

# FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1155616

## Details

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**Other names** FSA

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [08164851](#)

**Registered** 2014-02-04

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

## Contact

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82 James Carter Road  
Mildenhall

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

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC BENEFIT THROUGH PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF QUALITY FOREST SCHOOL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM USING ANY MEANS TO ENABLE ALL CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS TO BENEFIT FROM INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH QUALITY AND VARIED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE NATURAL WORLD.

**Activities:** The FSA is the professional body and dedicated voice for Forest School (FS) within the UK. We are devoted to promoting quality Forest School for all. Communicate a strong, clear vision of what FS is; development of FS qualification curriculum content; support the increase of FS opportunities; a focus of FS good practice/research and a commitment to work alongside others with similar aims

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£129,953	£74,783	-	-
2023-08-31	£95,725	£149,447	-	-
2022-08-31	£179,372	£177,597	-	-
2021-08-31	£87,061	£86,198	-	-
2020-08-31	£92,249	£112,512	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Matthew Harder</b>	Chair	2020-03-14
Emma Briscoe		2024-05-11
Lily Horseman		2014-11-07
Richard Charles Smith		2025-05-17

**FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1155616

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# Accounts

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## **FSA Annual Report for 2024- 2025**

### **Chair's Report**

Despite the significant global and geopolitical events that have impacted the economy and our sector this year, the Forest School Association has demonstrated remarkable resilience as a small charity. Our ability to navigate these challenges with determination and adaptability is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our staff team. Annual reports serve as a platform to celebrate our triumphs, critically examine our challenges, learn from our experiences, and incorporate your valuable feedback into our future strategies.

With University of Liverpool and a stellar team of academics, we hosted the first International Forest School Research symposium, a successful event spearheaded by our project officer, Nic Harding. We are proud of this achievement and look forward to building on this success with future events.

Our conference was as popular as ever. Again, staff and many volunteers, led and inspired by Nic, worked with the Essex Outdoors team to offer a rich weekend of 'Kindling Curiosity, Courage, and Resilience', providing valuable opportunities to meet and formally consult with members. Nell Seal was exceptionally busy, holding space for Endorsed Trainers, Recognised Providers and Local Affiliated Groups; her community-building skills and dedication to professionalism continue to reap rewards for the FSA.

The accommodation policy caused some members consternation, while others welcomed it; after complaints, we sought external guidance, recognising we did not consult sufficiently with individuals/ groups impacted by it. We have strengthened our commitment to working with experts and members to promote equality, equity, diversity, and belonging within the FSA.

Tilly Hogrebe joined our skilled and committed staff team in the Summer, immediately demonstrating skills above and beyond the Administration Coordinator role. We recognise Mimi Eastell's valuable contributions to marketing and communications; this role has been formalised in recognition of her expertise for the management team.

At our Strategy Weekend, we valued the expertise of clean-language facilitators as staff and trustees navigated some tricky issues around finances, structure and strategic direction, making the difficult decision not to hold a national conference this Autumn and to make the CEO role redundant, both of which require new ways of doing things. We are grateful to Gareth for all his hard work and for bringing a much-needed business perspective to the FSA; his guiding hand has helped build a respected professional association that is regularly consulted by other NGOS and valued by members.



We are grateful to Paul Moseley and Froom Signore, trustees who left the board this year, and Laura Harvey and Emma Lawson, who will stand down with me at the AGM. Each has brought valuable perspectives to the FSA, which will continue to benefit from their contributions.

This report will be my last as I step down and welcome Matt Harder, as the incoming chair, and new trustees. Serving the FSA with past and present trustees has been a privilege; I have learned much from them. Matt and the FSA board will find fresh ways to lead and support the staff team, build on the new structure, consult with members, and grow our professional association.

I commend this report to you as evidence of the important work the staff have done on your behalf this year, the commitment and dedication of everyone involved in the FSA's mission of advocating for 'quality Forest School for all', the exciting plans for the year ahead, and the future-proofing we are undertaking.

Sarah Lawfull, FSA Chair

## **Committee Reports**

### **Policy and Procedures Committee (staff and trustees)**

The committee has met four times (quarterly) since the 2024 AGM, developing, updating, and implementing the FSA's national internal and external policies. These have included, but are not exclusive to, EDI, conflicts of interest, privacy, communications, complaints, and appeals procedures.

New draft policies and policy updates are passed from the P&P committee to the FSA's other committees, which oversee the areas covered in the policies. They can then comment on/amend the policies before they go forward to the main FSA Board for approval and adoption.

Geoff Mason, P&P Committee Chair



### **Internal Committee Report** (staff and trustees)

The committee has met three times this year.

Main functions and focus this past year:

- Producing the Terms of Reference document.
- Following the strategy weekend in March 2024, the committee met to work on creating a guidance document for Basecamp communications. We will review this in June.
- Recommendations made that the Finance and Risk Committee will work with Nic on options for the NETA App.

Emma Briscoe, Internal Committee Chair

### **External Committee Report** (staff and trustees)

The committee has met four times this year.

Main functions and focus this past year:

- Following complaints, there was a discussion and decision made about signing communications on behalf of the (named) committee, to clarify where the communication is coming from, rather than a named person.
- The committee collaborated on writing the Terms of Reference (June 2024)
- Challenges of WhatsApp communications and issues facing local groups have been explored - having Nell Seal as the bridge between local groups and the national FSA is proving fruitful.
- Added working principle statements to the 'approachability' value.
- Supported the use of data generated from the skills audit to identify trustee needs for trustee recruitment

Emma Briscoe, External Committee Secretary

### **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee** (staff and trustees)

This committee functions as the FSA treasurer - see report below.



## **FSA Annual Management Report 2024-2025**

### **April 2025**

#### **Executive Summary**

This annual management report provides an overview of the Forest School Association's activities, achievements, and strategic developments from May 2024 to April 2025. During this period, the FSA has undergone significant changes while continuing to advance its mission of promoting quality Forest School education.

#### **Key Achievements and Milestones**

##### **1. Organisational Restructuring**

- After careful consideration, the FSA made the CEO role redundant from 13th June 2025. This change is part of a move towards a more sustainable and efficient leadership model.
- Matt Harder, the current Deputy Chair, is working closely with the internal committee to ensure a smooth transition and maintain operational continuity.
- A new operational framework is being developed to define roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes, ensuring clarity and efficiency as the organisation adapts to the absence of a dedicated CEO.

##### **2. Strategic Positioning**

- The FSA has redefined its role as a learning community, emphasising collaboration among members to define and refine best practices in Forest School education.
- This shift aims to make the FSA more inclusive and responsive to the needs of its members while maintaining its position as the UK's leading professional body for Forest School.

##### **3. Events and Conferences**

- The 2024 conference was a success, bringing together practitioners and providing opportunities for learning and networking.
- The symposium in 2024, held in partnership with Liverpool University, was well-received, with international participation and valuable insights shared.

##### **4. App Development**

- Progress has been made on the development of the FSA app, with internal testing and feedback collection underway.
- Efforts are ongoing to secure funding for further development and to ensure the app meets the needs of Forest School leaders.

##### **5. Membership and Community Engagement**

- Membership numbers have remained stable, with a focus on enhancing the value offered to members.
- Work has continued to strengthen ties with local groups and to support their activities.



## **Financial Performance**

The FSA has maintained a steady financial position throughout the year, with careful management of resources. The profit and loss accounts show a surplus, reflecting prudent financial stewardship.

## **Challenges and Areas for Improvement**

### **1. Operational Framework**

The transition to a different leadership model will require a clear operational framework. We are working diligently to ensure all roles and responsibilities are defined, fostering a culture of trust and clarity across the organisation. This process remains a core challenge, as it is critical to ensuring operational efficiency and effective governance.

### **2. Staff and Volunteer Support**

Concerns about staff morale and well-being, particularly in relation to event planning and operational changes, have been a significant challenge. We are actively addressing these by developing clear communication, and expectation setting, to ensure staff and volunteers feel valued and supported during this period of transition.

### **3. Event Planning**

The decision not to hold a national conference in 2025 reflects the need for careful consideration of event formats and financial implications. Alternative event formats are being explored to maintain member engagement, but a clear strategy is still in development.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Finalise the Operational Framework**

Complete the development of the operational framework to provide clarity and support for staff and volunteers.

### **2. Develop a Clear Event Strategy**

Establish a clear strategy for events in 2025 and beyond, considering financial implications and member needs.

### **3. Enhance Staff and Volunteer Support**

Implement measures to support staff and volunteers, including clear communication and expectation setting.

### **4. Continue App Development**

Secure funding and resources to progress the app development, ensuring it meets the needs of Forest School leaders.

The FSA remains committed to its mission and to serving its members. By addressing the challenges and implementing the recommendations outlined, we can continue to promote quality Forest School education and support our community effectively.



## Membership Statistics

Membership Type	2023-2024	2024-2025
Individual Members	1038	938
Trainee Members	214	169
Associate Members	129	105
Recognised Providers	74	72
Registered Trainers	2	4
Endorsed Trainers	14	18
Total Paid Memberships	1485	1306

*Note: Membership figures were adjusted in February 2025 following an error relating to members paying by Direct Debit.*

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## Projects and Initiatives

### App Development:

The development of the FSA app has progressed, with internal playtesting conducted and feedback being collected. Efforts are underway to address technical issues and to prepare for external testing. The app aims to support Forest School leaders in evaluating their programs and ensuring alignment with best practices. Funding opportunities are being explored, including a potential Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Herts University.

### Newsletter:

The newsletter continues to perform well, with over 5,000 recipients and approximately 38% actively opening it. Work is needed to clean up the Mailchimp account to remove inactive accounts and reduce costs.

### Certified Courses Scheme (CCS):

There is ongoing demand for a mechanism to advertise high-quality training. The CCS could serve this need, and a business case is being developed to assess feasibility.

### Presentations and Webinars:

FSA staff and volunteers have delivered lectures and webinars, including a presentation at Häme University in Finland. Additional support is needed to maintain the webinar archive and ensure sustainability.

### Recognised Provider Scheme:

Recognised Providers: The scheme continues to be promoted through free half-termly webinars and social media. The Recognised Provider Working Group is currently developing an online support resource for both applicants and existing providers. A trial series of themed online discussion sessions is also underway, shaped by topics identified by Recognised Providers themselves.

### Endorsed Trainer Scheme:

The scheme continues to grow steadily, with new applicants joining each year. A face-to-face CPD



gathering brought endorsed trainers together from across the UK, and quarterly online meetings have now been introduced to support ongoing connection and development. Trainers are currently contributing to the review of the national suite of Forest School qualifications in partnership with the Awarding Organisation Forum. They are also involved in revising the scheme's Terms of Reference and drafting new Guidance Notes for the wider membership.

#### **Local Groups**

The network of Local Groups, currently active across England, meets quarterly with FSA National to share successes, discuss challenges, and strengthen regional practice. Work is underway to introduce a new annual declaration process to support good governance, and to explore revenue-sharing models aimed at increasing local capacity and sustainability.

#### **Symposium:**

Work is progressing on an extended abstract for the symposium proceedings. Plans are being considered for a follow-up event in 2027.

#### **Jobs:**

The process for job postings is functioning efficiently.

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#### **Governance and Leadership**

The FSA has undergone significant changes in its organisational structure, with the CEO role being made redundant from 13th June 2025 as part of a move towards a more sustainable leadership model. As the CEO role comes to an end, the trustees and staff are focused on developing a new operational framework that distributes leadership responsibilities across the organisation. This restructuring is designed to increase operational flexibility and ensure that the FSA remains responsive to member needs.

The development of the operational framework is closely tied to the transition plan, with a focus on clarifying roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes to support the distributed leadership model.

The decision to make the CEO role redundant was made after careful consideration by the trustees, with the aim of creating a more sustainable structure. The trustees and staff have been actively involved in the restructuring process, ensuring that the transition is managed smoothly and that the FSA continues to meet the needs of its members. The membership will be kept informed about these changes, and feedback will be welcomed as part of our commitment to transparency and inclusivity.

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## Finances

The FSA's DRAFT profit and loss accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024 are as follows:

### Forest School Association

#### Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

	31.8.24	£	31.8.23	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
<b>Memberships</b>	52,174		52,317	
<b>Conferences</b>	48,920		16,208	
<b>Donations</b>	25		700	
<b>Grant funding</b>	17,246		8,562	
<b>Book sales</b>	6,772		16,860	
		<u>125,137</u>		<u>94,647</u>
<b>Other income</b>				
<b>Sundry receipts</b>		4,816		1,078
		<u>129,953</u>		<u>95,725</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<b>Rent</b>	3,600		1,850	
<b>Insurance</b>	267		267	
<b>Wages</b>	59,436		58,783	
<b>Social security</b>	300		417	
<b>Pensions</b>	1,393		1,328	
<b>Subcontractors</b>	16,670		15,666	
<b>Computer expenses</b>	6,645		2,268	
<b>Advertising</b>	1,326		1,130	
<b>Administration fees</b>	4,915		5,758	
<b>Meeting and conference expenses</b>	20,672		25,142	
<b>Sundry expenses</b>	600		11	
<b>Conference accrual correction</b>	(45,171)		-	
<b>Ashden Trust book expenses</b>	1,174		16,906	
<b>Nature Premium Campaign</b>	-		17,246	
<b>Accountancy</b>	1,018		1,284	
		<u>72,845</u>		<u>148,056</u>
		<u>57,108</u>		<u>(52,331)</u>
<b>Finance costs</b>				
<b>Bank charges</b>		1,938		1,391
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<u>55,170</u>		<u>(53,722)</u>

The full accounts are available on the Charity Commission website.



## Future Plans and Strategic Direction

The FSA is committed to continuing its work in promoting quality Forest School education. Looking ahead, the FSA will focus on the following specific goals to address key challenges and advance our strategic objectives:

- **Finalising the New Operational Framework:** We will complete the development of the operational framework to ensure effective leadership and governance, providing clarity for staff, volunteers, and trustees as we transition to a different leadership model.
- **Exploring and Implementing Alternative Event Formats:** We will establish a clear event strategy for 2025 and beyond, exploring innovative formats such as virtual webinars, regional workshops, and hybrid events to maintain member engagement while balancing financial considerations.
- **Strengthening Our Digital Presence and Securing Funding for the App:** We will actively pursue funding opportunities, including partnerships and grants, to support the next phase of the FSA app's development, ensuring it becomes a valuable tool for Forest School leaders.
- **Enhancing the Support System for Staff and Volunteers:** We will implement robust support measures to ensure staff and volunteers feel valued and supported during this period of significant organisational change.
- **Strengthening Ties with Local Groups:** We will explore revenue-sharing models and collaborative initiatives with local groups to enhance community engagement and support grassroots Forest School activities.

By focusing on these priorities, the FSA aims to build on its successes, address the challenges faced, and ensure it remains a vibrant and effective professional body.

## Document Details

<b>Filename:</b>	FOR S-Limited company accounts 2024 FINAL.PDF
<b>Client of:</b>	Laytons Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers Ltd

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## Signature Details

<b>Name:</b>	Tilly Hogrebe
<b>Email:</b>	enquiries@forestschoollassociation.org
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	27/05/2025 10:36:22 AM (BST)
<b>IP Address:</b>	83.105.68.123
<b>Signing Statement:</b>	Forest School Association confirms that the information is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief.

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**Report of the Directors and**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31st August 2024**  
**for**  
**Forest School Association**

Forest School Association

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for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

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Forest School Association

Company Information  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

**DIRECTORS:**

**G S Mason  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder  
P A Moseley  
Ms E R Briscoe  
Ms L Harvey  
Ms E L Lawson**

**REGISTERED OFFICE:**

**Unit A  
82 James Carter Road  
Mildenhall  
IP28 7DE**

**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

**08164851 (England and Wales)**

**ACCOUNTANTS:**

**Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB**

Forest School Association

Report of the Directors  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

**The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st August 2024.**

**DIRECTORS**

**The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st September 2023 to the date of this report.**

**G S Mason  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder**

**Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:**

**L E Ambrose - resigned 17th March 2024  
Ms C A Middleton - resigned 17th March 2024  
P A Moseley - appointed 3rd October 2023  
Ms E R Briscoe - appointed 1st June 2024  
Ms L Harvey - appointed 1st June 2024  
Ms E L Lawson - appointed 1st June 2024**

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

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

**G S Mason - Director**

**24th May 2025**

Forest School Association

Abridged Income Statement  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

	31.8.24 £	31.8.23 £
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>	<b>129,953</b>	<b>95,725</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	<b>74,783</b>	<b>149,447</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) and SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>	<b>55,170</b>	<b>(53,722)</b>
<b>Tax on surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>55,170</b>	<b>(53,722)</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Abridged Balance Sheet  
31st August 2024

	31.8.24	31.8.23
	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	1,349	2,494
Cash at bank	44,442	50,104
	<u>45,791</u>	<u>52,598</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	14,947	76,924
	<u>14,947</u>	<u>76,924</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<u>30,844</u>	<u>(24,326)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>30,844</u>	<u>(24,326)</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Income and expenditure account	30,844	(24,326)
	<u>30,844</u>	<u>(24,326)</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st August 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

All the members have consented to the preparation of an abridged Income Statement and an abridged Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st August 2024 in accordance with Section 444(2A) of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 24th May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

**G S Mason - Director**

**1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Forest School Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Turnover**

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

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

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

**3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2023 - 3).

Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors  
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of  
Forest School Association

**In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association for the year ended 31st August 2024 which comprise the Abridged Income Statement, Abridged Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.**

**As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed within the ICAEW's regulations and guidance at <http://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.**

**This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Forest School Association and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.**

**It is your duty to ensure that Forest School Association has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Forest School Association. You consider that Forest School Association is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.**

**We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Forest School Association. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.**

**Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB**

**24th May 2025**

Forest School Association

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2024

	31.8.24		31.8.23	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
<b>Memberships</b>	52,174		52,317	
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		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
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		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		57,108		(52,331)
<b>Finance costs</b>				
<b>Bank charges</b>		1,938		1,391
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		55,170		(53,722)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Independent Examiner's report to the Directors of Forest School Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2024, which are set out on pages 3 to 7 of the annual accounts.

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Examiner

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The company's gross income has not exceeded £250,000. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To following the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

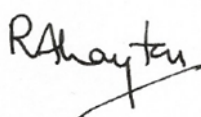
(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

Have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:



Robert Layton



**Laytons** CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SB  
PHONE: 01298 77997 FAX: 01298 72803

Relevant Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Laytons Chartered Accountants, 6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9SB

Date: 25-04-2025

**FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1155616

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# Accounts

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Report of the Directors and  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023  
  
for  
Forest School Association

Forest School Association

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

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Income Statement	3
Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Chartered Accountants' Report	6
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	7

Forest School Association

Company Information  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

DIRECTORS:

L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder  
Ms C A Middleton

REGISTERED OFFICE:

15 Lammermoor Road  
Liverpool  
L18 4QP

REGISTERED NUMBER:

08164851 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

Forest School Association

Report of the Directors  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st August 2023.

DIRECTORS

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st September 2022 to the date of this report.

L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

Dr S A Collins - resigned 8th December 2022  
Mrs J A Phillips - resigned 5th September 2022  
Ms C A Middleton - appointed 14th December 2022

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

G S Mason - Director

28th May 2024

Forest School Association

Income Statement  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

	31.8.23 £	31.8.22 £
TURNOVER	94,647	178,605
Administrative expenses	149,447	177,592
	<u>(54,800)</u>	<u>1,013</u>
Other operating income	1,078	767
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	<u>(53,722)</u>	<u>1,780</u>
Interest payable and similar expenses	-	5
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	<u>(53,722)</u>	<u>1,775</u>
Tax on (deficit)/surplus	-	-
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	<u><u>(53,722)</u></u>	<u><u>1,775</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Forest School Association (Registered number: 08164851)

Balance Sheet  
31st August 2023

	Notes	31.8.23 £	31.8.22 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	4	2,494	962
Cash at bank		50,104	85,393
		<u>52,598</u>	<u>86,355</u>
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	76,924	56,959
		<u>(24,326)</u>	<u>29,396</u>
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS			
		<u>(24,326)</u>	<u>29,396</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>(24,326)</u>	<u>29,396</u>
RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account	6	(24,326)	29,396
		<u>(24,326)</u>	<u>29,396</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st August 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 28th May 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

G S Mason - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

## Forest School Association

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

#### 1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Forest School Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

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

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

#### 3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2022 - 3).

#### 4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£	£
Trade debtors	570	-
Prepayments	1,924	962
	<u>2,494</u>	<u>962</u>

#### 5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.23	31.8.22
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	(194)	(163)
Grant	31,652	23,090
Accruals and deferred income	45,466	34,032
	<u>76,924</u>	<u>56,959</u>

#### 6. RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account £
At 1st September 2022	29,396
Deficit for the year	<u>(53,722)</u>
At 31st August 2023	<u><u>(24,326)</u></u>

Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors  
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of  
Forest School Association

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association for the year ended 31st August 2023 which comprise the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed within the ICAEW's regulations and guidance at <http://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Forest School Association and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Forest School Association has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and loss of Forest School Association. You consider that Forest School Association is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Forest School Association. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

28th May 2024

Forest School Association

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

	31.8.23		31.8.22	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Memberships	52,317		46,301	
Conferences	16,208		50,154	
Donations	700		500	
Grant funding	8,562		57,790	
Book sales	16,860		23,860	
	<u>          </u>	94,647	<u>          </u>	178,605
Other income				
Sundry receipts		1,078		767
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		95,725		179,372
Expenditure				
Rent	1,850		2,750	
Insurance	267		267	
Wages	58,783		56,400	
Social security	417		1,150	
Pensions	1,328		1,276	
Subcontractors	15,666		13,884	
Telephone and website	2,268		2,196	
Post and stationery	8,134		3,045	
Advertising	1,130		-	
Travelling	-		215	
Administration fees	5,758		6,521	
Meeting and conference expenses	25,142		36,197	
Sundry expenses	11		28	
Ashden Trust book expenses	8,772		11,375	
Nature Premium Campaign	17,246		39,758	
Accountancy	1,284		474	
	<u>          </u>	148,056	<u>          </u>	175,536
		(52,331)		3,836
Finance costs				
Bank charges	1,391		2,056	
Interest payable	-		5	
	<u>          </u>	1,391	<u>          </u>	2,061
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
		(53,722)		1,775

## Independent Examiner's report to the Directors of Forest School Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 7 of the annual accounts.

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Examiner

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The company's gross income has not exceeded £250,000. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To following the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
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### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

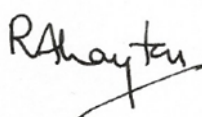
(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

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- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

Have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:



Robert Layton



**Laytons** CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SB  
PHONE: 01298 77997 FAX: 01298 72803

Relevant Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Laytons Chartered Accountants, 6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9SB

Date: 30-05-2024



## **FSA Annual Report for 2023- 2024**

### **Chair's Report**

As birds sing outside my window, the scent of last night's rain reminds me of the storm; I sit here reflecting on the challenges and achievements of the past year. At a time when the world is rocked by tumultuous conflicts, individually and as the FSA, we face issues that test our resolve to build community in an increasingly polarised political landscape.

Our conference was a grand Celebration of 30 years of Connection, complete with cake, sunshine, inspirational talks, and workshops. As always, conversations and relationship-building proved to be powerful motivators. Our learning community engaged as we consulted with conference on the Sunday morning.

We heard from members about the difficulties they face in schools, staff shortages, the ongoing fallout from the pandemic, and less time in the woods with more children. Budget restrictions and conflicting agendas make life tricky for senior leadership teams, and difficult decisions must be made. Running a Forest School business has become harder for many self-employed leaders and trainers, noticing a shift in the client groups approaching them. There seems to be a growing awareness of the value of quality Forest School programmes for children and young people needing nurturing and help to deal with anxiety. Yet, the pots of money to fund long-term programmes grow ever smaller.

We remain committed to supporting the work of the Nature Premium campaign. We believe wholeheartedly that children and young people need frequent and regular access to rich natural learning experiences to thrive and learn to care for the planet. This campaign is directly working towards the FSA's vision, providing every school with the funding to access Forest School alongside other nature-based learning.

Our annual strategy weekend allowed us to reflect on our progress with governance, the members' needs, and the groups they serve. We will continue to work on our values and update and develop policies that reflect them this year. Our four committees (Finance Audit and Risk, External, Internal, and Policy and Procedure) comprised trustees, staff, and volunteers who advised the board throughout the year. External advisers may be brought onto committees as necessary.

Two trustees, Carol Middleton and Louise Ambrose, have stepped down this year. We thank them both and know they will continue to advocate for the FSA and 'quality Forest School for all'. A very special mention must be made of Lou's steadfast and visionary support for the FSA. As a founding member, she has been a voice of encouragement and reason. Her voluntary work on the webinars, marketing, and developing the local groups will be hugely missed.

We look forward to reaching a wider audience with an electronic version of our book, trialling the long-awaited app, exploring research at the first Forest School Symposium and welcoming people to this year's conference, 'Kindling Curiosity, Courage and Resilience'.

We do this work because Forest School offers a loving pedagogy at a time when people of all ages need to be connected to nature. The commitment and generosity of our volunteer members make creating a reflective, inclusive learning community that can learn from mistakes and work collaboratively increasingly possible.

This report follows a slightly different format from last year. It is a pared-down document, yet it still evidences the huge amount of energy and expertise that has gone into supporting members and the broader Forest School community.

I commend this report to you and, on behalf of the board, offer thanks to our staff team, Gareth, Nic, and Nell, as well as all of the volunteers and members who support and challenge us as we seek to be part of the solution.

Sarah Lawfull - 02/05/24

*The best predictor for adult life satisfaction is subjective well-being and emotional health during childhood*

## **FSA Annual Management Report May 2024**

02/05/24

Gareth Wyn davies

FSA CEO

### **Executive Summary**

This annual management report collates and analyses key activities, outcomes, and strategic directions from quarterly management reports spanning from June 2023 to March 2024. The Forest School Association (FSA) remains committed to enhancing the understanding and access to quality Forest School (FS) education across the UK, focusing on professional standards, advocacy, and member services.

### **Key Achievements and Milestones**

1. Professional Standards and Training
  - Significant strides have been made in establishing national professional standards for FS, ensuring these are recognised and understood across the industry.
  - We have continued to advocate for FS education, which has resulted in a better understanding of FSA's role and offerings by industry and market alike.
2. Membership and Community Engagement
  - The number of FSA Recognised FS Providers grew, reaching 83 by March 2024.
  - Increased engagement through webinars, with notable participation online, aiding in continuous professional development and community building.
  - Successful implementation of a mutual discount scheme with the IOL bushcraft group, enhancing cross-pollination of skills and increasing diversity at FSA events.
3. Operational Enhancements
  - Introducing new admin systems to streamline operations, including better-automating member enquiries and book sales.
  - Recruitment and orientation processes for new staff and volunteers were enhanced to improve role clarity and operational efficiency.
4. Strategic Partnerships and External Liaison
  - Active participation in FENE and Forestry Skills Forum establishes FSA's presence and influence in broader environmental and educational

settings.

- Progress in the Nature Premium campaign, focusing on securing sustainable funding and government support for nature-based education.
5. Marketing and Fundraising
- Rebranding and reorganising the FSA website, improving user experience and accessibility of information.
  - Preliminary discussions on launching a legacy scheme for donations, although more progress is needed in this area.

## **Challenges and Areas for Improvement**

### **1. Strategic Clarity and Market Alignment**

- Ongoing challenges in defining FSA's identity and aligning services with market demand, as highlighted during the strategic weekend discussions.
- Organisational objectives and activities must be clearly communicated to maximise the promotion of quality FS education.

### **2. Funding and Resource Allocation**

- Securing additional funding remains critical to enhance marketing, volunteer management capabilities, and the development of the FSA app.
- Given current capacity limitations, balancing resource allocation between setting standards and supporting industry/member needs.

### **3. Administrative and Operational Capacity**

- The administrative burden has increased, necessitating recruiting a dedicated admin role to support ongoing projects and free up capacity for strategic initiatives.

### **4. Technology Development**

- Continued development and funding are required for the FSA app to reach its full potential and provide robust data and support for FS leaders.

### **5. Deepen Engagement with Local Groups**

- Explore innovative ways to support local groups through rebates or shared revenue models to strengthen grassroots connections and membership growth.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Enhance Strategic Communication**

- To enhance engagement and support, develop a unified message that resonates clearly with both internal stakeholders and the broader FS community.

## 2. Expand and Diversify Funding Streams

- To secure sustainable financial growth, actively pursue diverse funding opportunities, including grants, partnerships, and donation schemes.

## 3. Strengthen Administrative Support

- Consider appointing a half-time administration coordinator to handle routine activities and support all areas of FSA activity, thus enabling focus on project and business development.

## 4. Prioritise Technology Upgrades

- Allocate necessary resources for the second phase of the FSA app development to ensure it meets the growing needs of FS educators and leaders.

## 5. Deepen Engagement with Local Groups

- Explore innovative ways to support local groups through rebates or shared revenue models to strengthen grassroots connections and membership growth.

The FSA continues to make significant strides in advocating for and supporting quality Forest School education. By addressing the outlined strategic challenges and implementing the recommended actions, the FSA can enhance its impact and sustainability in the coming years, ensuring it remains at the forefront of the Forest School movement.

### Membership Figures

Membership Type	2022 (April)	2023 (April)	2023 (May)
Trainee Member	342	279	214
Associate Member	115	123	129
Individual Member	895	989	1038
FSA Recognised Forest School Provider	59	66	74
Trainer (FSA Endorsed)	11	12	14
Trainer (FSA Registered)	3	4	2
Honorary Member	2	2	2

Local Group (affiliated only from 2023)	20	12	12
TOTAL	1447	1487	1485

Note: FSA Recognised FS Providers may have multiple individuals. Accounts past due are not included (267).

## Detailed reports on specific work areas

### External Liaison (Sarah Lawfull)

#### FENE Developments:

- Strategic communication enhancements were discussed to highlight all network organisations' contributions better.
- Forestry England supports the development of forestry education infrastructure, focusing on training woodland owners and managers.
- Advocacy for FSA's Recognised Providers and Endorsed Trainers' schemes to foster woodland ecology and career paths in outdoor woodland-based sectors.

#### Nature Premium:

- Advancement of the Nature Premium campaign to secure governmental backing for regular nature experiences for children, with FSA playing a co-chair role.
- Developing a Social Bridging Finance model to fund and test innovative educational policies effectively.

#### Administration (Nic Reporting)

- Addressing ongoing administrative challenges, including peaks in enquiries and the broadening scope of project administration.
- Implementation of new systems to enhance operational efficiency and alleviate administrative burdens.

#### Book Sales (Nic Harding Reporting)

- The transition from physical book sales to focusing on developing and distributing an ebook format to reach international audiences.

#### Newsletter (Nic Harding Reporting)

- Efforts to sustain engagement through the newsletter with consistent opening rates; strategies in place to manage subscriber lists and reduce operational costs. Thank you, super volunteer Grammar Ninjas!

#### Conferences and Symposiums

- **Conference 2023:** Successfully executed with actionable feedback for future improvements.
- **Conference 2024:** Plans developed to deliver the conference at Danbury, Essex, again this year.
- **Symposium 2024:** Preparation is underway, with significant international participation anticipated and various logistical details being finalised.

#### **Local Groups (Louise Ambrose Reporting)**

- Ongoing importance of local groups in engaging members, with regular meetings planned and coordinated by FSA.

#### **Wednesday Webinars (Matt Harder Reporting)**

- Continuation of the webinar series attracting viewership; plans to enhance production quality by recruiting video editing expertise.

#### **Awarding Organisations Forum (Lily Horseman Reporting)**

- Collaborative efforts with educational organisations to align Forest School qualifications with sector needs and standards.

#### **FSA Recognised Forest School Provider Scheme (Nell Seal Reporting)**

- Increase in the number of Recognised Providers with continuous revisions to the application processes to enhance efficiency.
- Introduction of mandatory informational webinars for potential applicants to ensure transparency and efficiency in the application process.

#### **FSA Endorsed Trainers - QA Scheme and Group (Nell Seal Reporting)**

- Expansion and refinement of the Endorsed Trainers programme, focusing on maintaining high standards and providing support through guidance notes and collaborative discussions.

#### **The Research App (Nic Harding)**

- Development and launch of the MVP for the FSA app, focusing on enhancing functionality and exploring funding opportunities for future improvements.

# Accounts

Forest School Association

## Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

	31.8.23		31.8.22	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
Memberships	52,317		46,301	
Conferences	16,208		50,154	
Donations	700		500	
Grant funding	8,562		57,790	
Book sales	16,860		23,860	
	<u>          </u>	94,647	<u>          </u>	178,605
<b>Other income</b>				
Sundry receipts		1,078		767
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		95,725		179,372
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Rent	1,850		2,750	
Insurance	267		267	
Wages	58,783		56,400	
Social security	417		1,150	
Pensions	1,328		1,276	
Subcontractors	15,666		13,884	
Telephone and website	2,268		2,196	
Post and stationery	8,134		3,045	
Advertising	1,130		-	
Travelling	-		215	
Administration fees	5,758		6,521	
Meeting and conference expenses	25,142		36,197	
Sundry expenses	11		28	
Ashden Trust book expenses	8,772		11,375	
Nature Premium Campaign	17,246		39,758	
Accountancy	1,284		474	
	<u>          </u>	148,056	<u>          </u>	175,536
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		(52,331)		3,836
<b>Finance costs</b>				
Bank charges	1,391		2,056	
Interest payable	-		5	
	<u>          </u>	1,391	<u>          </u>	2,061
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>		<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
		(53,722)		1,775

... END ...

**FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1155616

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# Accounts

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## **FSA Annual Report for 2022 - 2023**

### **Chair's Report**

#### ***Context***

Thirty years ago, nursery nurses at Bridgwater College brought back inspirational early years 'Forest School' practice from Denmark, little knowing they were creating a pedagogical approach that would change the educational landscape and, two decades later, would give rise to the FSA.

As a relatively young charity (we celebrated our 10th birthday at the last conference), the FSA has grown quite organically. Envisioned by committed and professional individuals from the wider Forest School community, then tended and nurtured by FSA trustees, staff, and volunteers.

Last year the CEO, Chair and board acknowledged we had reached a new stage of development and needed a more professional approach, engaging the expertise of a governance officer, Meg Boyle, to review and update our documentation and processes. Thus, 2022 has seen us accessing training for trustees, grappling with governance issues and developing a Trustee's Handbook to enable us all to perform our roles to the highest standards of good governance, demonstrate competence, and bring our professionalism to the organisation.

The values working group has been working to create the FSA values into workable and actionable documents, allowing the values to be implemented effectively by all working groups, volunteers and staff. The values will act as a screening process for new projects or decisions the FSA must take.

Trustees and staff generously spent a weekend delving deeper into our values and considering the governance officer's recommendations. We will implement new board structures and processes in the coming months and prepare to welcome new trustees in 2024.

### ***Future-proofing***

Writing an annual report allows me to look back with gratitude to reflect on the hard work and commitment shown by our staff, board, and many volunteers. Revisiting the Forest School principles, our [charitable purpose](#) and our [Members Code of Conduct](#) in the context of the significant issues facing schools, families and society, I know quality Forest School is needed more than ever.

At a time when war is still waging in Europe, global temperatures continue to rise, more species become extinct, and political, social and economic turmoil bring more uncertainty into the lives of people of all ages, Forest School leaders and trainers are bringing the joy and hope of playful nature connection into their communities. Many are addressing issues of hunger, poverty and discrimination through their programmes.

This past year has given us many opportunities to demonstrate that 'We are an inclusive, forward-looking and democratic membership organisation' (FSA website). In this time of global disasters, we must be ever more flexible and adaptable; we all have much to learn. Balancing the needs of our groups with the pressures on the education system whilst seeking to uphold the ethos and principles of Forest School will not always be easy.

I commend this report to you. You will read how our professional association builds community through conferences, webinars and affiliated local groups and how our schemes raise the professional standing of Forest School providers and trainers. Our resources promote quality Forest School and support ongoing professional development, whilst our advocacy work with other organisations brings the Forest School ethos and principles to a broader audience. Gareth's management report shows how the FSA will continue to work to bring quality Forest School into the lives of more people of all ages.

### ***Thank you!***

We thank you for being a member of the Forest School Association. Without you, the FSA would not function. As you read this report, please consider how you might contribute ideas, share practice, and offer practical support to serve the FSA, locally and nationally.

Sarah Lawfull - April 2023

# FSA Annual Management Report 2023

Gareth Wyn-Davies - FSA CEO

## **Overview**

The FSA has pursued its mission to ‘maximise the number of people who understand and can access quality Forest School’, and we have worked towards our primary goals to ‘increase the demand for and supply of quality Forest School’ and ‘increase membership’.

In 2022 we agreed on some fundamental principles that would guide our efforts. These were:

1. The FSA will be more focused and better at doing fewer things.
2. If the FSA is the professional body for Forest School in the UK, then it must be able to act professionally in all ways.
3. The work of the FSA will be orientated towards the support of members, the wider Forest School community and the public across three broad public-facing work areas.
4. Our development work will be restricted to urgent and essential activities until all these have been completed.
5. Work areas and specific activities will be logically sequenced to create the necessary scaffolding.

I am pleased to report that these principles have helped us to make significant progress in refining and professionalising our operations. It is still a work in progress, but we are now much better at matching our activities to organisational objectives, and internal and external communication has improved. This results from improved management processes, particularly in the appraisal of new ideas and evaluation of work done. Essentially, we are now better at ensuring the right people have the correct information at the right time. It’s not perfect, but certainly much better than it was, and we have a clear road for improvement ahead of us.

A significant task this year has been to bring all administrative processes ‘in-house’. The FSA was formed as a Special Interest Group of the Institute of Outdoor Learning (IOL). When the FSA became an independent organisation in 2012, the IOL supported us and offered us their offices and staff to fulfil most administrative functions. Inevitably, there are many efficiencies to be found in managing the administration ourselves, and this year we decided to ‘go it alone’. It is a strange feeling to have ‘flown the nest’, and we are very grateful to the IOL for all their support over the past ten years. The FSA has joined IOL as an organisational member as our missions remain closely aligned.

One strategically severe issue in the FSA is the limited management capacity in the organisation. We cannot fully unlock the potential volunteer effort from within the membership. We have one full-time staff member, two part-time staff members, and some very welcome volunteer management support. Although the situation is much better than it used to be, there is enough work for us to employ full-time a Standards Manager, a Volunteer Manager, a Research Coordinator, a Marketing and Communications Manager, and additional technical support.

Nevertheless, we will continue to work towards our strategic plan and deliver activities that support positive outcomes in three work areas.

### **Work Area 1: Developing and maintaining professional standards for FS practice and training**

- FSA can influence professional standards across the FS industry
- Gov policy/Ofsted understands how to interpret FS in settings and the benefits
- Local authorities and other defined territories can access support for FS development
- Senior leadership teams understand the benefits of quality FS provision
- National professional standards for FS established and understood by the industry and the market

### **Work Area 2: Advocacy for and promotion of quality FS education (for all) and role of FSA as the professional body**

- Capacity for effective marketing and communication
- Industry-wide understanding of the FSA and its offer
- Market-wide understanding of FS's differentiated offer and its benefits

### **Work Area 3: Professional services for FSA Members. Helping FSA members to work to the professional standards**

- A strong network of supported FSA-affiliated local groups
- A supported and influential group of FSA Endorsed FS Trainers
- A supported group of FSA Recognised FS Providers cooperating
- Up-to-date professional information provided to members
- Improved communication between FS professionals

In addition, we will continue to build our capacity and capabilities as an organisation. We will explore new opportunities with a clear link to our work areas. One exciting new project being developed is the world's first academic conference focusing solely on Forest School research. The title of this symposium will be '*The Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Practices and Principles of Forest School*'. It will be delivered in partnership with, and hosted by, the University of Liverpool (26th – 28th of June 2024).

Please read on to learn about the great work that has happened this year.

## Membership Figures (paid up or valid at this time)

Membership Type	2022 (April)	2023 (April)
Trainee Member	342	279
Associate Member	115	123
Individual Member	895	989
FSA Recognised Forest School Provider	59	66
Trainer (FSA Endorsed)	11	12
Trainer (FSA Registered)	3	4
Honorary Member	2	2
Local Group (affiliated only from 2023)	20	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>1487</b>

Note: FSA Recognised FS Providers may have multiple individuals within their account

## Updates on specific activity

### Local Groups

The FSA supports a number of local groups formed by FSA members and which run as independent organisations. We currently have 13 affiliated local groups, the most recent ones being London and Cambridgeshire. We also have a new emergent group growing interest in North Wales.

Each group nominates a national representative who meet with the other national reps online 4 times a year. Together this group of national reps network, share practice and support each other.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who generously offer their time to organize skill shares, events and CPD trainings for their local Forest School community.

## **Awarding Organisations Forum**

The Awarding Organisation (AO) forum, hosted by the Forest School Association, has 8 members representing Forest School qualifications being offered in England, Scotland and Wales.

Representatives from 6 AOs in England have worked with the FSA this year to review the suite of qualifications on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). The FSA Endorsed trainers and AO forum agreed that the current qualifications are fit for purpose and small revisions were needed for clarification or to make sure that the wording fits with best practice in the wording of the criteria. The review is now with the Awarding Bodies and will go live in the summer. The group continues to meet as there are questions about a bigger review for the 2026 update.

The review took on board the experience of the FSA Endorsed Trainers who deliver the qualification. In addition, consultation went out to all trainers through the AO's and to those who have registered an interest with the FSA.

Despite the changes being mostly 'tweaks' this process still takes several meetings and discussions to try and give clarity and consistency to the wording. We are grateful to the AO's for engaging in such a collaborative way.

## **External Liaison**

### ***Forest Education Network England***

The FSA has continued to support FENE through regular attendance at the steering group meetings and engagement with policy discussions. Organisations within the network turn to the FSA for guidance on the ethos and principles of Forest School, especially where they share sites with Forest School practitioners. They want to know what quality Forest School looks like and how best to encourage and support the Forest School leaders they come into contact with.

We provided a well-attended workshop at the Treeregeneration conference in the National Forest, helping educators to inspire young people to learn about, care for and work with trees and woodlands. It was great to meet FSA members there.

Our links to the Forestry Skills Forum, the Forestry Commission and Forestry England greatly encourage us. The profile of the FSA and recognition of the valuable work carried out by our members is understood by colleagues across the member organisations and in the broader forestry sector.

The idea of Forest School providing a pipeline to careers in forestry and woodland-related employment is gaining momentum. In the past year, the Royal Forestry Society has worked with AIM Qualifications to create an L1 Award in Forestry in the

Community, which Forest School leaders may teach.

### ***Nature Premium Campaign***

The FSA board supported the move of the NP out of the organisation to become a Specialist Sector Group under the auspices of the Institute for Outdoor Learning. This has enabled the campaign to be an idea not owned by any one organisation, available as a concept that the government can adopt, and not attached to any 'brand'.

Trustees and members have provided ongoing support to the campaign. Two of the campaign's founders have stepped down as FSA trustees to focus on the campaign; Dr Sara Collins continues to hold everything together and provide direction, and Jo Phillips has taken responsibility for communications and social media. They are now ably supported by a steering group of organisations, including the FSA, the Harmony Project, the Woodland Trust, the Royal Forestry Society, the Country Trust, the Tree Council and the Garden Classroom.

### ***Community Forest and Woodland Outreach Project***

FSA members have been involved in the delivery of several of the five projects which made up this larger DEFRA/DfE-funded project, part of the Children and Nature Programme.

The CFWO project aimed to increase and test how to sustain community forest and woodland outreach activities being delivered to school children, particularly those in disadvantaged areas, and to support the delivery of the priority outcomes of the Children and Nature Programme: children's mental health and wellbeing, engagement with school, school attendance, pupil behaviour, physical health and care and concern for the environment.

We eagerly await the publication of the report by Natural England.

### **FSA Recognised Forest School Provider Scheme**

This recognition scheme enables those recognised to publicly demonstrate that they are facilitating FS experiences in line with all six FS principles.

We currently have 66 FSA Recognised FS Providers.

There are a further 31 providers who have paid to apply and are in the process of becoming FSA Recognised; hopefully, they will be added to the map.

Following a prolonged period, all current Recognised Providers have now provided evidence that their practice meets the benchmarks of the scheme that were revised in 2019. In seeking this additional evidence, we lost several providers.

In the last year, we have formed a Working Group comprised of Recognised Providers, Registered Trainers, Endorsed Trainers, staff and Trustees. This Working Group has planned, and partly delivered, a project to create a 'Support Resource' to help existing Recognised Providers and those applying to the scheme who wish to develop their practice. This will be a web-based resource.

The Working Group also created a survey for our existing Recognised Providers to gather their thoughts about the challenges they experience in their Forest School work and the areas they would like support from the FSA. We are using the results to guide us.

In 2022 we had our inaugural face-to-face meet-up of Recognised Providers at the National Conference, which we hope to repeat.

We plan to continue working on the Support Resource to prepare a version for the 2023 launch, submit a proposal for creating an online form for new applications, explore the possibility of offering online CPD for our existing Recognised Providers and establish a Basecamp community for providers.

### **FSA Endorsed Trainers - QA scheme and group**

This rigorous, three-stage quality assurance scheme currently has 12 Endorsed Trainers and 4 Registered Trainers, with an additional seven who have paid to apply and are beginning the process.

We held a face-to-face CPD event for trainers in Essex the day before our National Conference and a virtual session mid-way through the year. These are opportunities to reflect on benchmarks/professional standards and undertake training relevant to Forest School Trainers.

Stage 2 of the application process comprises a series of student interviews, and Stage 3 is a peer interview. Both stages are run by a small team of assessors which has had to grow in size in response to our number of applications.

Looking ahead, we plan to submit a proposal relating to an adjustment to the number of face-to-face hours we require from courses run by Endorsed Trainers; support the fledgling new qualification review; plan content for the upcoming face-to-face CPD event for Trainers in October; work with trainers to begin a series of Guidance Notes for members; and support our ongoing applicants.

## **Projects**

### ***App***

In 2019, the FSA received funding to develop an app designed to collect extensive participation data around the effectiveness of Forest School to expand research and inform policy whilst providing a tool to show a student's progression over time using information from FS leaders', parents and self-reported data. The APP is currently in development. However, there are some issues, and we are not near the production of an MVP (Minimum Value Product). If and when the MVP is produced, we will enter a period of testing it and ensuring functionality before releasing it to the community. There will be an introductory period, after which there will be a small charge.

### ***Book***

The book, *Growing Forest School from the Roots Up*, continues to be strategically important in bringing people to the FSA/showcasing our knowledge and promoting the six principles of Forest School. It continues to help market and promote the Recognised Providers Scheme and the Endorsed Trainers. It is invaluable with admin tasks as it is easily pointed to as a source of information. So far, we have undertaken two print runs of 1000 books and have sold 1446 copies. We have expanded sales to eBay to increase the book's searchability and have had four sales. eBay also gives us an outlet for books returned after being damaged in transit/handling.

### ***Academic Symposium***

An international academic symposium exploring Forest School research is strategically important for the FSA. The project is still in development but will pull together research from different arenas/disciplines, creating a useful information source for influencing policy. Dates are set for the end of June 2024.

### ***Conference***

Conferences help the FSA to engage with members and to facilitate professional communication and sharing of knowledge. They are also financially crucial to the FSA, with high risk and potential rewards. To mitigate this risk, we tested a model to manage the conferences centrally in 2022, with local volunteer support. We will continue to develop this model during the delivery of the 2023 and 2024 conferences. Whilst this year's conference will return to Essex, we seek a northern venue for 2024.

## **Seminars**

The FSA has developed some more in-depth video content for members. The first three seminars are on the website but not currently visible. We hope these will be particularly useful to trainees, who will benefit from the experience of four very experienced practitioners and three very experienced trainers. This is another route to the road (towards quality Forest School) but may also have financial value as a product if the correct marketing/hosting can be found.

## **Certified Courses Scheme (CCS)**

The CCS is currently on hold but is 2/3 completed. There is still a huge need both practically in signposting to courses for members and strategically driving quality CPD into FS. The CCS is also important to build a network of trainers/CPD providers, strengthening our membership, diversifying skills, and accessing new markets. This service could be offered at discounted rates to members and possibly workshop providers from the conference.

## **Social media and jobs/events board**

Jobs and events are distributed on social media; the average time to schedule this through Canva is 10-15mins per post—important marketing for companies and us. Good feedback was received from one client who said 20% of views converted to more info and 10% to actual applications. Some initial teething problems, but they are now sorted and running well.

## **Newsletter**

Another essential tool is the weekly bulletin, connecting the FSA to its community via news stories and editorials. Clear boundaries and information are needed. They are maintaining a 36% open rate. Posts over 100 words get very little click-through traffic. Newsletter subscribers have a slow but steady increase. We rely heavily on our volunteers

## **Wednesday Webinars**

Since the last AGM, Wednesday Webinars have continued to be a very popular and welcomed resource from the FSA. Run entirely by volunteers, and we are grateful to them and the external speakers.

We have improved the formatting of the webinars to have consistent branding, and there is now a dedicated page for Wednesday Webinars on the FSA website. This allows registrations to go through the FSA website rather than solely through Zoom,

increasing our website traffic. It also provides for the possibility of hosting paid-for webinars in the future.

FSA book sales have been positively impacted by the Webinars, as tracked by the specific discount code.

We also ask for ongoing feedback from attendees and members. In response to suggestions on the feedback form, we have published a timetable for 2023, formatted the advertising and fonts to make them more accessible for dyslexia and other visual impairments, and listed many of the recordings on YouTube for people to access at any time. Other previous recordings have been listed behind the membership paywall on the FSA website for members to access freely.

Data for webinars since the last AGM:

Date	Title	Led by	Format	Registrations	Attendees	You Tube views	YouTube link
13.4.22	The Ludic Process, Nature Play Cycle and How We Interact with Play at Forest School	Lily Horseman & Jon Cree	Thicket	410 plus	137	1400	<a href="https://youtu.be/jkT8J2wUVG0">https://youtu.be/jkT8J2wUVG0</a>
4.05.22	Ask the Directors (before the AGM)	FSA Directors & Staff	Hearth			In Zoom, not processed	
15.6.22	Foraging at Forest School	Gemma Hindi	Thicket	135	49	private	<a href="https://youtu.be/3ngyD-PszA">https://youtu.be/3ngyD-PszA</a>
20.7.22	Introduction to Forest Bathing	Charlotte Atkinson	Thicket	182	55	474	<a href="https://youtu.be/qpubW3NP-50">https://youtu.be/qpubW3NP-50</a>
21.9.22	No Fear	Tim Gill	Thicket	160	62	286	<a href="https://youtu.be/i9jpwCyouY">https://youtu.be/i9jpwCyouY</a>
19.10.22	Ticks and Lyme Disease	Julia Knight & Suzanne Higginson	Thicket	108		198	<a href="https://youtu.be/M8RmRUzcAx8">https://youtu.be/M8RmRUzcAx8</a>

16.11.22	Winter Tree ID	James Kendall	Thicket	539	194	264	<a href="https://youtu.be/VWZCQIamRwA">https://youtu.be/VWZCQIamRwA</a>
14.12.22	A Yuletide Celebration	Jon Cree	Hearth	240	80	154	<a href="https://youtu.be/gmXowFVfyp0">https://youtu.be/gmXowFVfyp0</a>
18.1.23	Peoples Plan for Nature	Sarah Lawfull	Hearth	128	23	77	<a href="https://youtu.be/N7iCbWF0pJU">https://youtu.be/N7iCbWF0pJU</a>
15.2.23	Nature Connection, Kinship and Culture	Paul Moseley	Thicket	234	60	153	<a href="https://youtu.be/Yt9IAovdOBU">https://youtu.be/Yt9IAovdOBU</a>

Feedback from the webinars is always overwhelmingly positive:

“Very thought provoking! Thank You!” (Nature Connection, Kinship & Culture)

“Eye/mind opening very interesting, thanks” (Nature Connection, Kinship & Culture)

“Great session, thank you, really interesting and informative.” (Winter Tree ID)

“Thank you for sharing your knowledge. really helpful.” (Winter Tree ID)

“Thank you. very clear and interesting.....” (Winter Tree ID)

“Thank you to Jon and Everyone involved in producing this webinar. It was wonderful, so inspiring!” (Yuletide Celebration)

“You guys are GREAT - thank you” (No Fear)

# Accounts

## Forest School Association

### Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

	31.8.22		31.8.21	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
Memberships	46,301		46,955	
Conferences	50,154		3,396	
Donations	500		1,156	
Grant funding	57,790		35,203	
Book sales	23,860		-	
	<u>          </u>	178,605	<u>          </u>	86,710
<b>Other income</b>				
Sundry receipts		767		351
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		179,372		87,061
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Rent	2,750		3,000	
Insurance	267		267	
Wages	56,400		55,027	
Social security	1,150		710	
Pensions	1,276		1,276	
Subcontractors	13,884		13,425	
Telephone and website	2,196		2,735	
Post and stationery	3,045		-	
Travelling	215		94	
Administration fees	6,521		6,259	
Meeting and conference expenses	36,197		1,874	
Sundry expenses	28		-	
Ashden Trust book expenses	11,375		-	
Nature Premium Campaign	39,758		-	
PAYE interest	5		-	
Accountancy	474		880	
	<u>          </u>	175,541	<u>          </u>	85,547
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		3,831		1,514
<b>Finance costs</b>				
Bank charges		2,056		651
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		1,775		863

... END ...

Report of the Directors and  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2022  
for  
Forest School Association

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

	Page
Company Information	1
Report of the Directors	2
Abridged Income Statement	3
Abridged Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Chartered Accountants' Report	6
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	7

Forest School Association

Company Information  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

DIRECTORS:

L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Dr S A Collins  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs J A Phillips  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder

REGISTERED OFFICE:

15 Lammermoor Road  
Liverpool  
L18 4QP

REGISTERED NUMBER:

08164851 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

Forest School Association

Report of the Directors  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st August 2022.

DIRECTORS

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st September 2021 to the date of this report.

L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Dr S A Collins  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs J A Phillips  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

J N Cree - resigned 1st August 2022

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

G S Mason - Director

18th May 2023

Forest School Association

Abridged Income Statement  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

	31.8.22 £	31.8.21 £
GROSS SURPLUS	179,372	87,061
Administrative expenses	177,597	86,198
OPERATING SURPLUS and SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	1,775	863
Tax on surplus	-	-
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	1,775	863

The notes form part of these financial statements

Abridged Balance Sheet  
31st August 2022

	31.8.22 £	31.8.21 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	962	-
Cash at bank	85,393	109,358
	<u>86,355</u>	<u>109,358</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	56,959	81,737
	<u>29,396</u>	<u>27,621</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		
	<u>29,396</u>	<u>27,621</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>29,396</u>	<u>27,621</u>
RESERVES		
Income and expenditure account	29,396	27,621
	<u>29,396</u>	<u>27,621</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st August 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

All the members have consented to the preparation of an abridged Income Statement and an abridged Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st August 2022 in accordance with Section 444(2A) of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 18th May 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

G S Mason - Director

## Forest School Association

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

#### 1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Forest School Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

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

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

#### 3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 3 (2021 - 2).

Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors  
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of  
Forest School Association

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association for the year ended 31st August 2022 which comprise the Abridged Income Statement, Abridged Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed within the ICAEW's regulations and guidance at <http://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Forest School Association and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Forest School Association has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Forest School Association. You consider that Forest School Association is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Forest School Association. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

18th May 2023

Forest School Association

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2022

	31.8.22		31.8.21	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Memberships	46,301		46,955	
Conferences	50,154		3,396	
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Grant funding	57,790		35,203	
Book sales	23,860		-	
	<u>          </u>	178,605	<u>          </u>	86,710
Other income				
Sundry receipts		767		351
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		179,372		87,061
Expenditure				
Rent	2,750		3,000	
Insurance	267		267	
Wages	56,400		55,027	
Social security	1,150		710	
Pensions	1,276		1,276	
Subcontractors	13,884		13,425	
Telephone and website	2,196		2,735	
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PAYE interest	5		-	
Accountancy	474		880	
	<u>          </u>	175,541	<u>          </u>	85,547
		3,831		1,514
Finance costs				
Bank charges		2,056		651
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
NET SURPLUS		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		1,775		863

## Independent Examiner's report to the Directors of Forest School Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2022, which are set out on pages 3 to 7 of the annual accounts.

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Examiner

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The company's gross income has not exceeded £250,000. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To following the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

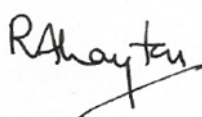
(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

Have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:



Robert Layton



**Laytons** CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SB  
PHONE: 01298 77997 FAX: 01298 72803

Relevant Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Laytons Chartered Accountants, 6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9SB

Date: 30-05-2023

**FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1155616

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# Accounts

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## **Forest School Association Annual Report, April 2022**

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Forest School Association (FSA) as the professional body for Forest School in the UK. We have come a long way and it is time to take a step back and celebrate all we have achieved to date.

We have had to overcome many challenges over the years but the past two have obviously been particularly difficult for many people. We are very grateful to our sponsors, supporters and of course our members who stuck with us. Your support meant that we did not have to put the FSA team on furlough and so we were able to help the entire Forest School community in that difficult time.

We are very proud of the extraordinary efforts made by staff and volunteers. Volunteers in particular took on some huge projects and delivered them effectively. In many ways COVID caused us to become more outward looking, to reflect on our 'offer' and to become more focused in our approach.

This focus will continue over the coming year as we concentrate on core functions as a professional body – developing and maintaining professional standards, helping FSA members to work to these standards, and advocating for quality Forest School. In addition we will be celebrating our 10 year anniversary at the annual conference in October. We do hope that you can join us there for this celebration.

The growing societal recognition of the importance of nature connection for the wellbeing of people and the planet is evidenced by the positive response to the Nature Premium campaign. FSA members are well positioned to meet the need for quality Forest School provision and support schools as they seek to broaden their outdoor learning offers.

An overview of the work of the FSA in 2021/22 is included here.

### ***Staffing and Governance***

Current staff include

CEO - Gareth Wyn Davies (3 days per week)

Projects Officer – Nic harding (full time)

Applications Officer – Nell Seal (2 days per week)

In addition we have just appointed a Governance Officer (1 day per week) who will be in post by the time of the AGM.

The Institute of Outdoors Learning continues to provide effective administrative and support services. Dave Brooks is our public facing contact for members and general enquiries.

### ***Strategy***

We need a solid foundation on which to build the FSA as the professional body for Forest School in the UK. This next year will be a period of consolidation. Doing 'fewer things but better' will allow us to focus on our core functions as a professional body, ensuring that our efforts align fully with the

strategy and objectives of the charity. These are, developing and maintaining professional standards, helping FSA members to work to these standards, and advocating for quality Forest School education.

The appointment of a Governance Officer will enable us to hone and create systems and processes, in line with charity commission requirements, reflecting the values of the FSA and increasing membership.

## **Values**

The FSA has spent some time this year extrapolating its values. Both the board and staff were invited to a workshop to help with this. This was run by Susan Gurnik, an external facilitator. The FSA's values will be used as both a statement of what we stand for and also as a lens through which we will put our strategies and proposals.

We are working with the 4 below for now, and are wondering whether the dynamic of learning and / or education should somehow be reflected in our values too:

- Professionalism and Quality
- Effective Connectivity
- Sustainability
- Approachability

## **Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy**

We have reviewed, researched and agreed an updated EDI policy which reflects the current views and beliefs as well as the direction for the future.

As directors we have been making use of resources from many sources, including the Institute for Outdoor Learning, in order to strategically implement the policy.

We are currently undergoing an extensive survey of existing members with a view to highlighting the specific EDI priorities within our membership base and hope to look outwards to non-members in the near future.

## **Membership and Membership Services**

The FSA has 1447 paid up members grouped into the following membership types.

Associate Member	115
FSA Recognised Forest School Provider	59
Honorary Member	2
Individual Member	895
Local Group	20
Trainee Member	342
Trainer (FSA Endorsed)	11
Trainer (FSA Registered)	3
	1447

## ***Book and new Forest School App***

The FSA book, 'Growing a Forest School from the roots up!' has been an enormous success seeing books flying out all over the world! Our initial print run is nearly gone with no real sign of sales slowing. We have had lots of great feedback. We are currently exploring the opportunities and options for a second print run later in the year. Funded by the Ashden Trust this book is already supporting hundreds of new and existing Forest School leaders to create quality sustainable practices. It houses the collective knowledge of 11 Authors and many years of experience.

The Forest School App is currently being finished by the developers (this may change by the AGM) and we may have more to report then. The app will be looking at recording many of the Forest School aspirations such as increase in health and wellbeing, increase in attention etc.

## ***Conference***

The conference in 2021, held at Hill End Centre, Oxford, was a huge success given that this was the first national gathering of FS practitioners since the start of lockdown. The conference was very well received and gave practitioners from around the country the opportunity to share practice and thoughts about the future sustainability of FS and the planet. We are hugely indebted to the Oxfordshire local FSA group for organising the conference in tricky times. The event was a sell out with 300 attending. The theme for the conference was sustainability with the title 'Climate of Hope – Sustainable Forest School'. Topics tackled included climate anxiety, woodland creation, the place of a nature based programme within the education system, sustainable foraging, how to work with needs in a sustainable way and many practical skills workshops. There were, in total, 60 workshop sessions and 5 keynote sessions to the whole conference, with high profile contributors and dedicated practitioners.

This year, 2022, the Conference is being designed using a new model, with central FSA taking a leading role in its creation. The FSA Project Officer will be working with the local Essex FSA group, an experienced conference team. The conference will be at Danbury – Essex Outdoors on the **30<sup>th</sup> September – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022**, with the theme of 'Celebration'. This allows us to support members with tailored workshops and celebrate the FSA's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday and 30 years of Forest School in the UK.

## ***Newsletter and communication***

Newsletter subscription and interaction has increased over the last six months. The FSA has started to explore more social media outlets to reach different demographics of members/non-members, we now have an Instagram presence (whose following is growing steadily), a YouTube channel full of useful webinar videos and Forest School guidance, and we are exploring TikTok with one of our younger volunteers. This, of course, adds to our Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn profiles. The Grammar Ninjas continue to do an invaluable job of ensuring that content is focused, accurate and legible as well as helping us keep our finger to the pulse of the community.

## ***FSA Endorsed FS Trainer Scheme***

This rigorous quality assurance scheme currently has 12 (soon to be 11 due to one trainer ceasing FS work) Endorsed Trainers, 3 Registered Trainers and a further 5 trainers who have paid and are starting the process of applying.

In October 2021 we were able to hold our first face-to-face CPD event since 2019 (2020 missed due to Covid-19). As a group, the Trainers have developed and agreed a group terms of reference document that lays out our group culture and values. This shared vision enables the group to successfully explore challenges and solutions together in an open way, both online in our Basecamp group and face-to-face at our annual meetings.

The group is involved in the current Forest School Qualification Review, which this time will involve minor tweaks only. The group has planned a deeper review for the next cycle and begin work on this in October 2022.

The scheme is managed day to day by Nell Seal but the team of Endorsed Trainers act as 'owners' of the scheme and discuss/propose changes that are then ratified by the FSA board of voluntary trustees. Stage 1 desktop assessments of evidence are conducted by Nell. Stage 2 conversations with applicants' students and Stage 3 peer conversations with the applicant are conducted by a team of 5 paid assessors who are all existing Endorsed Trainers.

## ***FSA Recognised FS Provider Scheme***

This scheme enables those recognised to publicly demonstrate that they are facilitating FS experiences in line with all six FS principles.

We currently have 63 FSA Recognised FS Providers. There are a further 25 providers who have paid to apply and are in the process of becoming FSA Recognised; hopefully these will be added to the map of Recognised Providers over the coming months.

The scheme has had another challenging 12 months. Covid-19 impacts continue to affect many providers' ability to maintain standards and communicate with us, and FSA workload has been higher due to the 'existing benchmarks' work being undertaken, whereby we ask those providers approved under the old scheme to demonstrate they meet current benchmarks (see below).

To date there are a further 62 FS providers who notified us of their intention to apply (and in most cases paid) but do not appear on our map of FSA Recognised Providers because i) they never submitted ii) they submitted but did not meet our benchmarks iii) they have been unable to meet our ongoing annual declaration requirements or iv) they were recognised under the 'old' scheme and have been unable to demonstrate they meet our current benchmarks.

Under the old Recognised Provider Scheme benchmarks, 52 FS providers were recognised by the FSA. Benchmarks altered when the revised scheme was launched in November 2019. During the past 12 months these providers were asked to demonstrate that their practice meets our current benchmarks. It has been a huge piece of work and only 29% (15) providers have managed to demonstrate that they meet our current benchmarks and therefore remain on the map. This represents a significant loss of providers appearing on the map.

Reasons for the loss of these providers include: lack of response to all communications, having no

level 3s in place, first aid that does not meet our benchmarks, short-term provision, Covid impacts and objections to benchmarks.

With the existing benchmarks work coming to an end we hope to use renewed capacity to focus on the development of a support resource for both those applying to the scheme and those already recognised who wish to develop practice.

### ***Wednesday Webinars***

Our monthly webinars continue to be very successful, reaching outwards to the wider Outdoor Learning community and providing well-received "tasters" on a range of topics. This past year we have had inspirational speakers leading evenings on everything from Neurodivergence to Campfire Cooking, and Ludic Process to Storytelling.

We have a regular attendance of between 50 and 70 people, but some webinars have had as many as 137 attendees, from as far away as Canada, New Zealand and Chile.

We are very grateful for the generosity of the speakers, who give so freely of their time to allow our webinars to remain free to attend. We are also very grateful for the volunteers who oversee, run and support these webinars, both on the evenings themselves, and subsequently, releasing these webinars on the FSA YouTube channel. In this way, by sharing these exciting and stimulating themes with as many Outdoor Learning professionals as possible, we hope to support the FSA's aim of promoting Quality Forest School for All.

### ***Local Groups***

We continue to support a growing number of FSA local groups. We have 11 affiliated local groups and 2 new emergent groups starting to blossom in Cambridgeshire and London. The national reps from each group meet regularly online 4 times a year to network, share practice and support each other.

A big thank you to all the volunteers on the steering groups of the local groups who give their time and energy to organize skill shares, CPD and networking events for their local Forest School community.

### ***DBS***

One of the FSA's most popular and useful membership benefits is our Enhanced DBS certificate application service. Not only is this swift and simple it also comes at a reduced cost to FSA members. It is often difficult for independent practitioners to access the DBS scheme, we make it easy for you by providing a recognised 'umbrella' service via our link with AdventurePlus. This does not preclude non-independent FSA members using this service as well.

Last year proved to be our busiest year for the scheme with 67 people receiving their enhanced DBS certificate.

## ***UNISON - the public service union***

Our Memorandum of Understanding remains in place with UNISON. This confirms our mutual support and mutually declared aims. We have not had to call upon UNISON for their assistance or advice in 2021.

## ***National Advocacy***

### **Nature Premium**

The Nature Premium Campaign has been growing in momentum this last year and gaining a bigger profile. The aim of this FSA lead campaign is to get the government to guarantee regular contact with the natural world in schools in England, see [www.naturepremium.org](http://www.naturepremium.org).

With funding from The Ashden Trust the campaign was able to consolidate and expand its reach. During the year regular industry sector meetings called 'Gathering of Minds' have been hosted by the Nature Premium team which now officially includes Jo Phillips, FSA Trustee & Richard Dunne from the Harmony Project. The growing list of supporters can be viewed on the website.

Ashden Trust also invested in commissioning targeted research with Fleetwood Strategy, the results of which were then used to launch a media campaign through PR company Greenhouse. The Campaign specially targeted MPs, policy & strategy makers. The initial response is positive and the campaign has provided the team with lasting resources and statistics that can be used in the future.

The success of the campaign will ultimately rely on our ability to manage and work in a coalition with others and we have some particularly strong partnerships, Farms for City Children, Conservative Environment Network and Our Shared World are just three examples. We are keen to expand the youth voice and have representatives happy to support the campaign whose ages range from 7 years to 26. FSA membership has also been consistently supportive and we welcome member involvement. There are always jobs to do!

We are currently reflecting on the Media campaign and considering our next steps in light of the newly released Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy from the Department for Education. Funding and delivery models will play a large part in this next phase. The expectation is that funding will be from a social bridging finance model.

[https://evpa.eu.com/uploads/publications/EVPA\\_National\\_Policy\\_Nexus\\_2020\\_UK\\_Social\\_Bridging\\_Finance.PDF](https://evpa.eu.com/uploads/publications/EVPA_National_Policy_Nexus_2020_UK_Social_Bridging_Finance.PDF)

### **Other national groups**

We have continued to represent the Forest School community on a number of national groups including Forest Education Network England (FENE) and are currently assisting in the planning of the national FENE conference, TreeGeneration, to be held in June 2022 at the National Forest, the first since the start of COVID, see <https://rfs.org.uk/fene/>

The FSA also regularly contributes to the Forest Skills Forum (FSF), being a big part of the education subgroup, which aims to show how the woodland sector contributes to society in its many ways...in particular with training, job creation and awareness raising on the importance of woodlands within our education system. The FSF 2021 annual report showed that the FSA has had a large part to play in raising awareness of the woodland and forest skills sector in the school system in the 2019 national Forest Skills Plan – see <https://www.lantra.co.uk/forestry-skills-forum>

The FSA has supported the **Community Forest and Woodland Outreach Project**, through our relationship with the National Forest, contributing to the DEFRA and DfE Funded Children and Nature programme.

## **Annual Accounts**

The annual accounts show the FSA has a positive balance in 2020/2021, which is encouraging given the challenges of membership during the pandemic, see the deficit for the previous year's accounts.

With decreasing school budgets and many independent practitioners continuing to lose regular incomes the FSA is still holding its own - membership income increased by 19% this last year. We continued to receive grant funding for the Project Officer post from the Ashden Trust. The October 2021 conference was a success bringing in an increased income both for the local Oxfordshire group and national FSA, not shown on the account outlined below as these are for the year ending August 2021. This has meant that the current accounts for the FSA are looking fairly healthy.

We continue to look at ways of increasing membership levels and generating income through other channels for future financial stability. The grant funding for the Project Officer post has come to an end. We are hopeful for the continuing increase in income from membership, membership services and the sale of the book and app to finance this valuable role within the FSA staff structure.

### **FSA Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st August 2021**

	<b>31.8.21</b>	<b>31.8.20</b>
<b>£ £ £ £</b>		
<b>Turnover</b>		
Memberships	46,955	39,480
Conferences	3,396	26,176
Donations	1,156	-
Grant funding	35,203	26,118
	<b>86,710</b>	<b>91,774</b>
Other income		
Sundry receipts	351	475
	<b>87.061</b>	<b>92,249</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Rent	3,000	2,900
Insurance	267	267
Wages	55,027	50,096
Social security	710	-
Pensions	1276	1,094

Subcontractors	13,425	13,104
Telephone and website	2,735	2,002
Advertising	-	-
Travelling	94	721
Administration fees	6,259	9,494
Meeting and conference expenses	1,874	30,548
Sundry expenses	-	-
Accountancy	880	699
	85,547	111,672
	<b>1514</b>	<b>(19,423)</b>
<b>Finance costs</b>		
Bank charges	672	840
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>(20,263)</b>

**Abridged Balance 31st August 2020**

**£ £ £ £**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash at bank 109,337 42,931

**CREDITORS**

Amounts falling due within one year 81,737 16,173

**TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES**

**27,600 26,758**

Report of the Directors and  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021  
for  
Forest School Association

Forest School Association

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

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Report of the Directors	2
Abridged Income Statement	3
Abridged Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Chartered Accountants' Report	6
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	7

Forest School Association

Company Information  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

DIRECTORS:

J N Cree  
L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Dr S A Collins  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs J A Phillips  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Warwick Mill Business Centre  
Warwick Bridge  
Carlisle  
Cumbria  
CA4 8RR

REGISTERED NUMBER:

08164851 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

Forest School Association

Report of the Directors  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st August 2021.

DIRECTORS

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st September 2020 to the date of this report.

J N Cree  
L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Dr S A Collins  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs J A Phillips  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

G S Mason - Director

25th May 2022

Forest School Association

Abridged Income Statement  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

	31.8.21 £	31.8.20 £
GROSS SURPLUS	87,061	92,249
Administrative expenses	86,198	112,512
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) and SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION	863	(20,263)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)	-	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	863	(20,263)

The notes form part of these financial statements

Forest School Association (Registered number: 08164851)

Abridged Balance Sheet  
31st August 2021

	31.8.21 £	31.8.20 £
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	109,358	42,931
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	81,737	16,173
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>27,621</u>	<u>26,758</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>27,621</u>	<u>26,758</u>
RESERVES		
Income and expenditure account	<u>27,621</u>	<u>26,758</u>
	<u>27,621</u>	<u>26,758</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st August 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

All the members have consented to the preparation of an abridged Income Statement and an abridged Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st August 2021 in accordance with Section 444(2A) of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 25th May 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

G S Mason - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

## Forest School Association

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

#### 1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Forest School Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

#### 2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

##### Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

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

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

#### 3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2020 - 2).

Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors  
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of  
Forest School Association

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association for the year ended 31st August 2021 which comprise the Abridged Income Statement, Abridged Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed within the ICAEW's regulations and guidance at <http://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Forest School Association and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Forest School Association has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Forest School Association. You consider that Forest School Association is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Forest School Association. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

25th May 2022

Forest School Association

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2021

	31.8.21		31.8.20	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Memberships	46,955		39,480	
Conferences	3,396		26,176	
Donations	1,156		-	
Grant funding	35,203		26,118	
	<u>          </u>	86,710	<u>          </u>	91,774
Other income				
Sundry receipts		351		475
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		87,061		92,249
Expenditure				
Rent	3,000		2,900	
Insurance	267		267	
Wages	55,027		50,096	
Social security	710		747	
Pensions	1,276		1,094	
Subcontractors	13,425		13,104	
Telephone and website	2,735		2,002	
Travelling	94		721	
Administration fees	6,259		9,494	
Meeting and conference expenses	1,874		30,548	
Accountancy	880		699	
	<u>          </u>	85,547	<u>          </u>	111,672
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		1,514		(19,423)
Finance costs				
Bank charges		651		840
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		863		(20,263)
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>

## Independent Examiner's report to the Directors of Forest School Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2021, which are set out on pages 3 to 7 of the annual accounts.

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Examiner

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The company's gross income has not exceeded £250,000. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To following the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

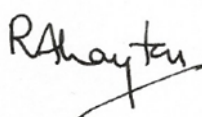
(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

Have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:



Robert Layton



**Laytons** CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SB  
PHONE: 01298 77997 FAX: 01298 72803

Relevant Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Laytons Chartered Accountants, 6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9SB

Date: 26-05-2022

**FOREST SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

England & Wales - Charity number 1155616

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# Accounts

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## **Forest School Association Annual Report, May 2021**

2020 will be remembered as a challenging year for many people and organisations and we at the Forest School Association are grateful that we have come through this year and been able to maintain our support for members and the Forest School community.

An overview of the work of the FSA is included here.

### **Staffing**

Gareth Davies continues to lead the organisation in his role as CEO. His vision for the FSA means that we have been able to navigate the challenges of 2020. He liaises with a number of national and regional organisations, local FSA groups, funders and partners from business as well as advising and supporting the board. Additionally, Gareth does valuable work on the services provided for members through the website, is responsible for staff and consultant line management as well as identifying and seeking funding opportunities for the FSA and making sure everything keeps moving forwards. He is currently employed 3 days a week.

In September 2019 Nic Harding was welcomed to the team as Projects Officer.

His role is funded for two years by the Ashden Trust. The key objective of the role is to create resources in order to support members.

We have been fortunate to retain the services of Nell Seal as a consultant delivering on the Trainers QA and Recognised Provider schemes. It is great to have her expertise, insight and attention to detail.

We have continued the fruitful relationship with the Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL), who we contract for the routine administration of the FSA. Particular thanks go to Dave Brookes who has done a fine job both answering enquiries, updating the website and producing the member newsletter.

### **Board of Directors**

Directors of the FSA have continued to meet monthly to lead the governance of the organisation as well as supporting staff with operational activity.

Lily Horseman will be stepping down as Chair this year after 4 years in the role. She will continue as a board member. Sara Collins is Deputy Chair.

### **Membership and Membership Services.**

The FSA plans to increase our membership base by creating specific products to support members and by introducing new membership types aimed at affiliate members, including for retired practitioners and an honorary membership. Membership has taken a hit because of the impact of the pandemic on the sector but figures are recovering.

The number and range of member discounts has increased with offers that benefit members and the FSA.

### **Projects:**

Projects officer, Nic Harding, is now in his second year of employment and has been instrumental in working with directors and volunteers to deliver a number of projects which are of benefit to members. These include;

#### **Book; working title "Creating a Forest School"**

The words on the book are tumbling into place with many authors involved. We hope for it to be on sale by September 2021

#### **Pamphlet**

The pamphlet on ["How to create a Forest School - from the roots up"](#) has been well received and has drummed up pre interest for the book as well as provided links to other tools like the 5-minute video.

## **Presentations**

The five minute What is school presentation has been a huge success with 24,375 views on YouTube, and 27,000 views on Facebook. The longer- deeper dive video has had 5,100 views on YouTube but was less popular on Facebook with only 520 views. Both of these presentations can be used to communicate about quality Forest School.

## **Research App**

A web browser research app is in its development phase and will be ready for initial testing shortly. The intention is to collect data about the efficacy of Forest School for national research and to support FS leaders to advocate for quality Forest School. We hope to have the beta testing done and the web browser ready for the winter term.

## **Forest School principle Seminars**

Are in their final edit stage and will be launched in September. They will be available for members but also available for non-members behind a pay wall.

## **Newsletter – the weekly roundup**

Continues to deliver interesting articles, notices and research. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in finding the stories and to the Grammar Ninjas Dawn and Terry.

## **Webinars**

As a consequence of the first lockdown we identified a need to offer resources to members and others involved in Forest School. It was agreed that these webinars would not be restricted to FSA members, for two reasons:

Firstly, it was an opportunity for growing the FSA membership.

Secondly, we wanted to reaching out with free resources during a time of national crisis. To help individuals in the outdoor education sector and maintain much need connections. During the course of the next few months, these webinars proved to be very successful, necessitating an upgrade to our zoom membership to allow for a higher number of participants. In September, with many members returning to work, and both volunteer and FSA staff capacity being reduced, the working group decided to reduce the webinars to monthly, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

The format of the webinars evolved into two themes:

- In the thicket – a more in-depth look into certain themes and topics,

and

- Round the Hearth – a more informal networking and ideas sharing evening.

At the time of this AGM, the webinars, now run almost exclusively by volunteers, continue to be a valued resource with FSA members and non-members.

## **FSA Endorsed FS Trainer Scheme**

This quality assurance scheme currently has 12 members with an additional 5 currently at varying stages of going through to process which will swell numbers considerably.

The scheme is managed day to day by Nell Seal but the team of Endorsed Trainers act as ‘owners’ of the scheme and discuss/propose changes which are ratified by the FSA board. Stage 2 conversations with applicants’ students and Stage 3 peer conversations are conducted by a team of 5 paid assessors who are all existing Endorsed Trainers.

The Endorsed Trainers have met regularly to engage with professional development and reflective practice, as well as supporting one another with qualification moderation processes. There is an anticipation that they will meet again in October before the annual FSA conference. This is an active and valued online network where practice is discussed and peer support is a key offer.

Nic is working on a Scheme for the Certification of Professional Development Courses. This is 80% complete and we are looking to launch after a brief period of testing and evaluation.

### **FSA Recognised FS Provider Scheme**

This recognition scheme enables those recognised to publicly demonstrate that they are facilitating FS experiences in line with all six FS principles.

We currently have 66 FSA Recognised FS Providers. There are a further 35 providers who have paid to apply and are in the process of becoming FSA Recognised; hopefully these will be added to the map of Recognised Providers over the coming months.

It has been a challenging period of time for this scheme. Covid-19 has meant that FS Providers have found it hard to gather evidence for applications and ongoing, 12 monthly annual declarations, in addition to furlough and permanent staffing changes. To add to this we are also nearly half way through a 12 month period where the original 32 providers, approved under the original version of the scheme and still part of it, are being asked to demonstrate with evidence that they meet the benchmarks set out in the current scheme.

We also have a total of 34 FS Providers who paid to apply but do not appear on our map of FSA Recognised Providers because i) they never submitted ii) they submitted but did not meet our benchmarks iii) they have been unable to meet our ongoing annual declaration requirements or iv) they were recognised under the 'old' scheme and have been unable to demonstrate they meet our current benchmarks.

In summary then, there have been 135 providers in total who were/are keen to explore recognition with the FSA and who have had conversations with us about FS in accordance with all six principles.

### **Forest School Qualifications**

The FSA have continued to work with Awarding Organisations (AO) to ensure they know about the units on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and the minimum standards for establishing Forest School training centres. There are eight AO in England who have adopted these standards.

The FSA will be working with AO in 2021/22 to review the RQF qualifications.

The FSA supported the Outdoor Learning Trainers Network in Wales and representatives of training organisations who use the units held by Agored to successfully bridge the gaps between the two sets of qualifications.

### **2020/2021 Conference**

It was with great sadness that we decided to postpone the annual conference until 2021. It will make it all the sweeter that we can celebrate 'Sustainable Forest School: Climate of Hope' later this year. It seems apt somehow. We are so looking forward to being under canvas and sharing with our peers again.

Put the date in your diaries and join us!

Hosts, Ox, Bucks and Berks FSA Affiliated Local group.

Title: 'Climate of Hope: Sustainable Forest School',

Dates: 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

Venue: Hill End, Oxfordshire

### **Local groups**

During the last year one area of work that didn't have to change was the way the local groups meet. The Local Group National Rep's have always carried out their quarterly meeting online and continued to do so during 2020. These meetings are incredibly supportive and enable members to feed information from the various areas throughout country back to the national FSA organisation. This year has seen local groups tackling the pandemic in their own ways. There have been some fantastic examples of community leadership in the form of online CPD and networking. The Local Groups also feedback into the Other FSA projects through these meetings. Local group reps have been sharing documentation to help ease the burden and possible hesitation for new and emerging Local Groups. We want to make it as accessible for every local area to have their own group. The biggest barrier is the recruitment of volunteers so if you have time you could give to your Local Group please do get in touch.

## **National and International networks**

Normally staff and directors of the FSA would be attending and speaking at a number of face to face meetings and conferences but despite the pandemic we have been able to maintain our relationships with various partners including the Institute of Outdoor Learning, FENE (Forest Education Network England) Defra and National Forest, Sylva, Royal Forestry Society, Forestry England and Birmingham Institute of Forest Research, CLOtC and the Wildlife Trusts, Our Bright Futures, Green Alliance and One Shared World. Directors and staff have delivered presentations to Hamk University of Finland, Woman's Hour Radio 4, Radio London, Forest School podcast, Harmony podcast, Outdoor Learning ORN Webinar and Cumbria Development Education Centre.

## **Nature Premium Campaign**

The Nature Premium campaign was launched in July 2020. It is the first political lobbying campaign that the FSA has worked on. We are calling for the government to invest in regular nature experiences for all children. We have used a broad definition of 'nature' to include gardening, conservation work, permaculture, city farms and of course Forest School. You can see more information and some of the campaign highlights at [www.naturepremium.org/news](http://www.naturepremium.org/news) The campaign is being co-ordinated by Sara Collins and Sarah Lawfull and is a testament to their extraordinary energy. The campaign benefited from the active support from many of the directors and staff of the FSA who have contributed when they have been available. Some work regularly such as Jo working on social media and youth engagement and some on one off projects such as Lewis who created the website, Froo who wrote the first research statement, Lily who created the NP film that was vital for spreading the news, Gareth who found us some money, Nic who is available as an emergency backup and of course Matt whose idea it was in the first place.

We met with the Department for Education and were told that although the DfE accepts that spending time in and connecting with nature supports children's mental and physical wellbeing there is no money and no political will to make this happen. This is despite the fact that the Nature Premium would support priorities in the government's policy document [25 Year Environment Plan](#) and recommendations as set out by both [Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta](#) in his HM Treasury commissioned report and the Committee for Climate Change.

We have worked hard to gain support for the campaign and are delighted to be working with a [number of organisations](#) including The Harmony Project, CPRE and the Consortium 'Take the Learning Inside Out' led by The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. We have been supported by celebrities Chris Packham and Megan McCubin, Jane Goodall, Steve Backshall and key influencers such as The Bishop of Durham, Lord Randall, Tim Smit, Tim Gill, Stephen Morgan MP, Merlin Sheldrake and Baroness Bennett.

The campaign is now building political support outside of the DfE and building the economic argument to generate a private /public funding option to fund regular nature experiences so that ALL children spend time in and connect with nature. If you know any 'influencers' one who would be interested in helping please contact Sara at [sara.collins@forestschoollassociation.org](mailto:sara.collins@forestschoollassociation.org)

## **Forest School Day**

Forest School Day (FSD) is supported by FSA and has direct involvement from two of our directors. FSD has completed a third year in 2020. This annual day to celebrate Forest School is an excellent way of engaging the community in all the joys that are Forest School. This year's Forest School day is planned for October 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. A huge appreciative thanks to Katey Hugi who continues to be the driving force behind this annual event celebrating Forest School and raising it's profile.

<https://forestschoolday.org/>

## **Forest School Trading LTD**

The FSA set up a separate trading company in 2018. It has remained dormant due to lack of trading activity.

## **Finances**

The majority of funding for the FSA comes from membership. Without a conference in 2020 we have

had to manage the budget accordingly. The Ashden Trust funding for Nic's role has given us additional capacity.

### **Governance**

The directors have worked together as a board to maintain oversight of the FSA. A lot of energy and reflection has gone into a review of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. Our next piece of work is around the Values of the FSA and of Forest School in the wider sense to inform our marketing and engagement strategies.

There are 3 current directors standing for election as per our charitable objects: Geoff, Froo and Sarah, it having been 3 years since they were last elected as directors. This year we have 5 additional applications from Carol Middleton, Vicki Stewart, Sunita Thakur, Janet Green and Sarah Knight. We will co-opt these members to the board and will have a year to orientate within the organisation before standing in 2022. This is part of our ongoing commitment to work with candidates for directorship in checking they are fully aware of the responsibilities of FSA directors before putting them forward for election. Sarah Knight has also been offered a role as ambassador to the FSA and we will be working with her and with Tim Gill; our patron to see how we can use their energy and expertise in the future.

As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the directors and staff for the hard work and energy they have brought to the FSA in this challenging year and to their support for me as chair.

Lily Horseman – FSA Chair - on behalf of the FSA board;



Sara Collins – deputy chair  
Geoff Mason – Secretary  
Jon Cree - Treasurer  
Louise Ambrose  
Jo Philips

Sarah Lawfull  
Froo Signore  
Matt Harder  
Lewis Ames

Report of the Directors and  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020  
for  
Forest School Association

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020

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Report of the Directors	2
Abridged Income Statement	3
Abridged Balance Sheet	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Chartered Accountants' Report	6
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account	7

Forest School Association

Company Information  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020

DIRECTORS:

J N Cree  
L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Dr S A Collins  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs J A Phillips  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore  
L H Ames  
M F Harder

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Warwick Mill Business Centre  
Warwick Bridge  
Carlisle  
Cumbria  
CA4 8RR

REGISTERED NUMBER:

08164851 (England and Wales)

ACCOUNTANTS:

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

Report of the Directors  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31st August 2020.

**DIRECTORS**

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st September 2019 to the date of this report.

J N Cree  
L E Ambrose  
G S Mason  
Dr S A Collins  
Ms E A R Horseman  
Mrs J A Phillips  
Mrs S E Lawfull  
Mrs F Signore

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

L H Ames - appointed 14th March 2020  
M F Harder - appointed 14th March 2020  
N J Beales - appointed 14th March 2020 - resigned 12th August 2020

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

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

G S Mason - Director

27th April 2021

Forest School Association

Abridged Income Statement  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020

	31.8.20 £	31.8.19 £
GROSS SURPLUS	92,249	98,074
Administrative expenses	<u>112,512</u>	<u>82,066</u>
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS and (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	(20,263)	16,008
Tax on (deficit)/surplus	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	<u><u>(20,263)</u></u>	<u><u>16,008</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Abridged Balance Sheet  
31st August 2020

	31.8.20	31.8.19
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	42,931	48,321
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	16,173	1,300
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>26,758</u>	<u>47,021</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>26,758</u>	<u>47,021</u>
RESERVES		
Income and expenditure account	<u>26,758</u>	<u>47,021</u>
	<u>26,758</u>	<u>47,021</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st August 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

All the members have consented to the preparation of an abridged Income Statement and an abridged Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st August 2020 in accordance with Section 444(2A) of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 27th April 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

G S Mason - Director

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Forest School Association is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2019 - 1).

Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors  
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of  
Forest School Association

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association for the year ended 31st August 2020 which comprise the Abridged Income Statement, Abridged Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed within the ICAEW's regulations and guidance at <http://www.icaew.com/en/membership/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Forest School Association and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of Forest School Association, as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Forest School Association and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Forest School Association has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and loss of Forest School Association. You consider that Forest School Association is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Forest School Association. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Laytons  
Chartered Accountants  
6 Manchester Road  
Buxton  
Derbyshire  
SK17 6SB

27th April 2021

Forest School Association

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year Ended 31st August 2020

	31.8.20		31.8.19	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Memberships	39,480		51,921	
Conferences	26,176		45,297	
Grant funding	26,118		-	
	<u>          </u>	91,774	<u>          </u>	97,218
Other income				
Sundry receipts		475		856
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		92,249		98,074
Expenditure				
Rent	2,900		2,000	
Insurance	267		267	
Wages	50,096		26,446	
Social security	747		-	
Pensions	1,094		583	
Subcontractors	13,104		11,191	
Telephone and website	2,002		1,454	
Advertising	-		384	
Travelling	721		927	
Administration fees	9,494		6,661	
Meeting and conference expenses	30,548		30,048	
Sundry expenses	-		250	
Accountancy	699		691	
	<u>          </u>	111,672	<u>          </u>	80,902
		(19,423)		17,172
Finance costs				
Bank charges		840		1,164
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS		<u>(20,263)</u>		<u>16,008</u>

## Independent Examiner's report to the Directors of Forest School Association

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2020, which are set out on pages 3 to 7 of the annual accounts.

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Examiner

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed. The company's gross income has not exceeded £250,000. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

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

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- To following the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

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

### Independent Examiner's Statement

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

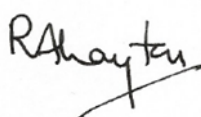
(1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
- To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

Have not been met; or

(2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name:



Robert Layton



**Laytons** CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS  
6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6SB  
PHONE: 01298 77997 FAX: 01298 72803

Relevant Professional qualification or body: ICAEW

Address: Laytons Chartered Accountants, 6 Manchester Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9SB

Date: 07-05-2021