

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document	Constitution dated 21st October 2015 Updated 10 July 2025
Constitution	Association Constitution Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection method	Except for the Trustees listed in 12.4 (Constitution 10.07.2025), who shall serve for the terms indicated, every charity Trustee shall hold office for three years from the date of their appointment. New Trustees can be appointed by the members at the AGM or by the Charity Trustees. A charity trustee who has served for nine consecutive years may not be reappointed for another consecutive year but may be reappointed after an interval of at least one year.
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 (The British Association for Early Childhood Education) Save Our Maintained Nursery Schools <https://early-education.org.uk/campaigns/save-our-maintained-nursery-schools/>

Birmingham Early Years Network (BEYN)

Since 2019, the CIO has worked 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 nursery settings and 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.

Visitors

Under the umbrella of the Birmingham Nursery School Collaboration, 15 students from Frankfurt in Germany completed a 5-week block placement in Birmingham Maintained Nursery Schools between February - March 2025. Whilst in a host placement they also had the opportunity to visit other nursery schools. We held a session at Osborne Nursery for them and their teacher to give them an overview of early years in the UK and particularly in Birmingham. They also had the opportunity to tour Osborne Nursery School.

On 24.03.2025, Louise Bennett Bayliss OBE, Vice Lord Lieutenant West Midlands met with CIO trustees and BEYN co-ordinators following an interest in the work of the Birmingham Early Years Networks. Louise shared how the Princess of Wales through A Royal Foundation Taskforce for Early Childhood is exploring the importance of the formative years of a child's development and how, if we can get that right, we can shape a positive, dynamic and open future society.

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 until 31.08.2025. 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.

Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs provide advice, share good practice and offer evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners.

The Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs programme launched in November 2022 and is due to end 31.3.26 is supported by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the National Children's Bureau (NCB).

There are currently 18 Early Years Stronger Practice Hubs (two in each of the government office regions). The Hubs provide support and advice to improve quality in early years settings by sharing good practice and offering evidence-informed professional development for early years educators.

Part of the DfE's Early Years Education COVID-19 Recovery Package, the Midlands 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 EEF 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. Annual subscriptions have been waived since 2020-21 due to the carry forward balance.

The CIO receives £200,000 annually through a LA Memorandum of Understanding until 31.07.2025 to deliver Birmingham Early Years Networks.

External account 2024-2025 audit completed by DRB November 2025.

The CIO intends to meet its charitable obligations by maintaining and enhancing its level of service.

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

BNSC has a strategic risk register. Major risks are identified, assessed and reviewed. Control measures have been established to manage these 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 27 January 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Sharon Lewis

Chair of BNSC

27.01.2026

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Chair of BNSC.



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIE

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

School Fund Account for the year ending 31st March 2025

Trial Balance as at 31st March 2025

Profit / (loss)
for the year

Expenditure	Income	
Network Funding Payment	0	200000.00
BEYN Coordination & Admin Supp	87075.60	0.00
District Lead	64800.00	0.00
None BEYN costs	4648.17	0.00
Marketing / Media / Website	43684.62	0.00
MNS-EYC CPD Partnership	40500.00	0.00
Room Bookings	6154.20	0.00
BEYN Events / Training	13344.19	0.00
Data Protection / Auditing	40.00	0.00
Memberships	5700.00	0.00
Finance admin charge	7500.00	0.00
Bank charges	47.60	0.00
50 Things Project	17359.80	0.00
50 Things Resources	3160.03	0.00
Profit c/f		£94,014.21
	<u>£294,014.21</u>	<u>£294,014.21</u>



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

School Fund Account for the year ending 31st March 2025

Analysis of Balances

Bank Balance Held at the start of the year
LESS Cheque numbers presented from last financial year 0391

£212,519.72
(£900.00)

Profit / (loss) for the year

£211,619.72

Balance as at 31st March 2025

£117,605.51

Represented by :-

Bank Balance Held at the end of the year
LESS Unpresented cheque number 347 348 350 353 354 358

£128,405.51
(£10,800.00)

Balance C/f to the Financial Year 2025/2026

£117,605.51

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2025

Income		
Network Funding Payment		£200,000.00
BEYN Coordination & Admin Support		£0.00
District Lead		£0.00
None BEYN costs		£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
Memberships		£0.00
Finance admin charge		£0.00
Bank charges		£0.00
50 Things Project		£0.00
50 Things Resources		£0.00
Total Income		£200,000.00
Expenditure		
Network Funding Payment		£0.00
BEYN Coordination & Admin Support		£87,075.60
District Lead		£64,800.00
None BEYN costs		£4,648.17
Marketing / Media / Website		£43,684.62
MNS-EYC CPD Partnership		£40,500.00
Room Bookings		£6,154.20
BEYN Events / Training		£13,344.19
Data Protection / Auditing		£40.00
Memberships		£5,700.00

Finance admin charge
Bank charges
50 Things Project
50 Things Resources

£7,500.00
£47.60
£17,359.80
£3,160.03

Total Expenditure

£294,014.21

Profit / (loss) for the year

(£94,014.21)

Retained Profit B/f

£211,619.72

Total Retained Profits

£117,605.51

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025



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£ £

Fixed Assets

£0.00

Current Assets

Stock (uniform)

£0.00

Debtors

£0.00

Bank & Cash Balance

£128,405.51

£128,405.51

Less Creditors (falling due within the year)

Liabilities

(£10,800.00)

Total Current Assets / (Liabilities)

£117,605.51

TOTAL NET ASSETS

£117,605.51

Balances & Reserves

Retained Reserves b/f
Profit / (loss) for the year

£211,619.72
(£94,014.21)

TOTAL RESERVES

£117,605.51

S. Lewis
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Q7.01.2026



SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES SERVICES LIMITED

BIRMINGHAM NURSERY SCHOOLS COLLABORATION

Audit of the School Fund Accounts
for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

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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 2024 to 31st March 2025.

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 2025.

Signed

Date Audit Completed

:- 20th November 2025

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 2024 to 31st March 2025

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. The school paid some invoices of expenditure by means of Faster Payment. Copies of invoices are obtained wherever possible to verify the nature of the expenditure incurred.	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	None.	

	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.		
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 000292 to 000361.	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	Five cheques had been cancelled at the year-end namely cheque numbers 000220, 245, 251, 318, 335 none of the stubs were marked as	None.	

	cancelled but the void cheques were not attached to the stub a copy of the cheques were with the invoices.		
2.2.4 Un-presented cheques	Six cheques remained un-presented at period-end, namely cheque numbers 000347, 000348, 000250, 000353, 000354, 000358.	None.	
2.2.5 Bank Statements	Nat West Bank Statements issued during the period were dated 28/03/2024 to 31/03/2025. 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
01.05.2024	000297	32889.73	32889.73	10441.20+19288.50+3160.03	Yes
15.05.2024	000305	2400.00	2400.00	2400.00	Yes
30.09.2024	000309	8100.00	8100.00	1200.00+900.00+6000.00	Yes
22.10.2024	000315	5700.00	5700.00	5700.00	Yes
22.11.2024	000331	1674.75	1674.75	1674.75	Yes
16.12.2024	000339	4179.90	4179.90	4179.90	Yes
20.01.2025	000360	1076.57	1076.57	1076.57	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
20.06.2024	50000.00	50000.00	Yes
19.02.2025	50000.00	50000.00	Yes

Recommendations

None.

2.4.3 Electronic Expenditure items – A sample of three expenditure 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	Receipt / invoice
05.02.2025	1400.00	1400.00	1400.00	No
28.02.2025	1674.75	1674.75	1674.75	No
10.03.2025	142.80	142.80	142.80	
28.03.2025	11550.00	11550.00	11550.00	No
Recommendations				
None.				

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

S. Lewis
Chair of BNSC
27.01.2026

