latest online guidance from the Charity commission as to their roles and responsibilities and this is discussed and taken into account for our decision-making processes throughout our regular meetings in the year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	No grants were applied for in the year 2024-2025.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	No investments were made or held in the year 2024-2025.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	As in previous years, the contributions of the committee, parents and community volunteers alongside the staff commitment outside of their paid hours are manifold. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise the successful operation of the Preschool would not be possible. Parent volunteers were welcomed to our outdoor forest school sessions this year which run from our main location from autumn-spring terms and then are located

		on-site at our Freshford Preschool Forest School woodland site in the vicinity. Other parent helpers have assisted in fundraising community events to enable the range of activities offered throughout the year including yoga, music and weekly sport sessions at no additional cost.
Other		The Preschool provides a regular source of income to our premises, Freshford Memorial Hall, as one of the main users, which helps to ensure its own financial security and ongoing maintenance. We ran the bouncy castle/slides again at the annual Freshford & Limpley Stoke village fete in June, raising just over a few hundred pounds for the Hall. We have not made further financial contributions to the Hall renovation fund but are now benefitting from the refurbishments in previous years.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	During the (pre-)school year of 2024/2025, Freshford Preschool operated successfully for its 16th year. A dedicated and experienced staff team continued to be led by Debbie Giles, with business manager Abby Moore managing all administrative, financial and legal responsibilities necessary for the setting, and a supportive group of Trustees continued to be guided by Chair Rhiannon Meredith and Deputy Chair, Polly Edelston, both preschool parents for the year also. The preschool is a valued part of the village community and through its longstanding reputation and happy children, it attracts families from not just Freshford and the surrounding villages but also further afield. In addition to our main Hall site, we continued to meet at our nearby woodland location from the Easter term onwards for our weekly forest school outings. From a staffing perspective, we started the year with our experienced team of early years practitioners comprised of our Manager, Debbie Giles, two Deputy managers, Kerry Sherlock and Abi Jackson, Gemma Hooley and our Level 2-qualified apprentice, Laura Potter. In September 2024, we held our Inset day training to focus on staff communication within the team to reinforce their strengths and core competencies which we felt was timely and followed from the tech upgrades

		to digital communication with new laptops and tablets from the previous year. Staff regularly update their training with regards to early years skills focused on the children throughout the year, including a conference in October 2024 with early years expert, Alistair Bryce-Clegg. However, the Trustees generously approved additional funding for an external consultant to come in and focus on the staff inset day and bring out their abilities and competencies within the team. Trustees also agreed to co-fund preschool manager, Debbie Giles, as she started her NPQ in Early years Leadership in the autumn, giving her the opportunity to share and enhance her skills and additional responsibilities she carries, training with other Leaders through this continuing professional development course. In addition to regular supply staff used when necessary during the terms, Preschool played host again to a Norland Nanny, Daisy, on placement and offered work experience to two local students interested in childcare careers. One significant change to our staff team at the end of this year was the leaving of one of our longstanding Deputy Managers, to other positions locally with childcare and youth work. Our main Deputy Manager and SENCO lead also stepped aside at the end of the year for personal reasons but the team were delighted to welcome her back as she rejoined our supply staff after the summer break, retaining her level of experience and knowledge of Preschool which benefits children and staff immensely. We successfully recruited for a new Deputy Manager and SENCO lead, Claire Sargent, in the summer term, with her wealth of early years' experience albeit in Reception level primary school children, ready for the next academic year. During the 2024/2025 year, the preschool was near-fully subscribed (23 children) from the Autumn term onwards although we were able to expand to 27 children by the Winter Term and still maintain our 'Best practice' staffing ratios. At the end of the summer term, we ended the preschool year in celebration at our mini-graduation ceremony in the park with 19 children leaving the setting ready to start their primary school journeys. For fundraising initiatives over the course of the year, we aimed to contribute to additional activities for the children's learning, including sports sessions, yoga
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		lessons with a local instructor specifically for children, music sessions tailored for the preschool age group, and excursions to the library and Bath theatre trips via the local train service. Thus, these activities could be offered to all children, irrespective of any additional funding contributions from parents. The autumn and winter terms are particularly busy for fundraising events, and the year started with a revamped Autumn treasure trail using a QR code system and vouchers for the local pub and café for weary parents and toddlers afterwards. November and December brought our fabulous Fireworks cake stall, a hugely successful wreath-making workshop, Christmas card sales, Nativity refreshments and joining forces with the local Freshford primary school's Jingle and Mingle Christmas fair and our Christmas raffle. We held fewer events in the latter half of the year but benefitted from two parents running the Bath Half marathon for sponsorship, and refreshment sales at our annual newcomers summer BBQ to join current and new families together for a social evening in the park by Preschool. The Preschool promotes British Values daily. As part of the focus on self confidence and self-awareness within Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Freshford Preschool staff encourage children to know their views count, to value each other's views, and to talk about their feelings. Staff choose opportunities to demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views with a show of hands. Staff provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued. Staff carried out a lot of work this year around PSED, in particular using Emotion Coaching techniques to support children with their behaviours. The children often worked in small groups dedicated to making a Kindness board, agreeing on Friendship rules and using a self-registration rainbow-weather board to indicate their emotions at different points of the preschool day – particularly valuable for non-verbal self-expressions of emotion. A focus on managing feelings and behaviour well has always been central to Freshford Preschool's ethos. Overall high levels of wellbeing and involvement can be seen in the children through both staff
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		observations and the children's day-to-day behaviour: they are confident, relaxed and settled. As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships, the Preschool staff team create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community. The children are encouraged to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. They also learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others from different families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions, and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. Through circle time activities, staff encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. Staff promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping. We have an annual topic focus on different countries and cultures, where we encourage parents to share their knowledge, experience and artefacts of other countries where they have lived and travelled and children enjoy this input from their respective homes. This year saw celebrations for Chinese New Year through one child's parents' cultural background, French and Spanish lessons with local parents and British celebrations including St David's Day. Highlights of additional activities in 2024-2025 included external visits from the Tropical Discoveries workshop to bring animals and creepy-crawlies (safely) into the setting for the children to get hands-on experience with, and Forensic Frank from Fun Science with rockets and slime aplenty. Regular visits from Daisy and her therapy dog, Basha, were especially welcome and linked into storytelling of 'Hospital Dog', a Julia Donaldson favourite book. Children made a particularly special festive trip into Bath to see the Snow Mouse theatre production and enjoy the Christmas lights, as well as another train trip later in the year to the library in a neighbouring town. Sports sessions, baking, 'sound of the week' sharing tub, and time in the garden and the ever popular sandpit were all regular weekly events as the Preschool year unfolded.
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		Preschool provides parents with access to their child's online learning journal on the Tapestry app. Parents, and also other carers or close family members with permission, can log on securely and view their children's observations and photographs and upload their own observations of WOW moments recorded at home. They also receive daily digests of observations for their child, and their complete learning journal as a downloadable PDF when their child leaves the setting. At the end of each week, the Preschool Manager emails parents a summary of the week and sets out plans for the following week, including updates to activities based on the children's developing ideas and details of visitors or trips planned. In late Spring of this year, parents were asked to anonymously fill in a survey asking them to rate many aspects of preschool life and their child's experiences from the year. This information is discussed by staff team and preschool committee and any recommendations or suggestions proposed can then be implemented in the final term of preschool for their child. From this survey, our major change ready for the year 2025-2026 was an extension to Thursday opening hours for forest school until 3pm, giving rise to a possible 24-hour week of childcare available. Trustees were happy to approve this change with both family and staff-team satisfaction! Overall, results from 2024-2025 continued to show a very high level of satisfaction across the board with the preschool setting and their child's journey through the year.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	A fundraising target of £2-2,500 was set by the Trustees. Fundraising brought in a total of £4,093.72, minus expenses of £1,610.57 leaving a net gain of £2,483.15.

Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	NA
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the year 2024-2025, where we navigated significant challenges in the form of changing EYE grants from spring 2025, reviewing our fee structure and changes in staffing, Freshford Preschool remains financially solvent and produced a net surplus of £6,911.12 from an overall turnover of £135,340.40 for the academic year (a surplus of 5.1% on total receipts received). A detailed review of this unplanned level of surplus reveals (i) a higher-than-budgeted level of EYE grant incoming and the summer payment of 1 of the 6 instalments in August in preparation for the September intake, and (ii) a lower than anticipated use of our Staff salary budget, largely for supply staff costs, than we had predicted. In preparing our 2025-2026 budget, we have taken these factors into account where possible for predicting our EYE grant income, particularly with the expanded funding for 2-year olds that is now in place. In addition, we have lowered our anticipated Supply Staff budget from 6% of our permanent staff salary budget to 4% for the coming financial year.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Following many discussions with both the management team (Preschool Manager, Business Manager, Chair and Deputy Chair), the finance team (Business Manager, Treasurer and Deputy Chair) and the Trustee committee, our Preschool policy is to keep a minimum reserve of £40,000 which has represented approximately 5 months' worth of expenditure to cover our normal operational costs. This will allow us to meet staff notice periods and redundancy costs if ever needed and will put us in a better position to absorb any temporary fluctuations in income due to unexpected decreases in child numbers or difficulties in bill payments. The Preschool's unrestricted reserves at the year end were £72,432.04 in funds as of 31st August 2025. One additional factor influencing our reserves policy in this last year arose from discussions with Freshford Memorial Hall Trustee committee, from whom we rent our premises. During the year 2024-2025, they began the initial process of investigating a second phase of renovation and building works on the entrance Hall, toilets, kitchen area and Preschool room. We are in regular consultation regarding these plans and potential planning-permission that may

		arise in the period 2025-2026. This may entail additional financial contingency planning for our operation as a setting, similar to that in years 2023-2024 when the main Hall, heating system and glazing was renovated. However, funding applications for these works have yet to be raised so we will review the situation regularly.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	See above.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	We feel strongly that holding zero reserves would place Freshford Preschool in an extremely vulnerable position and unable to buffer potential unexpected costs in the future. To manage the financial risks that could arise from for example, unexpected falls in income, urgent repairs to our equipment and garden, we hold a reserve. This reserve would also enable us to fulfil our obligations to staff salaries and to our families relying on the setting to continue to provide for their childcare needs until our financial situation improved again.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	We are not currently in deficit in any of our funds.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The childcare and early years education sector as a whole in the UK has been going through some extremely challenging years on a financial level with many closures and a recruitment crisis for qualified early years practitioners. To mitigate some of these financial uncertainties, we implemented a financial forecasting model from 2023-2024 to help us plan ahead with fee structure, staff salaries and ongoing costs of our activities and required consumables. For staffing needs, we implemented a Trustee-approved change to pay all staff at Living Wage Foundation levels from April 2024 in the previous academic year, which we plan to continue doing so, despite the increased costs. Staff members also received significant pay rises in previous years which we also keep in review to retain and reward our staff team for their excellence and dedication to our setting. We have been fortunate to have high occupancy rates of our available places, along with a dedicated staff team. However, we are aware that this picture can change in response to families' choices and demands for childcare so continue to monitor and manage our operations, utilising our financial forecasting model in particular, and to plan ahead for the future to minimise risks to our setting.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	For the 2024/2025 financial year, the preschool's principal sources of funding were as follows: £ 85,926.58 in Early Years Entitlement grants for children attending, £ 41,955.95 in fees and donations from parents £ 4,093.72 from fundraising events and donations. The principal areas of expenditure were as follows: £ 106,060.45 on staff salaries, pensions and associated overheads, £ 535 on Recruitment, £6,064.44 Hall Hire, £ 2,146.17 on consumables, £ 650.48 on IT (software, web admin & support) £ 117 on insurance & registrations (Ofsted, ICO, EYA) £ 599.98 on buying new items of capital equipment £2441.50 on training, development and welfare
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks facing our charity are those facing early years educational settings as a whole, namely the rising costs of providing childcare relative to the grants we receive, keeping our fee structure and setting competitive and responsive to local demand, and the retention and recruitment of qualified and experienced staff. In addition to this, we are aware of a potential renovation project that our premises may undergo for which we will further develop our contingency plan and potential financial costs should it go ahead in coming years. Once, completed, however, this renovation project, would benefit our setting hugely and improve the cosmetic appearance of our entrance way as well as update our toilets, kitchen and storage spaces.
Other		One significant cost that we were able to fund from our reserves in the year 2024-2025 was the replacement of the perimeter fence to our garden at the Hall and replacement of a bark chipping surface in the lower garden. From our regular risk assessments and inspection of the fencing, it became clear we could not wait longer for another season of winter weather, so used a local play equipment contractor to install new fencing and gates along the top area of our split-level garden. With regards to the lower garden, we negotiated with our Hall Trustees who covered the costs of drainage works, which we then re-covered with bark chippings. We anticipate further garden renovation work in the coming years including a multiweather surface,

		new sensory planting areas, new steps and renovated play zones. We will look to fund this from any reserves, grant funding and committee-led fundraising.
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Initial Constitution for Freshford Preschool Charity 1129972 adopted 16th September 2008. Constitution revised and adopted on 13th May 2009, with subsequent revisions on 21st April 2010, 1st November 2010, 21st September 2011, and 16th July 2013. Freshford Preschool Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted 16th July 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission as Charity 1153406 on 14th August 2013. All activities of Charity number 1129972 transferred to CIO 1153406 by 27th March 2014, on which date Charity 1129972 was dissolved.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The Officers and Committee members shall be elected for an initial term of two years at the Annual General Meeting. After two years, retiring Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election for up to 5 terms in total. In the event of the death or resignation of an elected Committee member, the vacancy shall be filled until the next Annual General Meeting by a Member appointed by the Committee. If the Committee feels that extra committee members are needed to provide additional expertise or to fulfil a new committee role, extra committee members may be appointed between AGMs. To encourage parental involvement, at least two thirds of the charity trustees shall normally at the time of election be family members. In the event that this figure cannot be achieved however, the CIO may elect affiliate members to make up the balance of the charity trustees. Parents wishing to join the committee between AGMs may approach the Preschool Chair, Preschool Business Manager, or current committee members and offer their services.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	Para 1.51	In line with the latest EYFS and Ofsted regulations (Sept 2025), we now request references from each volunteer committee
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Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees		member, in addition to DBS and EY2 verification. Current and new members are given standard Charity commission guidance to refresh and update their knowledge on Trustee roles within a charity https://beingacharitytrustee.campaign.gov.uk/
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	We are a member of the Early Years Alliance, an educational charity and the largest early years membership organisation in England. We subscribe to their latest guidance and viewpoints on a range of subjects including EYFS and Ofsted regulations, and have 24/7 legal assistance available through their LawCall service.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		All current Freshford Preschool Policies and Procedures can be found at http://www.freshfordpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures . These are updated annually and freely available on our website. The Preschool has a Child protection policy in place. DBS criminal record checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment, trusteeship or other regular voluntary work with the Preschool. All trustees give their time as volunteers and receive no remuneration.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Freshford Preschool
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1153406
Charity's principal address	Freshford Memorial Hall Freshford Lane Freshford, Bath BA2 7UR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhiannon Meredith	Chair		
2	Jake Westmoreland	Treasurer		
3	Hannah Scott	Secretary		
4	Polly Edelston	Deputy Chair		
5	Emily Barratt	Volunteers coordinator	Until 31/7/2025	
6	Pippa Payne	Committee Member		
7	Emilia Lascelles	Committee Member		
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9				
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20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Debbie Giles – Preschool Manager from 1/3/2014, Abby Moore – Business Manager from 15/06/2022

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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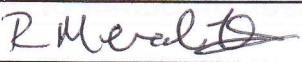
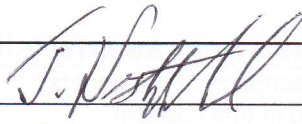
Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	RHIANNON MEREDITH	JACOB WESTMORELAND
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	13 th November 2025	

FRESHFORD PRESCHOOL (1153406)
Account summary

Section 1 - Receipts and Payments Accounts

	2023-2024			2024-2025		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	£	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	£
RECEIPTS						
Registration Payments	£270.00			£510.00		
Early Years Entitlement Grant	£59,755.57			£85,926.58		
EY Pupil Premium	£0.00			£0.00		
Trip contributions	£11.50			£233.50		
Parents Fees and donations						
Gift Aid	£41,794.29			£41,955.95		
Interest	£2,846.18			£2,208.91		
Fundraising	£0.00			£0.00		
Milk	£3,617.20			£4,093.72		
Refunds	£161.87			£176.04		
Uniform	£0.00			£95.40		
Insurance Payments	£91.00			£140.30		
Grants	£443.76			£0.00		
Transfer Between Funds	£1,000.00			£0.00		
	£2,392.36			£0.00		

Receipts for 01/09-31/08

£112,383.73	£0.00	£135,340.40	£0.00
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PAYMENTS

Events and Fundraising Purchases	£2,110.98
Fundraising Expenses	£1,206.25
Fee Refunds	£777.92
Consumables	£2,389.19
Training	£2,363.20
Staff Welfare	£292.50
Staff Salaries, NI, Tax and Pensions	£90,504.82
Advertising and Recruitment	£240.00
Hall Hire and Premises Maintenance	£6,497.79
Garden Project	£0.00
Insurance & Registrations	£1,434.71
Milk	£182.92
IT (Software)	£420.00
Capital Expenditure	£553.95
External Visits	£0.00
Uniform	£192.20

Payments for 01/09-31/08

£109,166.43	£0.00	£128,429.28	£0.00
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DEFICIT/ SURPLUS FOR YEAR

£3,217.30	£0.00	£6,911.12	£0.00
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Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total All Funds
£65,520.92	£0.00	£65,520.92
£6,911.12	£0.00	£6,911.12
£72,432.04	£0.00	£72,432.04

Balance b/f at 1st September 2024
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year
Balance c/f at 31st August 2025

Balance on main bank account at 31st August 2025
Balance on consumables bank account at 31st August 2025

£72,153.44
£278.60
£72,432.04

Section 2 - Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

CASH FUNDS	2024-2025	2024-2025
Main Account	£72,153.44	£
Consumables Account	£278.60	£0.00

EQUIPMENT

Category	2023-2024	2024-2025
	New for old replacement cost (£)	New for old replacement cost (£)

Art and craft	£1,061.75	£1,061.75
Forest Schools	£1,657.32	£1,542.32
Furniture & furnishings	£8,698.67	£6,690.67
Hygiene and safety	£563.00	£563.00
ICT	£4,828.29	£4,617.29
Kitchen	£405.00	£340.00
Literacy	£1,375.92	£1,420.73

Music	£859.69	£860.00
Numeracy	£637.18	£643.14
Physical/Outdoor Play & Garden	£11,724.86	£12,248.90
Puzzles and Games	£741.00	£441.00
Role Play	£1,903.91	£2,102.91
Sensory Play	£272.00	£948.99
Small world	£2,415.41	£2,415.41
Stationery and Office	£364.49	£419.82
STEM	£4,865.37	£4,947.37
Woodworking/Construction	£422.34	£370.29
World about us	£94.34	£46.39

Total: £42,890.54 £41,679.98

CURRENT LIABILITIES

2023-2025	2024-2025
Tax - due, not yet paid	-£1,173.42 -£1,627.85
Pension - due, not yet paid	£0.00 £0.00
Suppliers - due, not yet paid	£0.00 £0.00
	-£1,173.42 -£1,627.85

R. Mervel
Chairman

Date 13th November 2025

T. S. H. H.

Treasurer

Date 18th November 2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Freshford Preschool

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1153406

Set out on pages

One page attached

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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.

Signed: *Fiona Meaking*

Date: 11th November 2025

Name: Fiona Baden Meaking BA(Hons) FCA CTA

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

ICAEW and CIOT

Address:

5 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AD

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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

None

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Freshford Preschool

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1153406

Charity's principal address Freshford Memorial Hall

Freshford Lane

Freshford, Bath

Postcode BA2 7UR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhiannon Meredith	Chair		
2	Jake Westmoreland	Treasurer	From 1/9/2023	
3	Hannah Scott	Secretary		
4	Polly Edelston	Deputy Chair		
5	Emily Barratt	Volunteers Coordinator	From 7/11/2023	
6	Dudley Hinton	Committee member	Until 17/7/2024	
8	Pippa Payne	Committee member		
9	Emilia Lascelles	Committee member		
10	Alison Sellers	Committee member	Until 24/5/2023	
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Debbie Giles – Preschool Manager from 01/03/2014

Abby Moore – Preschool Business Manager from 15/06/2022

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Initial Constitution for Freshford Preschool Charity 1129972 adopted 16th September 2008. Constitution revised and adopted on 13th May 2009, with subsequent revisions on 21st April 2010, 1st November 2010, 21st September 2011, and 16th July 2013.

Freshford Preschool Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted 16th July 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission as Charity 1153406 on 14th August 2013. All activities of Charity number 1129972 transferred to CIO 1153406 by 27th March 2014, on which date Charity 1129972 was dissolved.

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

The Officers and Committee members shall be elected for an initial term of two years at the Annual General Meeting. After two years, retiring Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election for up to 5 terms in total.

In the event of the death or resignation of an elected Committee member, the vacancy shall be filled until the next Annual General Meeting by a Member appointed by the Committee.

If the Committee feels that extra committee members are needed to provide additional expertise or to fulfil a new committee role, extra committee members may be appointed between AGMs.

To encourage parental involvement, at least two thirds of the charity trustees shall normally at the time of election be family members. In the event that this figure cannot be achieved however, the CIO may elect affiliate members to make up the balance of the charity trustees.

Parents wishing to join the committee between AGMs may approach the Preschool Chair, Preschool Business Manager, or current committee members and offer their services.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

Refer to current Freshford Preschool Policies and Procedures found at <http://www.freshfordpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures>

The Preschool has a Child protection policy in place. DBS criminal record checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment, trusteeship or other voluntary work with the Preschool.

All trustees give their time as volunteers and receive no remuneration.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

Freshford Preschool works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people by:

- (1) promoting their care and safety;
- (2) promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;
- (3) promoting their health and wellbeing;
- (4) providing services to support them and their families and carers;
- (5) providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and
- (6) furthering the aims of the Early Years Alliance.

In managing the Preschool, the trustees have had regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

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

Freshford Preschool has now been fully operational for fifteen school years. By providing a Preschool within the centre of the village of Freshford we believe we improve the quality of life of both parents and Children locally. The children socialise and bond as a year group which eases the transition of those moving on to Freshford Primary School, just down the road. Parents have a convenient childcare facility close to the village school and the Galleries shop & cafe. In addition, we also attract more children from further afield who go on to other local primary schools. These families are attracted by our ethos, our focus on outdoor learning and Forest School and our rural community setting, which helps to create a very positive learning environment. In December 2022, our preschool was once again rated as 'Outstanding', as in 2016, which reflects the sustained quality and standards we aim for, from staff, parents, volunteers and children together to create a positive and enjoyable environment.

As in previous years, over the 2023/2024 financial year, the Preschool continued to accept the Early Years Entitlement Grant from Bath and North East Somerset Council, (including the extended '30 hours' grant for eligible families via the Working Parent Fund) to provide up to 22 hours of funded childcare per week for eligible 3 and 4 year olds and up to 15 hours of funded childcare per week for eligible 2 year olds. This funding can be used for all sessions without any restrictions. In 2023-2024, the Working Parent Fund was utilised for 9 places for 3-4 year olds by Summer 2024 and for 2 places for 2 year olds from April 2024, when the scheme began for this younger age group.

We aim for and believe that the activities at the Preschool have fostered the social, emotional, physical, creative, spiritual and cognitive development

needs of each child. The activities have also fulfilled the curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage and reflected the interests and ideas of the children, with weekly activities being updated by the staff team from ongoing daily observations of the children and their play. With regards to health and wellbeing, examples of good practice include the children following supervised teeth-brushing after snacktime, weekly baking of seasonal snacks for forest school, and activities such as yoga, sports and music – further ventures and events from the year 2023/2024 are outlined in Section D.

Our Preschool is entirely inclusive. We welcome all children, whatever their ability, cultural, religious or social background. We work hard to find out about each child's individual needs, ideally before they start, through taster sessions, home visits with their allocated Play Partner and completion of an 'All About Me' questionnaire through the Tapestry App. This allows us to prepare for the incoming cohort of children each year and to adapt and tailor activities to accommodate every child.

Each family with a child attending the Preschool has the right for one parent or carer to vote at General Meetings of the Preschool, to which they are invited, and to join the Preschool committee and trustees. The Preschool committee fulfils a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the Preschool throughout the year. During 2023/2024 they carried out a wide range of tasks, all on a voluntary basis including appointing a new preschool apprentice; approving changes in the terms and salaries of employment for staff members with the Living Wage Foundation guidance; maintaining the rota of volunteer helpers; marketing & promoting the Preschool through digital and print media and organising fundraising events.

During 2023/2024, the Preschool provided part-time family friendly employment for 5 permanent members of staff and 1 apprentice from the surrounding area. Our apprentice is working towards her Level 2 Early Years Apprenticeship, with the aim to also complete her Level 3 qualification with us in 2024-2025. The Preschool also offered regular supply work to another 5 individuals who live in the local area.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

As in previous years, the contributions of the committee, parents and community volunteers alongside the staff commitment outside of their paid hours are manifold. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise the successful operation of the Preschool would not be possible.

Parent volunteers were welcomed to our outdoor forest school sessions this year which run from our main location from autumn-spring terms and then are located on-site at our Freshford Preschool Forest School woodland site in the vicinity. Other parent helpers have assisted in fundraising community events to enable the range of activities offered throughout the year.

The Preschool provides a regular source of income to the Memorial Hall as one of the main users, which helps to ensure its own financial security and ongoing maintenance. We ran the bouncy castle/slides and a face-painting stall again at the annual Freshford & Limpley Stoke village fete in June, raising just over £550 for the Hall. We have not made further financial contributions to the Hall renovation fund this year but are now benefitting from the refurbishments, including a new heating /airco system, triple-glazed windows, redecoration, and new chairs. Renovation plans are continuing into 2024 and Preschool has regular dialogue with the Hall committee regarding maintenance and future plans, including our proposed renovation of the garden space regularly used by the preschool children.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the (pre-)school year of 2023/2024, Freshford Preschool operated successfully for its 15th year. A dedicated staff team is led by Debbie Giles, business manager Abby Moore has settled adeptly into her role and a supportive group of Trustees is guided by Chair Rhiannon Meredith and newly-installed Deputy Chair, Polly Edelston. Preschool had what felt in some ways like a consolidatory year, with in-depth planning for the years ahead in a tough financial climate, and settling into renovated premises with the bonus addition of Freshford Preschool's first apprentice, Laura Potter, to strengthen and boost the existing staff team.

The preschool is a valued part of the village community and through its longstanding reputation and happy children, it attracts families from not just Freshford and the surrounding villages but also further afield. In addition to our main Hall site, we continued to meet at our nearby woodland location from the Easter term for our weekly Freshford Preschool Forest School outings.

For the year 2023/2024, Preschool early years practitioners comprised of our leader, Debbie Giles, two Deputy managers, Kerry Sherlock and Abi Jackson, Gemma Hooley and new apprentice, Laura Potter. Laura started in October 2023 as preschool's first apprentice training for her Level 2 Early Years qualification. She has been a fantastic addition to the existing team, providing a fresh, younger perspective to complement the established strengths. Preschool also played host to both a Norland Nanny on placement and a local college student in this last year. A new staffing initiative this year was to increase our staff training budget to bring in an external consultant for communication and team building during a full Inset training day and with online follow-up reports. Our staff regularly update their early years childcare training but we felt a session to bring out the strengths and core competencies of our staff team was timely and necessary, results of which are now incorporated into our staff annual appraisals and line manager supervisions.

During the 2023/2024 year, the preschool was 100% subscribed (24 children) from the Autumn term onwards although we were able to expand to 26 children by the Summer Term and still maintain our 'Best practice' staffing ratios. At the end of the summer term, we ended the preschool year in celebration at our mini-graduation ceremony in the park with 13 children leaving the setting ready to start their primary school journeys.

Our fundraising endeavours last year built on our previous year's successes including Autumn and Easter walking & activity trails around the village, a winter wreath-making workshop, Christmas card sales, a festive raffle fully-digitised which saw significant increases in revenue, the annual fireworks night' cake stall, our preschool leader running the Bath Half marathon and Easter craft and flower seed packs for sale. We raised just over £3600 in 2023/2024, with a net profit of almost £2411. Monies raised were used for regular weekly sports sessions with Up and Under Sports which continue to be very popular with our children and take place on the field in the adjacent playpark next to our gardens, yoga lessons with a qualified local instructor, and music lessons from a local teacher who works with babies and toddlers in particular.

Following the purchase of new Samsung tablets for the main staff team in the previous year, the processing speed and camera quality really had a beneficial effect on documenting and recording the new intake of children to upload daily observations for parents/carers and to link this to EYFS

milestones during each child's journey through the preschool year. In addition, two laptops for documenting paperwork and report writing were purchased in the summer of 2024 for the preschool leader and staff.

The Preschool promotes British Values daily. As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness within Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Freshford Preschool staff encourage children to know their views count, to value each other's views, and to talk about their feelings. Staff choose opportunities to demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views with a show of hands. Staff provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

A focus on managing feelings and behaviour well has always been central to Freshford Preschool's ethos. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. Through the Preschool's Philosophy for Children work and Sunshine Circle activities, staff encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions. Overall high levels of wellbeing and involvement can be seen in the children through both staff observations and the children's day-to-day behaviour: they are confident, relaxed and settled. As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships, the Preschool staff team create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community. The children are encouraged to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. They also learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others from different families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions, and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. Through circle time activities, staff encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. Staff promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping. We have an annual topic focus on different countries and cultures, where we encourage parents to share their knowledge, experience and artefacts of other countries where they have lived and travelled and children enjoy this input from their respective homes. Parents are also encouraged to share recipes for the children's baking during the year, particularly family recipes or those from other countries their families are linked to. Highlights of 2023-2024 activities include external visits from the Tropical Discoveries Workshop bringing animals into the setting for the children to (safely) interact with, a Christmas performance of the Snowman in conjunction with the local primary school, visits by local children's authors to read to the pre-schoolers, and trips to the local Victoria Art Gallery in Bath and an end-of-term outing to the American Museum in Claverton Down which was a brilliant way to round off a stimulating year for both the staff and children.

Preschool provides parents with access to their child's online learning journal on the Tapestry app. Parents can log on securely and view their children's observations and photographs and upload their own observations of WOW moments recorded at home. They also receive weekly email digests of observations for their child, and their child's complete learning journal as a downloadable PDF when their child leaves

Section D Achievements and performance

Section D Achievements and performance

the setting. At the end of each week, the preschool leader emails parents a summary of the week and sets out plans for the following week, including updates to activities based on the children's developing ideas and details of visitors or trips planned. In late Spring of this year, parents were again asked to anonymously fill in a survey asking them to rate many aspects of preschool life and their child's experiences from the year. This information is discussed by staff team and preschool committee and any recommendations or suggestions proposed can then be implemented in the final term of preschool for their child. From this survey, we provided parents with extra information regarding hourly charges for non-funded hours in line with the increased funding from central government for funded hours. Overall, results from 2023-2024 continued to show a very high level of satisfaction across the board with the preschool setting and their child's journey through the year.

Section E Financial review

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Following many discussions, our Preschool policy is to keep a reserve of £40,000, which based on current spending represents approximately 5 months' worth of expenditure to cover our normal operational costs. This will allow us to meet staff notice and redundancy costs if ever needed and will put us in a better position to absorb any temporary fluctuations in income due to unexpected decreases in child numbers, or difficulties in bill payments. The Preschool's unrestricted reserves are currently £65,520.92 in the Main and Consumables account combined.

Following donations to Freshford Memorial Hall during 2021-2023 for the major external renovations and internal decoration, we have not given any further one-off contributions directly but do support their fundraising by volunteering and running stalls at the annual summer fete. In the coming year, repairs are needed in the garden and play areas and the Committee and staff are planning a fundraising initiative to renovate the preschool garden and outside play areas for future years, including multi-weather surfacing and a phased plan of renovations.

As a Trustee Committee, we decided to again implement significant pay rises for all our staff, effective from 1st April 2024. We were influenced by three factors: firstly, following the Living Wage Foundation guidelines to which we aim to apply for accreditation, secondly, an exceptional year of double-digit inflation which significantly increased the cost of living, and thirdly, to demonstrate our commitment to our staff in a sector with chronic employee shortages and retention issues. This decision was made possible following a detailed financial forecasting model based over a ten-year period formulated by and thanks to the expertise of our Deputy chair, Treasurer and Business Manager. This model enabled us to calculate the balance needed from our occupancy levels, top-up fees requested from parents/carers and government hourly-rate contributions for 2,3 and 4 year olds.

In 2023/2024, we have an operational surplus of £824.94 from our combined restricted and unrestricted funds.

Details of any funds materially in deficit	N/A
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N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

For the 2023/2024 financial year, the preschool's principal sources of funding were as follows:

£59,755.57 in Early Years Entitlement grants for children attending
£41,794.29 in fees and donations from parents
£3,617.20 from fundraising events and donations

The principal areas of expenditure were as follows:

£90,504.82 on staff salaries, pensions and associated overheads
£240 on Recruitment
£6,497.79 Hall Hire
£2,389.19 on consumables
£420 on IT (software, web admin & support)
£1,434.71 on insurance & registrations (Ofsted, ICO, EYA)
£553.95 on buying new items of capital equipment
£2655.70 on training, development and welfare

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>R. Meredith</i>	<i>H Scott</i>
Full name(s)	RUIANNON MEREDITH	HANNAH SCOTT
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	SECRETARY
Date	23/10/24	

FRESHFORD PRESCHOOL (1153406)

Account summary

Section 1 - Receipts and Payments Accounts

	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Registration Fees	£520.00		£270.00	
Early Years Entitlement Grant	£54,373.17		£59,755.57	
EY Pupil Premium	£0.00		£0.00	
Trip contributions	£220.00		£11.50	
Parents Fees and donations	£31,590.79		£41,794.29	
Gift Aid	£1,292.89		£2,846.18	
Interest	£0.00		£0.00	
Fundraising	£2,610.32		£3,617.20	
Milk	£99.14		£161.87	
Refunds	£0.00		£0.00	
Uniform		£121.00	£91.00	
Insurance Payments			£443.76	
Grants			£1,000.00	
Transfer Between Funds (See Notes)			£2,392.36	
				-£2,392.36

Receipts for 01/09-31/08

	£90,706.31	£121.00	£112,383.73	-£2,392.36
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PAYMENTS

Events and Fundraising Purchases	£2,063.05		£2,110.98	
Fundraising Expenses	£388.45		£1,206.25	
Fee Refunds	£41.25		£777.92	
Consumables	£2,496.88		£2,389.19	
Training	£670.40		£2,363.20	
Staff Welfare	£250.00		£292.50	
Staff Salaries, NI, Tax and Pensions	£76,978.47		£90,504.82	
Advertising and Recruitment	£374.00		£240.00	
Hall Hire and Premises Maintenance	£5,901.16		£6,497.79	
Hall Renovation Contribution	£2,500.00		£0.00	
Insurance & Registrations	£1,481.16		£1,434.71	
Milk	£126.49		£182.92	
IT (Software)	£394.80		£420.00	
Capital Expenditure	£1,388.94		£553.95	
External Visits	£209.79		£0.00	
Uniform		£312.40	£192.20	
Payments for 01/09-31/08	£96,264.84	£312.40	£109,166.43	£0.00

DEFICIT/ SURPLUS FOR YEAR

	-£4,668.53	-£191.40	£3,217.30	-£2,392.36
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Notes

Note 1
An Early Years Teacher Training Grant was allocated to Restricted Funds in 2015/16. This was fully spent between 2015/16 - 2017/18 periods. However certain expenditure was misallocated to the Unrestricted Account under Supply Staff Payments. In 2023/24 a transfer has been made from Restricted Funds to Unrestricted Funds to correct the balance going forward.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total All Funds
Balance b/f at 1st September 2023	£62,303.62	£2,392.36	£64,695.98
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	£3,217.30	-£2,392.36	£824.94
Balance c/f at 31st August 2024	£65,520.92	£0.00	£65,520.92
Balance on main bank account at 31st August 2024			£65,196.15
Balance on consumables bank account at 31st August 2024			£324.77
			£65,520.92

Section 2 - Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	CASH FUNDS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
		£	£
Main Account		£65,196.15	£0.00
Consumables Account		£324.77	
EQUIPMENT	2022-23	2023-24	
	New for old replacement cost (£)	New for old replacement cost (£)	
Category			
Art and craft	£1,061.75	£1,061.75	
Forest Schools	£1,542.32	£1,657.32	
Furniture & furnishings	£8,391.27	£8,698.67	
Hygiene and safety	£563.00	£563.00	
ICT	£6,048.97	£4,828.29	
Kitchen	£340.00	£405.00	
Literacy	£1,390.61	£1,375.92	
Music	£860.00	£869.89	
Numeracy	£643.14	£637.18	
Physical/Outdoor Play & Garder	£11,740.18	£11,724.86	
Puzzles and Games	£471.00	£741.00	
Role Play	£1,912.91	£1,903.91	
Sensory Play	£311.99	£272.00	
Small world	£1,655.42	£2,415.41	
Stationery and Office	£419.82	£364.49	
STEM	£5,097.37	£4,865.37	
Woodworking/Construction	£432.09	£422.34	
World about us	£46.39	£94.34	
Total:	£42,928.23	£42,890.54	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2022-2023	2023-2024	
Tax – due, not yet paid	-£45.87	-£1,173.42	
Pension – due, not yet paid	£0.00	£0.00	
Suppliers – due, not yet paid	£0.00	£0.00	
	-£45.87	-£1,173.42	

R. Meredith
Chairman

Date 23/10/24

T. V. Smith

Treasurer
Date 23/10/24



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

FRESHFORD PRE-SCHOOL

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1153406

Set out on pages

One page attached

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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.

Signed: FB Meaking

Date: 16th October 2024

Name: Fiona Baden Meaking BA(Hons) FCA CTA

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

ICAEW & CIOT

Address:

5 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AD

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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

None

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date		Period end date
From	01 Sep 2022	To	31 August 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Freshford Preschool		
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)	1153406		
Charity's principal address	Freshford Memorial Hall		
	Freshford Lane		
	Freshford, Bath		
	<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Postcode</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;">BA2 7UR</td> </tr> </table>	Postcode	BA2 7UR
Postcode	BA2 7UR		

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rhiannon Meredith	Chair		
2	Elli Bate	Treasurer	Until 1/9/2023	
3	Jake Westmoreland	Treasurer	1/9/2023 onwards	
4	Hannah Walker	Secretary		
5	Sam Fairley	Deputy Chair		
6	Carrie Richards	Volunteers Coordinator		
7	Dudley Hinton	Committee member		
8	Lucy Sturges	Committee member		
9	Emilia Lascelles	Committee member		
10	Pippa Payne	Committee member		
11	Polly Edelston	Committee member		
12	Alison Sellers	Committee member		
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20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Debbie Giles – Preschool Manager from 01/03/2014
 Abby Moore – Preschool Business Manager from 15/06/2022

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
 (eg. trust deed, constitution)

Initial Constitution for Freshford Preschool Charity 1129972 adopted 16th September 2008. Constitution revised and adopted on 13th May 2009, with subsequent revisions on 21st April 2010, 1st November 2010, 21st September 2011, and 16th July 2013.

Freshford Preschool Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted 16th July 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission as Charity 1153406 on 14th August 2013. All activities of Charity number 1129972 transferred to CIO 1153406 by 27th March 2014, on which date Charity 1129972 was dissolved.

How the charity is constituted
 (eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
 (eg. appointed by, elected by)

The Officers and Committee members shall be elected for an initial term of two years at the Annual General Meeting. After two years, retiring Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election for up to 5 terms in total.

In the event of the death or resignation of an elected Committee member, the vacancy shall be filled until the next Annual General Meeting by a Member appointed by the Committee.

If the Committee feels that extra committee members are needed to provide additional expertise or to fulfil a new committee role, extra committee members may be appointed between AGMs.

To encourage parental involvement, at least two thirds of the charity trustees shall normally at the time of election be family members. In the event that this figure cannot be achieved however, the CIO may elect affiliate members to make up the balance of the charity trustees.

Parents wishing to join the committee between AGMs may approach the Preschool Chair, Preschool Business Manager, or current committee members and offer their services.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

Refer to current Freshford Preschool Policies and Procedures found at <http://www.freshfordpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures>

The Preschool has a Child protection policy in place. DBS criminal record checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment, trusteeship or other voluntary work with the Preschool.

All trustees give their time as volunteers and receive no remuneration.

Section C

Objectives and activities

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

Freshford Preschool works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people by:

- (1) promoting their care and safety;
- (2) promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;
- (3) promoting their health and wellbeing;
- (4) providing services to support them and their families and carers;
- (5) providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and
- (6) furthering the aims of the Early Years Alliance.

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

In managing the Preschool, the trustees have had regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Freshford Preschool has now been fully operational for fifteen school years. By providing a Preschool within the centre of the village of Freshford we believe we improve the quality of life of both parents and Children locally. The children socialise and bond as a year group which eases the transition of those moving on to Freshford Primary School, just down the road. Parents have a convenient childcare facility close to the village school and Galleries shop & cafe. In addition, we also attract more children from further afield who go on to other local primary schools. These families are attracted by our ethos, our focus on outdoor learning and Forest School and our rural community setting, which helps to create a very positive learning environment. In December 2022, our preschool was once again rated as 'Outstanding', as in 2016, which reflects the sustained quality and standards we aim for, from staff, parents, volunteers and children together to create a positive and enjoyable environment.

As in previous years, over the 2022/2023 financial year, the Preschool continued to accept the Early Years Entitlement Grant from Bath and North East Somerset Council, (including the extended '30 hours' grant for eligible families) to provide up to 22 hours of free childcare per week for eligible 3 and 4-year olds. This funding can be used for all sessions without any restrictions.

The activities at the Preschool have fostered the social, emotional, physical, creative, spiritual and cognitive development needs of each child. The activities have also fulfilled the curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage and reflected the interests and ideas of the children, with weekly activities being updated by the staff team from ongoing daily observations of the children and their play. With regards to health and wellbeing, examples of good practice include the children following supervised teeth-brushing after snacktime, weekly baking of seasonal snacks for forest school, and activities such as yoga – further ventures and events from the year 2022/2023 are outlined in Section D.

Our Preschool is entirely inclusive. We welcome all children, whatever their ability, cultural, religious or social background. We work hard to find out about each child's individual needs, ideally before they start, through taster sessions, home visits and completion of an 'All About Me' questionnaire. This allows us to get the training we need to accommodate everybody. In 2022/2023, with the approval of the preschool committee, we hosted a Ukrainian refugee who came to live locally with her mother and was on our Preschool register for 13 months before joining a local school.

Each family with a child attending the Preschool has the right for one parent or carer to vote at General Meetings of the Preschool, to which they are invited, and to join the Preschool committee and trustees. The Preschool committee fulfils a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the Preschool throughout the year. During 2022/2023 they carried out a wide range of tasks, all on a voluntary basis including appointing new staff; approving changes in the terms and salaries of employment for staff members; maintaining the rota of volunteer helpers; marketing & promoting the Preschool through digital and print media and organising fundraising events.

During 2022/2023, the Preschool provided part-time family friendly employment for 5 permanent members of staff from the surrounding area. The Preschool also offered regular supply work to another 4 individuals. At the end of this academic year, the preschool business manager and leader led the efforts to begin recruitment for a childcare apprentice within the setting to not only provide local job training for an individual but also, hopefully, a fresh and contemporary input to complement our current staffing, with a start date of Autumn 2023.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

As in previous years, the contributions of the committee, parents and community volunteers alongside the staff commitment outside of their paid hours are manifold. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise the successful operation of the Preschool would not be possible.

Parent volunteers were welcomed to our outdoor forest school sessions this year which run from our main location from autumn-spring terms and then are located on-site at our Freshford Preschool Forest School woodland site in the vicinity. Other parent helpers have assisted in fundraising community events to enable the range of activities offered throughout the year.

The Preschool provides a regular source of income to the Memorial Hall, which helps to ensure its own financial security and ongoing maintenance. We committed a further £2,500 following on from our contributions to the major refurbishment of the hall in 2021/2022. We ran the bouncy castle/slides and a face-painting stall at the annual Freshford & Limpley Stoke village fete in June, contributing to the £5,600 total raised for the hall. Preschool continue to be one of the main users of the village hall and were pleased to able to contribute to this as we benefit from the renovation work.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the (pre-)school year of 2022/2023, Freshford Preschool operated successfully for its 14th year. With a dedicated staff team led by Debbie Giles and a new-in-post, committed business manager, Abby Moore, and a supportive group of trustees with a new incoming chair, Rhiannon Meredith, Preschool navigated its way through the year despite the challenges of Ofsted and major renovation work to its home base at the Hall. The preschool is a valued part of the village community and through its longstanding reputation and happy children, it attracts families from not just Freshford and the surrounding villages but also further afield.

A major milestone in the year was our Ofsted inspection in December 2022, days before we finished for the Christmas holidays. The inspectors found preschool to be a typical hive of activity that day with road safety demos, local police visiting the children in the setting and pre-Christmas games and activities set up. Ofsted's "Outstanding" grading of our preschool reflects the effort and dedication of the staff team, together with parents and their children. We believe this also demonstrates the continued excellence of our preschool setting similar to our previous inspection in 2016. The inspector's opening comment that "Children bounce in happily, greet the staff with smiles and eagerly go and seek out their favourite activities" is testament to the preschool environment we strive to create in Freshford.

Following on from our Ofsted inspection, we officially added "Freshford Preschool Forest School" registration site to our setting, enabling us to meet at our nearby woodland location all year round without prior enrolment at our main Hall before forest school activities that day.

The preschool started the year 2022/2023 with a number of significant changes to its staffing and smooth running: Abby Moore took over as Business Manager the summer before term started and Rhiannon Meredith started as new Preschool Chair. With staffing, our former Deputy manager, Christie Bennett, left the setting at the end of the autumn term due to a change in family circumstances. In addition, two longstanding part-time staff members, Jo Carter and Kath Bowman finished their contracts at preschool, although the latter remains as a supply member of staff for 2023-2024. Gemma Hooley joined our permanent team, after starting as a supply team member, in February 2023, & we welcomed back Kerry Sherlock, our former Deputy Manager, from maternity leave.

During the 2022/2023 year, the preschool was 95% subscribed (23 children) from the Autumn term onwards. Our main preschool intake is in September and when/where applicable, we can have a smaller additional intake in January. We find this helps the children to settle into preschool life rather than a continual open intake throughout the year. For September 2023, we are 87.5% (21 Children) subscribed and this increases to 100% (24 Children) with our January 2024 intake. At the end of the summer term, we ended the preschool year in celebration at our mini-graduation ceremony in the park with 19 children leaving the setting ready to start their primary school journeys.

Our fundraising endeavours last year built on our previous year's successes including Autumn and Easter walking & activity trails around the village, preschool leader running the Bath Half marathon, an Easter crafts and tea afternoon, Christmas card sales, a festive raffle and the annual fireworks cake stall. We raised just over £2600 in 2022/2023. Monies raised were used for regular weekly sports sessions with Up and

Under Sports which prove to be very popular with our children and take place on the field in the adjacent playpark next to our gardens, yoga lessons with a qualified local instructor, and music lessons from a local teacher who works with babies and toddlers in particular. Fundraising also paid for events to take place at preschool including the Bristol-based Explorer Dome, whose costs we shared with the Reception year class at the local primary school. Excursions outside the preschool setting could also be offered to parents for free and included trips to the local Roman Baths, a workshop in Bath Abbey, seeing the animals at Bath City Farm and visiting Bradford-in-Avon library on the train.

At the end of the preschool year, the committee approved the purchase of 4 new Samsung S6 Lite tablets, one for each main practitioner to enable them to take better quality photos and quickly upload their observations and comments to the parents/carers for each individual child. We hope to really see the benefits of this investment from the autumn term 2023 with a large intake of new children to the setting which will require intense effort from the staff and particularly the nominated play partner for each child, who uploads near-daily observations and comments for parents as their child settles in to preschool life.

Our Leader, Debbie, continues to have a good working relationship with KS1 teachers, particularly the Reception class teacher at the local Freshford Primary school. The school yet again said how well the children from Freshford preschool were prepared for school and complimented our amazing staff team on all they do to ease the transition into formal education.

The Preschool promotes British Values daily. As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness within Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Freshford Preschool staff encourage children to know their views count, to value each other's views, and to talk about their feelings. Staff choose opportunities to demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views with a show of hands. Staff provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

A focus on managing feelings and behaviour well has always been central to Freshford Preschool's ethos. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. Through the Preschool's Philosophy for Children work and Sunshine Circle activities, staff encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions. Overall high levels of wellbeing and involvement can be seen in the children through both staff observations and the children's day-to-day behaviour: they are confident, relaxed and settled. As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships, the Preschool staff team create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community. The children are encouraged to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. They also learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others from different families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions, and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. Through circle time activities, staff encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. Staff promote diverse

Section D

Achievements and performance

attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping. We have an annual topic focus on different countries and cultures, where we encourage parents to share their knowledge, experience and artefacts of other countries where they have lived and travelled and children enjoy this input from their respective homes. Parents are also encouraged to share recipes for the children's baking during the year, particularly family recipes or those from other countries their families are linked to.

Preschool provides parents with access to their child's online learning journal on the Tapestry app. Parents can log on securely and view their children's observations and photographs and upload their own observations of WOW moments recorded at home. They also receive weekly email digests of observations for their child, and their child's complete learning journal as a downloadable PDF when their child leaves the setting. At the end of each week, the preschool leader emails parents a summary of the week and sets out plans for the following week, including updates to activities based on the children's developing ideas and details of visitors or trips planned. In late Spring of this year, parents were again asked to anonymously fill in a survey asking them to rate many aspects of preschool life and their child's experiences from the year. This information is discussed by staff team and preschool committee and any recommendations or suggestions proposed can then be implemented in the final term of preschool for their child. Results from 2022-2023 again showed a very high level of satisfaction across the board with the preschool setting and their child's journey through the year.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Preschool our policy is to keep a reserve of £40,000, which based on current spending represents 5 months' worth of expenditure to cover our normal operational costs. This will allow us to meet staff notice and redundancy costs if ever needed and will put us in a better position to absorb any temporary fluctuations in income due to unexpected decreases in child numbers, or difficulties in bill payments. The Preschool's unrestricted reserves are currently £62,303.62

Following a donation of £5,000 to Freshford Memorial Hall during 2021-2022 for the major heating/glazing and cladding external renovations, we have given a further £2,500 for internal renovations and improvements. In the coming year, repairs are needed in the garden and play areas and we plan to launch a fundraising initiative to renovate the preschool garden and outside play areas for future years.

As a committee, we decided to implement pay rises for our staff in April 2023 in line with living wage guidelines. This cost is borne partly from our reserves

and from a committee decision to gradually increase our hourly top-up fee requested from the parents/carers – a trend similar to that of many nurseries and preschools in the current climate.

In 2022/2023, we have an operational deficit of £4749.93 due to these increased staff costs.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

For the 2022/2023 financial year, the preschool's principal sources of funding were as follows:

£54,373.17 in Early Years Entitlement grants for children attending
£31,590.79 in fees and donations from parents
£2,610.32 from fundraising events and donations

The principal areas of expenditure were as follows:

£76,978.47 on staff salaries, pensions and associated overheads
£374 on Recruitment
£5,901.16 Hall Hire + (£2500 on Renovation contribution)
£2,496.88 on consumables
£394.80 on IT (software, web admin & support)
£1481.16 on insurance & registrations (Ofsted, ICO, EYA)
£1388.94 on buying new items of capital equipment
£670.40 on training, development and welfare

Section F

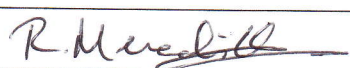
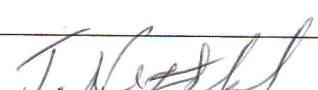
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	RUIANNON MEREDITH	JAKE WESTMORELAND
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR	TREASURER
Date	7th November 2023	

Account summary

1	£121.00
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£312.40

4 £312.40

3	-£191.40
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92

Restricted funds

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9

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4	£312.40
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Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

FRESHFORD PRE-SCHOOL

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1153406

Set out on pages

One page attached

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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.

Signed:

FB Meaking

Date:

22nd October 2023

Name:

Fiona Baden Meaking BA(Hons) FCA CTA

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

ICAEW & CIOT

Address:

5 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AD

Section B**Disclosure**

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

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

None

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	Sept	2021		31	Aug	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Freshford Preschool

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1153406

Charity's principal address Freshford Memorial Hall

Freshford Lane

Freshford, Bath

Postcode BA2 7UR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alison Sellers	Chair		
2	Elli Bate	Treasurer		
3	Claire Thomas	Secretary		
4	Charlotte Taylor	Committee Member		
5	Gavin Bate	Volunteer Coordinator		
6	Lucy Sturges	Committee Member		
7	Sam Fairley	Committee Member		
8	Carrie Richards	Committee Member		
9	Dudley Hinton	Committee Member		
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20				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Debbie Giles – Preschool Manager from 01/03/2014 Jen Harper – Preschool Business Manager from 01/01/2017 – 31/07/2022 Abby Moore - Preschool Business Manager from 01/08/2022

Section B

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Initial Constitution for Freshford Preschool Charity 1129972 adopted 16 th September 2008. Constitution revised and adopted on 13 th May 2009, with subsequent revisions on 21 st April 2010, 1 st November 2010, 21 st September 2011, and 16 th July 2013. Freshford Preschool Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted 16 th July 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission as Charity 1153406 on 14 th August 2013. All activities of Charity number 1129972 transferred to CIO 1153406 by 27 th March 2014, on which date Charity 1129972 was dissolved.
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	The Officers and Committee members shall be elected for an initial term of two years at the Annual General Meeting. After two years, retiring Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election for up to 5 terms in total. In the event of the death or resignation of an elected Committee member, the vacancy shall be filled until the next Annual General Meeting by a Member appointed by the Committee. If the Committee feels that extra committee members are needed to provide additional expertise or to fulfil a new committee role, extra committee members may be appointed between AGMs. To encourage parental involvement, at least two thirds of the charity trustees shall normally at the time of election be family members. In the event that this figure cannot be achieved however, the CIO may elect affiliate members to make up the balance of the charity trustees. Parents wishing to join the committee between AGMs may approach the Preschool Chair, Preschool Business Manager, or current committee members and offer their services.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

Refer to current Freshford Preschool Policies and Procedures found at <http://www.freshfordpreschool.co.uk/policies-and-procedures>

The Preschool has a Child protection policy in place. DBS criminal record checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment, trusteeship or other voluntary work with the Preschool.

All trustees give their time as volunteers and receive no remuneration or other benefits for duties fulfilled as part of their trustee role.

them.



Section C

Objectives and activities

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

Freshford Preschool works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people by:

- (1) promoting their care and safety;
- (2) promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;
- (3) promoting their health and wellbeing;
- (4) providing services to support them and their families and carers;
- (5) providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and
- (6) furthering the aims of the Early Years Alliance.

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

In managing the Preschool, the trustees have had regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Freshford Preschool has now been fully operational for over ten school years. By providing a Preschool within the centre of the village of Freshford we believe we improve the quality of life of both parents and children. The children socialise and bond as a year group which eases their transition to Freshford Primary School. Parents have a convenient childcare facility close to the village school and Galleries shop. In addition, we are now attracting more children from further afield who go on to other local primary schools. These families are attracted by our ethos, our focus on outdoor learning and Forest School and our rural setting, which helps to create a very positive learning environment.

Despite the ongoing CO-VID 19 pandemic we were able to keep preschool open for the entire academic year. We provided safe care and support for our children and families in difficult circumstances. Both the committee and staff team worked hard to allow preschool to remain open and comply with all relevant safety protocols during the ongoing CO-VID pandemic, providing a vital resource for local families.

During the 2021/2022 financial year, the Preschool continued to accept the Early Years Entitlement Grant from Bath and North East Somerset Council, (including the extended '30 hours' grant for eligible families) to provide up to 22 hours of free childcare per week for eligible 3 and 4-year olds. This funding can be used for all sessions without restriction.

The activities at the Preschool have fostered the social, emotional, physical, creative, spiritual and cognitive development needs of each child. The activities have also fulfilled the curriculum guidance for the

Early Years Foundation Stage and reflected the interests and ideas of the children.

Our Preschool is entirely inclusive. We welcome all children, whatever their ability, cultural, religious or social background. We work hard to find out about each child's individual needs, ideally before they start, through taster sessions, home visits and completion of an 'All About Me' questionnaire. This allows us to get the training we need to accommodate everybody.

Each family with a child attending the Preschool has the right for one parent or carer to vote at General Meetings of the Preschool and join the Preschool committee and trustees.

The Preschool committee fulfils a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the Preschool. During 2021/2022 they carried out a wide range of tasks on a voluntary basis including observing and monitoring the children's learning and development; appointing new staff; approving changes in the terms and conditions of employment for staff members; maintaining the rota of volunteer helpers; marketing the Preschool through digital and print media and organising fundraising events.

During 2021/2022, the Preschool provided part-time family friendly employment for eight permanent members of staff from the surrounding area. The Preschool also offered regular supply work to another four individuals.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

A great contribution is made by Committee, parent and community volunteers, along with staff commitment outside of their paid hours. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise the successful operation of the Preschool would not be possible.

Parent volunteers were welcomed back to our outdoor forest school sessions this year. Other parent helpers have assisted in work party activities, such as maintaining the Preschool garden, and at fundraising community events.

The Preschool provides a regular source of income to the Memorial Hall, which helps to ensure its own financial security and ongoing maintenance. We contributed £5,000 to a major refurbishment of the hall. Which will be re-clad and glazed and the heating system improved with an air source heat pump. Preschool are one of the main users of the village hall and were pleased to be able to contribute to this.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2021/2022, Freshford Preschool operated successfully for its thirteenth school year. The Preschool was once again fortunate to have a dedicated staff team, and a professional team of trustees. The Preschool is a highly valued part of the local community with an excellent reputation both in the village and further afield.

We had some staff changes this year. Our deputy manager Kerry Sherlock went on Maternity leave in October 2021. Helen Little left the preschool in July 2021. We hired three new members of staff, one on a permanent contract and two as a job share to cover Kerry's maternity leave. Kath Bowland has been on our supply team for many years took on a years contract working two days a week. We hired Sian James who was a newly qualified practitioner also on a year contract. We hired Christie Bennet on a permanent contract. However as she had recently completed her Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) with QTS Primary (3-7) and Early Years Specialism she took on the deputy role for the first year of her contract. Once Kerry Sherlock returns Christie will be a practitioner. All three members of staff started in October 2021. Kath Bowland finished her contract slightly early leaving in June 2022 to spend more time with her family. Sian James worked the full year leaving preschool in July 2022.

During the 2021/2022 school year, the preschool was 87.5% (21 children) subscribed in the Autumn terms and 95% subscribed from January 2022. We continued to have two intakes, the main one in September and then a smaller additional intake in January. This helps the children to settle into preschool life. We did not fill all of our available places this year as we had a lot of staff changes and newly qualified staff. However we did have 2 children join in term 4 which we do not usually do as we were not fully subscribed. We are currently 95% subscribed for September.

Our fundraising opportunities were still limited last year by the pandemic. However, in spite of this we raised £2,273,22 in 2021/2022. We are looking at ways of fundraising in the coming year.

We used fundraising from last year to replace many of the small resources used in preschool regularly. Including sandpit toys, vehicles and bug identification kits. This was in part due to the Science project our manager Debbie Giles completed with Banes, where our scientific explorations were audited and explored.

We also used £912 of the fundraising to pay for the weekly sports sessions run by Up & Under Sports. Which is greatly enjoyed by all the children and fits in with our healthy ethos. We also continued our yoga sessions led by a qualified local yoga instructor, as well as music sessions led by a music teacher.

The children enjoyed a trip to The Egg theatre in Bath and a trip to Victoria Art Gallery. Music for Miniatures came before Christmas for a performance of The Nutcracker.

We continued to build on our strong relationship with Freshford School.

Our Manager Debbie continues to have a good working relationship with the reception teacher. The school yet again said how well the children from Freshford preschool were prepared for school and complimented our amazing staff team on all they do to ease the transition into formal education.

The Preschool promotes British Values daily. As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness within Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Freshford Preschool staff encourage children to know their views count, to value each other's views, and to talk about their feelings. Staff choose opportunities to demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views with a show of hands. Staff provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

We promoted healthy eating with Vicky Mowat from Riverford coming to preschool to talk about eating a rainbow and how food is grown and produced.

We were awarded Millie's mark for all of our staff being Paediatric first aid trained. The last two years we achieved the double healthy years award. We are now allowed to use the public health programme logo for introducing supervised teeth brushing after snack time. This Shows preschools commitment to healthy lifestyles and promoting health in early years.

A focus on managing feelings and behaviour well has always been central to Freshford Preschool's ethos. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. Through the Preschool's Philosophy for Children work and Sunshine Circle activities, staff encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions. Overall high levels of wellbeing and involvement can be seen in the children through both staff observations and the children's day-to-day behaviour: they are confident, relaxed and settled.

As part of the focus on people & communities, managing feelings & behaviour and making relationships, the Preschool staff team create an ethos of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community. The children are encouraged to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. They also learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others from different families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions, and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. Through circle time activities, staff encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. Staff promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping. We have an annual topic focus on different countries and cultures, where we encourage parents to share their knowledge, experience and artefacts of other countries where they have lived and travelled.

Preschool continues to provide parents with access to their child's online learning journal on *Tapestry*. Parents can log on securely and view their children's observations and photographs and upload their own observations of WOW moments recorded at home. They also receive weekly email digests of observations for their child, and their child's complete learning journal as a downloadable PDF when their child leaves the setting.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Preschool aims to maintain a reserve fund of £40,000 which is adequate to cover our normal operational costs for at least 6 months. This will allow us to meet staff notice and redundancy costs if ever needed and will put us in a better position to absorb any temporary fluctuations in income due to unexpected decreases in child numbers, or difficulties in bill payments. The Preschool's unrestricted reserves are currently £66,862

We have given £5,000 of the reserve fund to Freshford Memorial Hall for their upcoming improvement works. We also plan to use some of these reserves to update our garden and outside area as some parts of this are in need of repair and improvement.

The trustees had been keeping extra in the reserves in case we needed to move to a different venue during the works on the all. However the work will be started over the summer holidays so we no longer need to keep these funds in reserve.

The trustees have also decided to spend some of the reserve to cover the cost of a pay rise for our staff. The additional cost will be covered by a gradual increase of the top-up fee's and fee's. However we will be using our reserves so that these can be introduced over the next three years and not impact parents as much.

We made a loss in 2021/2022. However, this was expected due to the reasons stated above and slightly reduced child numbers.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not Applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

For the 2021/2022 financial year, the preschool's principal sources of funding were as follows:

£53,277.48 in Early Years Entitlement grants for children attending
£30,045.56 in fees and donations from parents
£2,273.22 from fundraising events and donations

The principal areas of expenditure were as follows:

£75,101.27 on staff salaries and associated overheads
£4,325.39 staff pensions
£899.65 on Recruitment
£9,892.84 Hall Hire + (including £417.84 on Bench Donation + £5000 on Renovation contribution)
£2,529.97 on consumables
£506.64 on IT (software, web admin & support)
£1,101.75 on insurance & registrations (Ofsted, ICO, EYA)
£708.37 on buying new items of capital equipment
£533.11 on training, development and welfare

Section F**Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	ALISON SELLERS	ELEANOR BATE
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR.	TREASURER.
Date	8/11/2022.	

FRESHFORD PRESCHOOL (1153406) Receipts & Payments ACCOUNT
Account summary

	2020/2021 Unrestricted funds	2020/2021 Restricted funds	2021/2022 Unrestricted funds	2021/2022 Restricted funds
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Registration Fees	£640.00		£410.00	
Early Years Entitlement Grant	£49,818.98		£53,227.48	
EY Pupil Premium	£0.00		£0.00	
Trip contributions	£0.00		£69.93	
Parents Fees and donations	£38,163.93		£29,635.56	
Gift Aid	£1,155.02		£0.00	
Interest	£0.00		£0.00	
Fundraising	£1,970.41		£2,273.22	
Milk	£115.86		£92.84	
Refunds	£0.00		£0.00	
Uniform		£188.60		£0.00
Receipts for 01/09-31/08	£91,864.20	£188.60	£85,709.03	£0.00
PAYMENTS				
Events and Fundraising Purchases	£2,601.85		£1,790.20	
Fundraising Expenses	£0.00		£64.55	
Fee Refunds	£0.00		£0.00	
Consumables Account Expenditure	£2,725.00		£2,505.99	
Consumables	£0.00		£23.98	
Training	£966.73		£299.00	
Staff Welfare	£0.00		£234.11	
Staff Salaries, NI, Tax and Pensions	£66,529.97		£79,426.66	
Advertising and Recruitment	£441.17		£899.65	
Hall Hire	£4,759.50		£4,892.84	
Hall Renovation Contribution	£0.00		£5,000.00	
Insurance & Registrations	£1,071.85		£1,101.75	
Milk	£125.22		£118.06	
IT	£493.44		£506.64	
Capital expenditure	£0.00		£708.37	
External Visits	£0.00		£292.71	
Grant making trusts		£0.00		£0.00
Uniform		£311.94		£0.00
EYITT		£0.00		£0.00
Payments for 01/09-31/08	£79,714.73	£311.94	£97,864.51	£0.00
DEFICIT/ SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£12,149.47	-£123.34	-£12,155.48	£0.00

EQUIPMENT	2020/21	2021/22
Category	New for old replacement cost (£)	
Art and craft	£1,292.05	£1,061.75
Forest Schools	£1,254.26	£1,542.32
Furniture & furnishings	£8,511.27	£8,391.27
Hygiene and safety	£553.00	£563.00
ICT	£5,463.97	£5,552.97
	£405.00	£340.00
Literacy	£1,375.92	£1,390.61
Music	£859.69	£860.00
Numeracy	£637.18	£643.14
Physical/Outdoor Play & Garden	£11,347.99	£11,740.18
Puzzles and Games	£741.00	£471.00
Role Play	£1,933.91	£1,912.91
Sensory Play	£281.00	£311.99
Small world	£1,695.41	£1,655.42
Stationery and Office	£751.82	£419.82
	£4,865.37	£4,947.37
Woodworking/Construction	£484.14	£432.09
World about us	£94.34	£46.39
Total replacement cost (£)	£42,547.32	£42,282.23

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total All Funds
Balance b/f at 1st September 2021	£79,017.63	£2,583.76	£81,601.39
(Deficit) / Surplus for the year	-£12,155.48		-£12,155.48
Balance c/f at 31st August 2022	<u>£66,862.15</u>	<u>£2,583.76</u>	<u>£69,445.91</u>

Represented by:-
Balance on main bank account at 31st August 2022
Balance on consumables bank account at 31st August 2022

£68,960.07
£485.84
£69,445.91

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2020/2021	2021/2022
Tax – due, not yet paid	£1,147.76	-£446.83
Pension – due, not yet paid	£320.69	£413.57
Suppliers – due, not yet paid	£0.00	£0.00
	<u>£1,468.45</u>	<u>-£33.26</u>

Chairman

Date 20/06/23

Treasurer

Date 19/06/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

FRESHFORD PRE-SCHOOL

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2022

Charity no
(if any)

1153406

Set out on pages

One page attached

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities 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.

Signed:

FB Meaking

Date:

15th June 2023

Name:

Fiona Baden Meaking BA(Hons) FCA CTA

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

ICAEW & CIOT

Address:

5 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AD

Section B

Disclosure

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

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

None

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	Sept	2020		31	Aug	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Freshford Preschool
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1153406
Charity's principal address	Freshford Memorial Hall
	Freshford Lane
	Freshford, Bath
Postcode	BA2 7UR

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Alison Sellers	Chair		
2	Fiona Meaking	Treasurer		
3	Kate Walters	Secretary		
4	Sarah Perry	Deputy Chair		
5	Gavin Bate	Volunteer Coordinator		
6	Lucy Sturges	Committee Member		
7	Claire Thomas	Committee Member		
8	Lisa Rodd	Committee Memeber		
9	Charlotte Taylor	Committee Member		
10	Annabel Batchelor-Wylam	Committee Member		
11				
12				
13				
14				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

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

Debbie Giles - Preschool Manager from 01/03/2014
 Jen Harper - Preschool Business Manager from 01/01/2017

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
 (eg. trust deed, constitution)

Initial Constitution for Freshford Preschool Charity 1129972 adopted 16th September 2008. Constitution revised and adopted on 13th May 2009, with subsequent revisions on 21st April 2010, 1st November 2010, 21st September 2011, and 16th July 2013.

Freshford Preschool Charitable Incorporated Organisation constituted 16th July 2013 and registered with the Charity Commission as Charity 1153406 on 14th August 2013. All activities of Charity number 1129972 transferred to CIO 1153406 by 27th March 2014, on which date Charity 1129972 was dissolved.

How the charity is constituted
 (eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
 (eg. appointed by, elected by)

The Officers and Committee members shall be elected for an initial term of two years at the Annual General Meeting. After two years, retiring Officers and Committee members are eligible for re-election for up to 5 terms in total.

In the event of the death or resignation of an elected Committee member, the vacancy shall be filled until the next Annual General Meeting by a Member appointed by the Committee.

If the Committee feels that extra committee members are needed to provide additional expertise or to fulfil a new committee role, extra committee members may be appointed between AGMs.

To encourage parental involvement, at least two thirds of the charity trustees shall normally at the time of election be family members. In the event that this figure cannot be achieved however, the CIO may elect affiliate members to make up the balance of the charity trustees.

Parents wishing to join the committee between AGMs may approach the Preschool Chair, Preschool Business Manager, or current committee members and offer their services.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

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

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

Refer to current Freshford Preschool Policies and Procedures found at <https://www.freshfordpreschool.co.uk/s/Operational-Policies-and-Procedures-V29-June-2020-xbm5.pdf>

The Preschool has a Child protection policy in place. DBS criminal record checks are carried out prior to commencement of employment, trusteeship or other voluntary work with the Preschool. Employee DBS checks are reviewed annually using the Update Service.

All trustees give their time as volunteers and receive no remuneration or other benefits for duties fulfilled as part of their trustee role.

Section C Objectives and activities

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

Freshford Preschool works for the public benefit having as its objects the development and education of children and young people by:

- (1) promoting their care and safety;
- (2) promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;
- (3) promoting their health and wellbeing;
- (4) providing services to support them and their families and carers;
- (5) providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO; and
- (6) furthering the aims of the Early Years Alliance.

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

In managing the Preschool, the trustees have had regards to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Freshford Preschool has now been fully operational over twelve school years. By providing a Preschool within the centre of the village of Freshford we believe we improve the quality of life of both parents and children. The children socialise and bond as a year group which eases their transition to Freshford Primary School. Parents have a convenient childcare facility close to the village school and Galleries shop. In addition, we are now attracting more children from further afield who go on to other local primary schools. Families are attracted by our ethos, our focus on outdoor learning and Forest School and our rural setting, which helps to create a very positive learning environment.

Activities at the Preschool foster the social, emotional, physical, creative, spiritual and cognitive development needs of each child. The activities also fulfil the curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage and reflect the interests and ideas of the children.

Our Preschool is entirely inclusive. We welcome all children, whatever their ability, cultural, religious or social background. We work hard to

find out about each child's individual needs, ideally before they start, through taster sessions, home visits and completion of an 'All About Me' questionnaire. This allows us to get the training we need to accommodate everybody.

The Preschool promotes British Values through all our activities. As part of the focus on self-confidence and self-awareness, Freshford Preschool staff encourage children to know their views count, to value each other's views, and to talk about their feelings. Staff choose opportunities to demonstrate democracy in action, for example, children sharing views with a show of hands. Staff provide activities that involve turn-taking, sharing and collaboration. Children are given opportunities to develop enquiring minds in an atmosphere where questions are valued.

Supporting and promoting the wellbeing of the child has always been central to how preschool operates as this allows each child to fully participate and gain maximum benefit from preschool attendance. Staff provide opportunities for children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and increase their confidence in their own abilities. We encourage a range of experiences that allow children to explore the language of feelings and responsibility, reflect on their differences and understand we are free to have different opinions. Overall high levels of wellbeing and involvement can be seen in the children through both staff observations and the children's day-to-day behaviour: they are confident, relaxed and settled.

Our ethos is one of inclusivity and tolerance where views, faiths, cultures and races are valued and children are engaged with the wider community. The children are encouraged to acquire a tolerance and appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. They also learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others from different families, faiths, communities, cultures and traditions, and share and discuss practices, celebrations and experiences. We encourage and explain the importance of tolerant behaviours such as sharing and respecting other's opinions. Staff promote diverse attitudes and challenge stereotypes, for example, sharing stories that reflect and value the diversity of children's experiences and providing resources and activities that challenge gender, cultural and racial stereotyping. We have an annual topic focus on different countries and cultures, where we encourage parents to share knowledge, experience and artefacts of other countries where they have lived and travelled.

Preschool continues to provide parents with access to their child's online learning journal on Tapestry. Parents can log on securely and view their children's observations and photographs and upload their own observations of WOW moments recorded at home. They also receive weekly email digests of observations for their child, and their child's complete learning journal as a downloadable PDF when their child leaves the setting.

We accept the Early Years Entitlement Grant from Bath and North East Somerset Council, (including the extended '30 hours' grant for eligible families) to provide up to 22 hours of free childcare per week for eligible 3 and 4-year olds. This funding can be used for all sessions without restriction.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

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

Committee members, parent and community volunteers give a lot of time, energy and expertise over the preschool year and this makes a significant contribution to the successful operation of the Preschool, along with staff commitment outside of their paid hours.

Pre-pandemic, parent volunteers helped at every Preschool session, which provided a valuable opportunity for them to see their child's Preschool life and share their own skills with the Preschool. Other parent helpers have assisted in work party activities, such as maintaining the Preschool garden, and at fundraising community events.

COVID-19 restrictions have prevented parent volunteers returning to the preschool setting. However, in the summer term we were able to welcome them back to help during our forest school sessions. They have also continued to provide support for the preschool through virtual fundraising events and help in the maintenance of the garden.

The Preschool provides a regular source of income to the Memorial Hall, which helps to ensure its own financial security and ongoing maintenance. This was incredibly important this year as most hall users were unable to continue using the hall during the lockdowns.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2020/2021, Freshford Preschool operated successfully for its twelfth school year. The Preschool was once again fortunate to have a dedicated staff team, and a professional team of trustees. The Preschool is a highly valued part of the local community with an excellent reputation both in the village and further afield.

We had some staff changes this year. Two staff worked slightly reduced hours from September reflecting initially low numbers of children registered. These hours were increased again from January. Kerry Sherlock's promotion to the Deputy Manager role was made permanent in December. We created a new Assistant post to provide 4 hours a week (plus cover as needed) to flexibly support the existing team. We hired Becky Clay, who was looking for experience of Early Years work, for this role. She finished in the role in July 2021, and we have maintained the role, subsequently hiring Jo Carter (an NNEB qualified supply staff member) for the post as we find the flexible support it offers to be invaluable.

We continue to invest in our staff and all staff members have been participating in regular training during the year, covering both statutory requirements (safeguarding, First Aid, the EYFS) and best practice learning (Makaton, wellbeing, emotion coaching).

During the 2020/2021 school year, the preschool was 60% subscribed in the Autumn terms and 80% subscribed from January 2021. We continued to have two intakes, the main one in September and then a smaller additional intake in January, which helps the children to settle into preschool life. Our numbers were slightly down for the Autumn term, partly due to the larger than normal number of children who left to start school and partly due to lower demand during the pandemic with families experiencing unsettled work and finances. Numbers remained lower than usual in the Spring term as the January-March lockdown saw several families choosing not to send their children to preschool, and one or two families not taking up their child's place. We ended the year 98% subscribed as families' confidence returned and we were able to admit another 3 children in April. For 2021/22 we are currently 80% subscribed rising to 100% from January.

Our fundraising opportunities last year continued to be limited by the pandemic. However, despite this we raised £1,632 in 2020/2021. Our new outdoor Spooky Trail raised £200 in the autumn, Christmas cards, carol singing and nativity video donations £530, our Easter Trail £200 and our Chair running the Bath Half raised £500. We also continued to raise funds through Give as You Live, raising £200. This is a great total considering our usual fundraising events for Fireworks and Christmas had to be cancelled and it shows the strong support we enjoy from families and the wider community. We used the money raised to upgrade staff IT equipment so that updating Tapestry and planning and administration was made much easier and faster. We also purchased a new storage shed for the garden.

Fundraising money also enabled us to continue providing a weekly sports session, which is greatly enjoyed by all the children and fits in with our healthy ethos. We continued our music sessions led by a music teacher parent, and were able to host travelling performers Music for Miniatures again in the summer term to enjoy their live Bubble Bach

show.

Our Manager Debbie continues to have a good working relationship with the reception teacher at our local primary school (to where two thirds of our children usually transition). The school continue to say how well the children from Freshford Preschool are prepared for school and complimented our amazing staff team on all they do to ease the transition into formal education.

Despite the Covid Pandemic we have kept preschool open throughout the year with only one week closed (4-7 January 2021) while we responded to the very last minute announcement of another lockdown. This gave us the time to make sure we could open in a safe way in that stage of the pandemic. We provided safe care and support for our children and families, easing the transition into school. Both the committee and staff team worked hard to allow preschool to stay open and comply with all relevant safety protocols during the COVID pandemic, providing a vital resource for local families.

Despite their not being allowed in the setting we maintained our close connection with our families, continuing to use Tapestry to communicate with parents and share pictures and information about what the children had been doing at preschool. We were delighted to welcome back parent volunteers to our outdoor forest school sessions in the spring. We have re-introduced in person home visits for our new starters in September 2021, but also offered online 'visits' if the families preferred.

The Preschool committee continues to fulfil a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the Preschool. During 2020/2021 they carried out a wide range of tasks on a voluntary basis including observing and monitoring the children's learning and development; appointing new staff; approving changes in the terms and conditions of employment for staff members; maintaining the rota of volunteer helpers; marketing the Preschool through digital and print media and organising fundraising events. In addition to this the committee was involved in decisions around how we maintained child and staff safety through the multiple lockdowns and guidance changes. Each family with a child attending the Preschool has the right for one parent or carer to vote at General Meetings of the Preschool and join the Preschool committee and trustees.

During 2020/2021, the Preschool provided part-time family friendly employment for six permanent members of staff from the surrounding area. The Preschool also offered regular supply work to another four individuals.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Preschool aims to maintain a reserve fund of £40,000 which is adequate to cover our normal operational costs for at least 6 months. This will allow us to meet staff notice and redundancy costs if ever needed and will put us in a better position to absorb any temporary fluctuations in income due to unexpected decreases in child numbers, or difficulties in bill payments. The Preschool's unrestricted reserves are currently £78,876, reflecting a surplus for 2020/2021 of £12,150. This is due mainly to very strong attendance numbers for the Spring and Summer terms, but also to reduced staffing costs in the Autumn term when we were initially undersubscribed.

The additional surplus and any additional surplus during 2021/2022 will be allocated towards:

- Supporting any major repair or renovation of our premises at Freshford Memorial Hall. Freshford Memorial Hall is in relatively poor repair, with low levels of financial reserves. The trustees therefore feel it is prudent to maintain sufficient reserves to allow the Preschool to contribute to any major repair/renovation bills if needed. The heating system needs to be replaced and new building insulation is required. A plan has been put in place to re-clad the building and install an air source heat pump. Preschool have committed to donating £5,000 towards this. We expected to make this donation during the 2020/21, but the works have been delayed until 2021/2022.
- Garden improvements once the cladding work has been completed. The initial landscaping was completed over a decade ago and running repairs are becoming problematic.
- Allowing for reduced income from families choosing not to send their children to preschool during this period of inevitable disruption.
- Undertaking a major review of staff pay, to incorporate benchmarking with other settings, changes to the National Minimum Wage and improving differentiation between roles based on experience and qualifications. The trustees anticipate this will increase ongoing staffing costs but believe this will help with staff retention and will underpin a staff team who are able to deliver the best possible Early Years care and provision going forward.

Until this year we had been holding reserves in anticipation of securing alternative short-term premises such as a temporary classroom during any major building works at the Hall. A plan was drawn up by the Memorial Hall Trustees in 2017/18 to re-develop the hall and this has the potential to greatly improve the premises we rent in the long term. We have recently received assurances from the hall redevelopment committee that any work would be carried out in such a way that the preschool could continue to use the Hall, and so we no longer need to hold reserves against this eventuality.

In response to the Childcare Bill, in 2016/17 we made the decision to offer up to 22 funded hours to eligible families from September 2017.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Our policy is to offer up to 25% of our places as 30 hours places, and to date demand for 30 hours places has not exceeded this limit or had a negative impact on preschool finances, and so we will continue to offer this and review as necessary in the future.

Not Applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

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

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

For the 2020/2021 financial year, the preschool's principal sources of funding were as follows:

£49,819 in Early Years Entitlement grants for children attending

£38,164 in fees and donations from parents

£1,632 (£1,970 before expenses) from fundraising events/donations

The principal areas of expenditure were as follows:

£66,530 on staff salaries (including employer pension contributions)

£4,760 on hall hire (including premises maintenance)

£1,037 on HR (advice on contracts), advertising & recruitment

£2,725 on consumables

£490 on IT (software, web admin & support)

£1,072 on insurance & registrations (Ofsted, ICO, Early Years Alliance)

£967 on training and development

£2,602 on external providers for sports and music, new garden storage and a refresh of staff IT equipment to support in-session observation and planning/administration

Section F Other optional information

We continue to promote volunteering to the preschool parents and encourage parents to sign up to be volunteers now that the pandemic is easing. However, we have also adjusted our staffing during 2020/21 and beyond so that we can run without volunteers if required by current or future events.

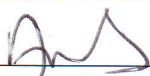
We are working towards achieving the Millie's Mark certification by having all our staff Paediatric first aid trained. We are also fundraising for a new shed and wood working area for the children, building on our outdoor learning experience.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Alison Sellers

Claire Thomas

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Secretary

Date

19th October 2021

FRESHFORD PRESCHOOL (1153406) Receipts & Payments ACCOUNT

Account summary

	2019/2020 Unrestricted funds £	2019/2020 Restricted funds £	2020/2021 Unrestricted funds £	2020/2021 Restricted funds £
RECEIPTS				
Registration Fees	£390.00		£640.00	
Early Years Entitlement Grant	£30,500.57		£49,818.98	
EY Pupil Premium	£0.00		£0.00	
Trip contributions	£165.50		£0.00	
Parents Fees and donations	£44,517.06		£38,163.93	
Gift Aid	£1,222.12		£1,155.02	
Interest	£0.00		£0.00	
Fund Raising	£2,622.21		£1,970.41	
Milk	£143.87		£115.86	
Refunds	£0.00		£0.00	
Historical rounding	£0.75		£0.00	
Grant making trusts		£0.00		£0.00
Uniform		£205.80		£188.60
EYITT		£0.00		£0.00
Transfer between funds (see Note 1)	£9,639.07	-£9,639.07	£0.00	£0.00
Transfer between funds (see Note 2)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Receipts for 01/09/2019-31/08/20	£89,201.15	-£9,433.27	£91,864.20	£188.60
PAYMENTS				
Events and fundraising	£1,644.05		£2,601.85	
Fee Refunds	£0.00		£0.00	
Consumables	£2,511.26		£2,725.00	
Training	£637.87		£966.73	
Staff salaries, NI, tax and pensions	£67,851.25		£66,529.97	
Advertising and Recruitment	£1,036.72		£441.17	
Hall Hire	£4,621.63		£4,759.50	
Insurance & registrations	£1,050.37		£1,071.85	
Milk	£153.78		£125.22	
IT	£489.66		£493.44	
Capital expenditure	£0.00		£0.00	
External Visits	£453.20		£0.00	
Grant making trusts		£500.00		£0.00
Uniform		£365.80		£311.94
EYITT		£0.00		£0.00
Payments for 01/09/2019-31/08/20	£80,449.79	£865.80	£79,714.73	£311.94
(DEFICIT) / SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£8,751.36	-£10,299.07	£12,149.47	-£123.34

NOTES:

(1) We received advance payment of EYE fees (£6,496.00) and parent fees (£3,143.07) for the 2019/2020 year in August 2019. These were recorded in the 2018/19 accounts as a restricted fund to be carried over to the 2019/20 school year. These were transferred back to unrestricted funds in 2019/2020.

(2) The 2019/2020 Early Years Entitlement grant total included the payment of £7968.24 for the 2020/2021 school year. £1165.50 of fees were paid in Jul/Aug 2020 for Sept to Dec 2020. In previous years these have been carried over to the following preschool year so that they do not artificially inflate income for that year. From Sept 2020 we no longer transfer money between funds at year end (as it is not necessary for Receipts & Payments accounting and makes the yearly examination of accounts more complex). Therefore there is no outgoing transfer here to the 2020/21 year and the 2020/21 accounts do not show an incoming transfer from 2019/20.

GENERAL FUND (UNRESTRICTED)

	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Balance b/f	£57,974.97	£66,726.33
(Deficit) / Surplus for Year	£8,751.36	£12,149.47
Balance c/f	£66,726.33	£78,875.80

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Balance b/f	£13,006.17	£2,707.10
(Deficit) / Surplus for Year	-£10,299.07	-£123.34
Balance c/f	£2,707.10	£2,583.76

CONSUMABLES ACCOUNT

	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Balance b/f	£2.05	£1.17
(Deficit) / Surplus for Year	-£0.88	£140.66
Balance c/f	£1.17	£141.83

TOTAL ALL FUNDS

	2019/2020 £	2020/2021 £
Balance b/f	£70,983.94	£69,434.60
(Deficit) / Surplus for Year	-£1,549.34	£12,166.79
Balance c/f	£69,434.60	£81,601.39

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS

	2019/2020	2020/2021
Balance b/f	£69,434.60	£81,601.39

EQUIPMENT

Category	2019/20 New for old replacement cost (£)	2020/21
Art and craft	£1,262	£1,292
Construction Toys	£4,482	£0
Forest Schools	£1,254	£1,254
Furniture & furnishings	£8,511	£8,511
Hygiene and safety	£553	£553
ICT	£4,778	£5,464
Kitchen	£405	£405
Literacy	£1,376	£1,376
Music	£860	£860
Numeracy	£580	£637
Physical/Outdoor Play & Garden	£11,318	£11,348
Puzzles and Games	£741	£741
Role Play	£1,904	£1,934
Sensory Play	£165	£281
Small world	£1,695	£1,695
Stationery and Office	£752	£752
STEM	£0	£4,865
Woodworking	£484	£484
World about us	£94	£94
Total replacement cost (£)	£41,215	£42,547

CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2019/2020	2020/2021
Tax – due, not yet paid	£647.42	£1,147.76
Pension – due, not yet paid	£0.00	£320.69
Suppliers – due, not yet paid	£0.00	£0.00
	£647.42	£1,468.45

Chairman

Date

Treasurer

Date

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRESHFORD PRE-SCHOOL (CHARITY NUMBER (1153406))

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Freshford Pre-School (the Charity) for the year ended 31st August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or

The accounts to 31st August 2021 have been prepared on a Receipts & Payments basis; for all earlier years the accounts were prepared on an accruals basis. The result for the current year is a surplus of £12,166.79. If the prior year had been prepared on the same basis, then the surplus would have been £8,089.73 (rather than the reported deficit of £1,549.34 under the accruals basis). This change in accounting policy has caused a one-off adjustment of £9,639.07 and going forward the results should be directly comparable. This is fully explained in the notes to the accounts.

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

Signed: *Philip Cox*

Name: Philip Cox

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): ICAEW

Date: 17th October 2021