

DUCHY PRE-SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUP
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Charity Registration Number: 1157005

**DUCHY PRE-SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUP
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**DUCHY PRE-SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUP
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The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report along with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st August 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with current statutory requirements, the charity's governing documents, and the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) and complies with applicable law. We have also referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives for the year.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

Nestled in the centre of Bradninch, The Duchy Pre-school is at the heart of our community, providing Early Years Education for all eligible children in the area.

As a non-profit organisation, we're proud of the service we provide to local families and the fun, nurturing, safe learning environment we offer our children. Parents can access our childcare in ways that fit in better with work.

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Duchy Pre-school and Playgroup is monitored by OFSTED and along with meeting all their requirements, the charity provides quality access to the national Early Years Curriculum for all eligible children, by:

- Preparing pre-school children for entry to the statutory education system and acting as a feeder for the local primary school,
- Providing informal opportunities for parents to make new friends and acquaintances,
- Providing opportunities for parents to return to work after maternity/paternity breaks and receive formal on the job training,
- Through fundraising events we provide opportunities for the whole community to engage with each other and us.

Achievements and Performance

This year has been another successful one for our setting, with continued growth and positive feedback across all areas of provision.

Our Holiday Club, now in its third year, has gone from strength to strength. We received many excellent reviews from families, several children booked additional sessions. The club is now fully embedded into our academic calendar, providing a valued service for parents and children alike.

We were also delighted to welcome Ofsted this year. The inspection resulted in a glowing report, with the setting achieving an overall Good grading – a testament to the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of our staff team.

Attendance has continued to rise, with a 24% increase in attended hours compared to the previous year. This growth can be largely attributed to the introduction of the new government funding for 2-year-olds in April, which has enabled more families to access our services.

In addition to service expansion, we have made building improvements to enhance both the environment and accessibility. These include repairing windows, creating a new office space, and installing a gate in the playground to improve access between the playground and back garden for the children.

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Overview and Future Plans

Looking ahead, we are preparing to open our new Baby Room in September 2025, which will welcome children from 9 months old. With parents now able to access government funding for children from 9 months, this development provides an excellent opportunity to increase child numbers, broaden our provision, and strengthen financial sustainability.

We also intend to continue investing in our facilities. Our focus will be on further enhancing the outdoor learning environment, ensuring that children benefit from engaging, well-resourced spaces. At the same time, we remain committed to maintaining the indoor areas to a high standard, creating safe, stimulating, and welcoming environments for all children in our care.

Financial Review

Total receipts for the year to 31 August 2025 amounted to £191,902 (year ended 31 August 2024 £158,367).

Total payments for the year to 31 August 2025 amounted to £185,162 (year ended 31 August 2024 £146,197).

The charity holds £48,104 in their bank account (year ended 31 August 2024 £41,328).

The charity's principal source of funding is Early Years Entitlement Funding from Devon County Council. As a centre of excellence for Early Years Education in Devon, we also receive discretionary grants. Community fundraising activities are carried out to enable the charity to enhance the provision above the level funded by Early Years.

Other sources of funding include fees from parents for elective sessions.

Reserves Policy

The charity has a formal policy of holding sufficient working capital and contingency funds in reserve to ensure the sustainability of the charity. In addition, the policy requires the charity to work towards building sufficient reserves to cover statutory and contractual costs in the event of winding up.

Risk Management Policy

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the Charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate their exposure to major risks.

Fundraising Policy

Fundraising is essential to the preschool. We host at least 2 coffee mornings a year, as well as the annual Christmas and Town Fayre, we also host other events such as children's discos at local music festival and help/participate at other local events, all with the aim of raising funds for the preschool.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity's objects and regulations are set out in the charity's Preschool Learning Alliance CIO Institution. The charity incorporated as a charitable organization on 12th May 2014, with all undertakings from the unincorporated charity transferred on 1st September 2016.

All Trustees are elected annually at the AGM and/or co-opted pending the AGM, with 50% retiring at each year.

The procedure for appointing of Trustees, is by an existing Trustees recommending a potential candidate.

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Reference and Administration Details

Registered Charity Number: 1157005

Trustees and Members: John Porter (Chair)
Jennifer Ryding (Treasurer)
Rev'd Hannah Mears
Lucy Alford
Louise Heap
Birdie Pilcher (to December 2024)
Nicholas Wild (to November 2024)

Registered Address Millway, Bradninch, Exeter, EX5 4NL

Bankers CAF Bank, 25 Kings Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Accountants Merlin Accountancy Services Ltd, 2nd Floor, 33 Longbrook Street, Exeter, EX4 6AW

Approved by Duchy Pre-School and Playgroup on 25/11/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee: John Porter, Chair *John S. Porter*

Trustee: Jenny Ryding, Treasurer *Jenny Ryding*

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Receipts and Payments Account

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Fees	59,558		51,493	
DCC Grants and Funding	128,340		92,406	
Other Grants	410		2,700	
Fundraising and Donations	3,594		11,768	
<i>Total Receipts</i>		<u>191,902</u>		<u>158,367</u>
Payments				
Wages and Salaries	135,706		114,987	
Staff Training, Health & Safety and Other	2,556		1,482	
Kitchen Costs	2,513		2,353	
Play Costs	10,172		4,689	
Rent, Rates and Premises Costs	9,052		7,500	
Repairs and Renewals	6,900		2,519	
Light and Heat	3,737		3,378	
Insurance and Subscriptions	1,322		1,355	
Telephone and IT	4,558		3,945	
Printing, Postage and Stationery	908		912	
Accountancy and Professional Fees	1,134		498	
Fundraising Costs	440		527	
Bank Charges	60		81	
Miscellaneous	6,104		1,971	
<i>Total Payments</i>		<u>185,162</u>		<u>146,197</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		6,740		12,170
Bank Balance at 1 st September 2024		41,364		29,194
Bank Balance at 31 st August 2025		<u>48,104</u>		<u>41,364</u>

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31st August 2025

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Unrestricted Funds		
<i>Cash Funds</i>		
Petty Cash	-	36
Bank Current Account	<u>48,104</u>	<u>41,328</u>
	48,104	41,364
 <i>Current Assets</i>		
Debtors	483	713
 <i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Creditors	218	-
Other Creditors	1,013	191
SS & Other Taxes	<u>2,342</u>	<u>1,960</u>
	<u>45,014</u>	<u>44,228</u>

Approved by Duchy Pre-School and Playgroup on 25/11/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

John S. Porter

Trustee: John Porter, Chair

Jenny Ryding

Trustee: Jenny Ryding, Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
DUCHY PRE-SCHOOL AND PLAYGROUP
Year Ended 31 AUGUST 2025

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 4 and 5.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

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

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to these matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005) 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.

G M Corby BSc FCA
Merlin Accountancy Services Ltd
2nd Floor
33 Longbrook Street
Exeter
EX4 6AW

Signed: 

10/12/2025
Date: