

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document:	Constitution dated 21 st October 2015
Constitution:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee Selection Method:	One third of Charity Trustees to retire at every AGM by rotation. New Trustees can be appointed by the members at the AGM or by the Charity Trustees
Organisation:	All matters of policy and management of the CIO Are determined by regular meetings of the Trustees
Constitution Provisions:	Income and property of the CIO must be applied solely towards the promotion of the Objects

Objectives and Activities

Objects

The advancement of education for children in early years (birth to 7) in such ways as the charity trustees think fit including (but not exclusively) by: -

1. Promoting their care and safety
2. Promoting their education and parental involvement
3. Providing services to support them and their families and carers
4. Ensuring quality and equity in the early years' sector

Main Activities for Public Benefit

The CIO offers a training and facilities resource to support those providing education and educational activities in private, voluntary or independent and maintained settings in the most deprived areas of Birmingham and the West Midlands. The CIO's work benefits children from birth to seven years and includes a significant number of children who are looked after under a child protection order or have complex educational needs and disabilities. The CIO supports the work of

Early Education to promote Maintained Nursery Schools through the All-Party Parliamentary Group. No active work has taken place 23-24.

Birmingham Early Years Network (BEYN)

The CIO works closely with the Local Authority to run the Birmingham Early Years Network (BEYN) a network for early years staff across the city based around the 10 Birmingham districts. This involves working with primary schools with nursery/reception classes to strengthen practice relating to children under 4 years old with an aim to:

- Support increased capacity to deliver 2-year-old EEE places
- Improved outcomes for all children at the end of the Foundation Stage
- Effective transition arrangements within the 10 district areas.

The CIO supports the development and maintenance of Early Years Steering groups across the 10 Districts. The CIO also provides Continued Professional Development across the Early Years Sector. The CIO enables expertise, knowledge and skills to be disseminated across all early years' settings.

Families of children under 5 are supported through our 50 Things to do Before You're Five in Birmingham project, part funded by the Family Hub initiative.

Birmingham Maintained Nursery Schools provide CPD to the team of Birmingham Local Authority Early Years Consultants to experience and understand innovative pedagogical approaches to teaching in early years.

Under the umbrella of the Birmingham Nursery School Collaboration Trust, eleven students completed a 5-week block placement in Birmingham Maintained Nursery Schools February - March 2024 as part of the Erasmus project. For more details click on the link below to read a blog:

<https://www.birminghamearlyyearsnetworks.org/blog/international-early-years-partnership-birmingham-frankfurt>

Other system leadership projects led by Birmingham Local Authority Maintained Nursery Schools and its partners

1 Developing Local Provision (DLP) project (Phase 2)

Based on Birmingham's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) strategy, the DLP initiative is in place in early years settings and primary and secondary schools across the city. Early Years DLP is part of the improvement agenda to meet the needs of early years children with SEND, but the project is universal, as early identification and intervention improves outcomes for all children. The initiative aims to enhance the work already being done by early years settings and mainstream schools in providing support to children in their local area.

Phase two of the Early Years Developing Local Provision project focus:

1. Increase of uptake of Early Education Entitlement by eligible children in each district
2. Increase of children achieving Good Level of Development at end of EYFS
3. Decrease of children across the district who are risk of placement breakdown following transition to reception

2 Stronger Practice Hub – HEART – Helping Early Years Practitioners Apply Research to Teaching and Learning.

Part of the DfE's Early Years Education COVID-19 Recovery Package, the Midland's partnership consists of:

- Bloomsbury Nursery School
- Castle Vale Nursery School
- Norton Hall Children and Family Centre
- Weoley Castle Nursery School
- LMC Childcare Solutions

Local Authorities covered: Birmingham, Coventry, Herefordshire, Solihull, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.

The Stronger Practice Hub supports other nurseries and childminders in its area to adopt evidence-based practice improvements by:

- Building on and strengthening local networks of early years educators to share knowledge and effective practice
- Proactively sharing information and advice on evidence-based approaches - for example, through newsletters, blogs and social media
- Acting as a point of contact for bespoke advice and signposting to other funded support
- Working with the EFF to select evidence-based programmes to fund and make available to nurseries and childminders.

Achievements and Performance

The CIO has fulfilled its charitable objectives by promoting care and safety through training and good practice. Education and Parental involvement has been promoted by consultations, social networks and training opportunities. The Charity has been instrumental in securing additional government funding to ensure the beacons of excellence are not closed or lost for the most vulnerable children. This is always at the forefront of our actions.

Standards of Education - 96% of schools that make up the Birmingham Nursery School Collaboration Trust are judged good or outstanding at Ofsted.

The work of the CIO is visible on the Birmingham Early Years Networks website at:

<https://www.birminghamearlyyearsnetworks.org/bnsct>

Method of appointment or election of Trustees

The trustees are appointed by nomination and voting by the membership and undergo relevant induction upon appointment.

Financial Review

The CIO's financial position is satisfactory and relies on the membership of the 27 Nursery Schools. The CIO intends to meet its charitable obligations by maintaining and enhancing its level of service. Annual subscriptions have been waived since 2020-21 due to the carry forward balance.

External account audit completed by DRB November 2024.

Policy on Reserves

The Trustees regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil the charity's obligations.

Review of Major Risks

The trustees confirm that the major risk is financial sustainability, which is **addressed by scrutiny of the accounts at Trust Board meetings.**

This report was approved by the Trustees on 28 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Sharon Lewis

Chair of BNSCT

28.01.2025



BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

Audit of the School Fund Accounts
for the Year Ended 31st March 2024

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SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES SERVICES LIMITED

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

School Fund Account for the year ending 31st March 2024

Trial Balance as at 31st March 2024

Expenditure	Income	Profit / (loss) for the year
Network Funding Payment	233333.00	£233,333.00
BEYN Coordination & Admin Supp	0.00	(£95,207.91)
District Lead	0.00	(£37,150.00)
Language Liverley Champion	0.00	(£500.00)
Marketing / Media / Website	0.00	(£32,193.61)
MNS-EYC CPD Partnership	0.00	(£14,700.00)
Room Bookings	0.00	(£2,901.24)
BEYN Events / Training	0.00	(£5,987.00)
Data Protection / Auditing	0.00	(£338.80)
Finance admin charge	0.00	(£4,000.00)
Bank charges	0.00	(£52.85)
50 Things Project	39000.00	£17,095.29
Profit c/f	£57,396.88	
£272,333.00	£272,333.00	£57,396.88



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES SERVICES LIMITED

School Fund Account for the year ending 31st March 2024

Analysis of Balances

Bank Balance Held at the start of the year
LESS Cheque numbers presented from last financial year
146, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 222, 224, 225, 226,
227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235

£198,835.84
(£72,313.00)

£126,522.84

Profit / (loss) for the year

£57,396.88

Balance as at 31st March 2024

£183,919.72

Represented by :-

Bank Balance Held at the end of the year
LESS Unpresented cheque number
220, 245, 251, 291

£212,519.72
(£28,600.00)

Balance C/f to the Financial Year 2024/2025

£183,919.72



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES SERVICES LIMITED

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

Income

Network Funding Payment	£233,333.00
BEYN Coordination & Admin Support	£0.00
District Lead	£0.00
Language Liverley Champion	£0.00
Marketing / Media / Website	£0.00
MNS-EYC CPD Partnership	£0.00
Room Bookings	£0.00
BEYN Events / Training	£0.00
Data Protection / Auditing	£0.00
Finance admin charge	£0.00
Bank charges	£0.00
50 Things Project	£39,000.00

Total Income

£272,333.00

Expenditure

Network Funding Payment	£0.00
BEYN Coordination & Admin Support	£95,207.91
District Lead	£37,150.00
Language Liverley Champion	£500.00
Marketing / Media / Website	£32,193.61
MNS-EYC CPD Partnership	£14,700.00
Room Bookings	£2,901.24
BEYN Events / Training	£5,987.00
Data Protection / Auditing	£338.80
Finance admin charge	£4,000.00

Bank charges
50 Things Project

£52.85
£21,904.71

Total Expenditure

£214,936.12

Profit / (loss) for the year

£57,396.88

Retained Profit B/f

£126,522.84

Total Retained Profits

£183,919.72

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES SERVICES LIMITED

£ £

Fixed Assets

£0.00

Current Assets

Stock (uniform)

£0.00

Debtors

£0.00

Bank & Cash Balance

£212,519.72

£212,519.72

Less Creditors (falling due within the year)

Liabilities

(£28,600.00)

Total Current Assets / (Liabilities)

£183,919.72

TOTAL NET ASSETS

£183,919.72

Balances & Reserves

Retained Reserves b/f

£126,522.84

Profit / (loss) for the year

£57,396.88

TOTAL RESERVES

£183,919.72

S. Lewis

Chair of BWSET 28.01.2025

1. STATEMENT OF AUDIT



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES SERVICES LIMITED

STATEMENT OF AUDIT

SCHOOL :- BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION
TO :- THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Background

The School currently has one bank account with Nat West Bank plc, where all transactions are recorded on a day-to-day basis under the name of "Birmingham Nursery Schools Collaboration". The account is a Schools Account and is numbered 36366927.

The School does not appear to operate a designated cash float system, although no records were presented for audit to clarify this.

Statement of Audit

I have examined the receipts and payments made through the School Fund Account for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

The audit consisted of an examination, on a test basis, of the completeness and accuracy of the School's records. In the report attached I have detailed my findings and recommendations where applicable.

In my opinion, based on the records presented, the accounts / records produced by the School give a true and fair view of the receipts and payments for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Signed

Date Audit Completed

:- 20th November 2024

David Bagley, ACMA
drb Schools and Academies Services Ltd

2. AUDIT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AUDIT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SCHOOL : BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION PERIOD OF AUDIT : 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Control	Findings	Recommendations	Actioned
2.1 Records Kept			
2.1.1 Cheque books	All cheque books were presented.	None.	
2.1.2 Paying in books	The collaborative does not appear to receive cash and therefore no paying-in book were presented.	None.	
2.1.3 Bank Statements	All Bank Statements were presented.	None.	
2.1.4 Electronic Transactions	The collaborative receives income electronically by automated credit. Reports or remittances are obtained to verify the nature and amount of income received.	None.	
2.1.5 Expenditure records	Expenditure is recorded on a spreadsheet under specific categories. Therefore, the School is able to ascertain whether a particular category is making a profit or a loss. Income and expenditure are clearly recorded in columns with separate running totals.	None.	
2.1.6 Income records	Income is recorded on a spreadsheet under specific categories. Therefore, the School is able to ascertain whether a particular category is making a profit or a loss. Income and expenditure are clearly recorded in columns with separate running totals.	None.	

2.1.7 Receipts	Receipts/invoices are obtained wherever possible. A copy of the cheque was presented with the receipt/invoice and receipts/invoices are filed in cheque number order.	None.	
2.1.7 Running Bank Balance	The records show a running bank balance, which enables the school to ascertain a current available cash balance.	None.	
2.1.8 Cash float maintained	There appears to be no designated cash float kept.	None.	
2.1.9 Stock Held – School Uniform	No School Uniform is purchased through the School Fund Account.	None.	

Control	Findings	Recommendations	Actioned
2.2 Completeness of records			
2.2.1 Cheque books	All cheque book stubs are completed and cheques used in numerical order. Cheques issued/cashed during the year were 000236 to 000291.	None.	
2.2.2 Paying in book stubs	The fund does not appear to receive cash and therefore no paying-in book were presented.	None.	
2.2.3 Cancelled cheques	One cheque has been cancelled at the year-end namely cheque numbers 000260 the stub was clearly marked as cancelled but the void cheque was not attached to the stub.	Cancelled cheques should be attached to the stub wherever possible and presented for audit.	
2.2.4 Un-presented cheques	Three cheques remained un-presented at period-end, namely cheque numbers 000220, 000245, 000251, 000291. It was noted that cheque 000220 is more than six months old.	It is recommended that cheques older than six months should be cancelled and re-issued	

		where necessary. As cheques may not be cleared at the bank if more than six months old.	
2.2.5 Bank Statements	Nat West Bank Statements issued during the period were dated 28/04/2023 to 28/03/2024. All statements were presented and the account was not overdrawn during the year. The school does receive interest on credit balances.	None.	

Control	Findings	Recommendations	Actioned
2.3 Bank Reconciliation			
2.3.1 Bank reconciliation	A formal bank reconciliation is carried out on a monthly basis which accounts for un-presented cheques and credits not yet banked and is signed by the Headteacher by way of verification.	None.	

Control					
2.4 Transaction Testing					
2.4.1 Cheque expenditure items – A sample of seven cheque expenditure transactions were checked to ensure that the records had been updated correctly and to establish the validity of the transactions.					
Date on Statement	Cheque No	Cheque Book Amount	Recorded at Bank	Recorded in Accounts	Receipt / invoice
17.07.2023	000238	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	Yes
24.07.2023	000254	12,213.00	12,213.00	12,213.00	Yes
26.10.2023	000259	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	Yes
11.12.2023	000270	300.00	300.00	300.00	Yes
20.11.2023	000280	23,173.24	23,173.24	16,746.92+4,774.61	Yes
22.12.2023	000283	900.00	900.00	900.00	Yes
06.03.2024	000288	26,448.00	26,448.00	15,792.00+10,656.00	Yes
Recommendations					
None.					

2.4.2 Electronic Income items – A sample of two electronic income transactions were checked to ensure that the records had been updated correctly and to establish the validity of the transactions.			
Date on Statement	Amount on report	Recorded at Bank	Recorded in Accounts
20.07.2023	20,000.00	20,000.00	Yes
04.10.2023	33,333.00	33,333.00	Yes
07.03.2024	50,000.00	50,000.00	Yes
Recommendations			
None.			

S. Lewis
Chargd BWSCT
28.01.2025

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

S. Lewis
Charg BNSCT
28.01 2025