



The Spring Playgroup Charity
Registered Charity No 1157755

**Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ending
31 August 2023**

The Spring Playgroup Charity

Also known as: The Spring Playgroup and Preschool or Playgroup

Registered charity number: 1157755

Setting address: Kenilworth Sports and Social Club, Montague House, Upper Rosemary Hill, Kenilworth CV8 2PA

Email: admin@springplaygroup.co.uk

Website: www.springplaygroup.co.uk

Trustees at point of submitting Annual Report:

Antony Feltbower (Chairman)

Kevin Broadbent (Treasurer)

Jacqueline Cross

Felicity Hawke

Jacqueline Cook was also a trustee and the Secretary for the duration of the report. She resigned on 23 February 2024.

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is governed by a Trust Deed that was registered with the Charity Commission on 7 July 2014 and came into effect on 1 September 2014. This is based on the Charity Commissions model trust deed, incorporating provisions from the previous Spring Playgroup registered charity's trust deed, which was dated 7 June 1999, where they did not conflict with the model. The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and takes over the work of the original Spring Playgroup, registered charity number 1076506.

Trustees are selected by the existing Trustees discussing the requirements of a new Trustee, making suggestions, approaching suitable candidates and appointing a suitable person, aiming to have a current Playgroup parent on the Board of Trustees.

The Charity's organisational structure is as follows:

- Trustees
- Manager/Supervisor
- Deputy Supervisors
- Staff and volunteers

The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. Detailed information is available on request.



Objectives and activities

The main object of the Trust is to advance the education of children under statutory school age, regardless of their financial circumstances, in a loving caring and respectful atmosphere based on Christian belief and practice, while encouraging other charitable activities through which parents and carers may help their children.

The Trustees must use the income and may use the capital of the Trust in promoting the objects.

As a result, the Charity provides high quality preschool sessions. The Playgroup does not charge fees for these sessions and will not do so for as long as funds allow. It is believed to be the only such group in Warwickshire to do this.

During the year the Playgroup offered flexible sessions between the hours of 9am and 3.30pm for children from the age of two. We received statutory funding for some children from the age of two and most children aged three and over (from the beginning of the term following their third birthday). When all children eligible for statutory funding had been allocated their sessions, additional hours were offered to these and other children as best fitted their needs.

In addition, in previous years until July 2021, the Out of School Club (OOSC) has provided low-cost childcare from 3pm to 5.30pm on a flexible basis. This allowed us to offer further support services to parents who work but was not operated during 2022/23. When operating, the OOSC was designed to be financially self-supporting and has provided some financial support to the main Playgroup sessions.

In total 39 children attended the Playgroup during the year, 28 of whom received some statutory funding and 9 of whom received extra funded sessions.

The Playgroup encourages parents and others to help in group sessions as volunteers. In many cases, these volunteers have undertaken qualifications in childcare and preschool education with the Playgroup's support, benefitting the volunteers, their children and the wider community. In 2022/23 two people volunteered with the Playgroup. One of these volunteers was also employed as an apprentice funded by a grant from the Kings Table Residual Fund.

Work experience and work placements are also sometimes offered to local students, along with support for local people wishing to volunteer and take qualifications in childcare, where appropriate, but this did not happen during 2022/23.



Achievements and performance

2022/23 saw significant change when the playgroup manager and founder retired in April 2023. The deputy manager took over from her and, with support from the other staff, ensured the continued smooth running of the playgroup.

There was a substantial increase in child numbers during the year with 10 new starters in the autumn term and 11 more in the spring/summer terms, bringing total numbers for the year to 39. This included many younger children and an increase in the number who qualified for two year olds funding.

Two members of staff continued their apprentice training towards additional Early Years qualifications. At the end of the year they were awaiting their final assessments, which they have now both successfully passed.

The Trustees remain humbled by the dedication of the Playgroup staff and volunteers and their commitment to work in the best interests of the children and their carers, above and beyond the call of duty.

Financial review

The trustees reviewed and agreed a policy on reserves in January 2022 to keep a positive cashflow throughout each year and aim to increase the reserves over time so that Playgroup has improved financial resilience. This policy continued through the last year.

Total expenditure for the year was £108,192 compared with total income received of £108,243.

Income was mainly derived from:

- The Government's Early Education Funding, provided for children over three years old (this starts from the term after they are three. This figure varies from year to year, depending on the numbers of children in the Playgroup and when their birthdays fall during the school year);
- The Government's 30 hours free childcare scheme;
- Statutory funding for some two year olds under the Warwickshire County Council's scheme for two year olds;
- Gifts from parents and other individuals; and
- Grants and donations from organisations and other supporters including local churches.

Income from the Early Education Funding this year totalled £80,959 significantly higher than in previous years. However, income from restricted grants was £9,100, which is lower than in the previous year. We received grants from the Kings Table Residual Fund and Kenilworth Town Council. £8,500 was spent on staff costs, and £657 on equipment, leaving us with no restricted funds to be carried forward.



Other organisations donating in 2022/23 included the Living Word Fellowship Church, St John the Evangelist Church, the Benefact Group, and the Kenilworth Sports and Social Club.

2022/23 ended with reserves of £6,482 being carried forward to the following year, and no restricted funds to carry forward. No fund was in deficit.

The budget for 2023/24 has been set to maintain the current level of reserves, and is dependent on securing additional grants to cover some of the costs of retaining our apprentices upon completion of their training. At the date of approving this report we anticipate meeting the targets set in the budget.

Declaration

The Trustees declare they have approved the Trustees' Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Signature



Full name

Antony Feltbower



Position

Chair of Trustees

Date

9 April 2024



	Independent examiner's report on the accounts		
Section A	Independent Examiner's Report		
Report to the trustees/ members of	The Spring Playgroup Charity		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st August 2023	Charity no (if any)	1157755
Set out on pages	7 & 8		
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	<p>The charity's trustees 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act, • to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and • to state whether particular matters have come to my attention. 		
Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 those matters set out in the statement below.</p>		
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act <p>have not been met; or</p> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>		
Signed:		Date:	9/4/24
Name:	Mr P Lewis		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body	ACA		
Address:	40 Barrow Road		
	Kenilworth		
	CV8 1EH		



The Spring Playgroup Charity			1157755	CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	1st September 2022	To	31st August 2023	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Gifts	17,521	-	-	17,521	17,487
Statutory funding	80,959	-	-	80,959	53,840
Fundraising	491	-	-	491	414
Grants	-	9,100	-	9,100	28,166
Out of School Club (OOSC)	-	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	172	-	-	172	11
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	99,143	9,100	-	108,243	97,918
A2 Asset and investment sales.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	99,143	9,100	-	108,243	97,918
A3 Payments					
Staff costs (ex OOSC)	81,580	8,500	-	90,080	81,979
OOSC Staff costs	-	-	-	-	-
Premises	13,230	-	-	13,230	12,810
Insurance	1,191	-	-	1,191	1,157
Consumable play materials	552	-	-	552	450
Refreshments and cleaning materials	469	-	-	469	351
Office/Administration	1,603	-	-	1,603	1,342
Bank charges	60	-	-	60	93
Equipments and resources	350	657	-	1,007	1,437
Sundry	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	99,035	9,157	-	108,192	99,619
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	99,035	9,157	-	108,192	99,619
Net of receipts/(payments)	108	- 57	-	51	- 1,701
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	6,374	57	-	6,431	8,132
Cash funds this year end	6,482	-	-	6,482	6,431

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Caf Bank Current Account	1,468	-	-
	Caf Bank Gold Account	5,000	-	-
	Petty Cash	14	-	-
	Total cash funds	6,482	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Metal sheds	Restricted	-	-
	Safes	Restricted	-	-
	Various storage solutions for toys/play materials	Restricted	-	-
	Tables/Chairs/Home corner	Restricted	-	-
	Various toys/play equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Computer equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature



Print Name

A Feltbower

Date of approval

09-Apr-24