

# ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1167833

## Details

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**Other names** ST PETERÆS PLAYGROUP

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2016-06-24

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

## Contact

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**Address** 182 Sterling Road  
Sittingbourne  
ME10 1ST

**Phone** 07540549490

**Email** [st-peters-playgroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:st-peters-playgroup@hotmail.co.uk)

**Website** [www.st-peters-playgroup.co.uk](http://www.st-peters-playgroup.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN PRIMARILY UNDER STATUTORY SCHOOL AGE BY ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND BY: (A) OFFERING APPROPRIATE PLAY, EDUCATION AND CARE FACILITIES, FAMILY LEARNING AND EXTENDED HOURS GROUPS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SUCH GROUPS, ENSURING THAT SUCH GROUPS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN THEIR RACE, CULTURE, RELIGION, MEANS OR ABILITY (B) ENCOURAGING THE STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SUCH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND RECOGNITION OF SUCH NEEDS IN THE LOCAL AREA.

**Activities:** St Peter's Playgroup makes available to the local community in Sittingbourne Kent a quality service for the personal development and education of children aged 2 years to statutory school age. A safe/appropriate setting is provided where children can learn, develop and play. No child is excluded for economic/any other reason by inclusion and support for all families irrespective of circumstances.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Kent

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£121,012	£111,245	-	-
2024-08-31	£94,019	£89,754	-	-
2023-08-31	£70,787	£85,510	-	-
2022-08-31	£77,100	£93,186	-	-
2021-08-31	£106,255	£99,610	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Ann Mary Herbert		2016-06-24
Brenda Harris		2022-01-12
Richard Harris		2023-12-01
VIVIEN FARRELL		2017-02-09

**ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167833

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**



**Names of trustees who manage the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Report agreed</b>
Mrs Vivien Farrell	Trustee / Treasurer	Agreed by email
Mrs Brenda Harris	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Anne Herbert	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mr Richard Harris	Trustee	Agreed by email

### **Summary of the purposes of the charity**

Regarding the purpose of St Peter's Playgroup, the Trustees fully endorse the following as stated in the governing document:

“For the public benefit to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents / carers to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

(a) offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children irrespective of their race, culture, religion, means or ability

(b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.”

### **Principles, objectives and ethos of St Peter's Playgroup**

St Peter's Playgroup is a preschool originally established in 1983 by parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart Sittingbourne and was in fact a parish group before becoming independent then taking charitable status. The main objective of playgroup is that children from the local community should come and enjoy themselves whilst learning irrespective of background or financial means. The trustees are proud of the fact that playgroup always meets this objective. St Peter's Playgroup has always endeavoured to have the lowest fees (for those not eligible for government funding) in the local area.

Access has always been offered to any child in the local community irrespective of race, culture, religion, means or ability. The playgroup management, trustees, staff and volunteers are proud of playgroup's record of helping parents / carers to successfully prepare their children for transfer to primary school reception class.

St Peter's Playgroup delivers education and support as specified by the National Foundation Stage Curriculum. Playgroup is fortunate to have highly qualified and experienced staff who enable this commitment to be met.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. If necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with them and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding where and how further support can be provided.

The trustees are pleased to report that all feedback received from parents / carers has been positive and that there is frequent repeat business with siblings coming to playgroup. There is a good relationship with primary schools who have also made positive comments regarding the readiness of children for reception class.

All staff, volunteers and trustees have had appropriate data barring service (DBS) checks that are kept up to date. The staff that look after the children receive appropriate training as required. There is also appropriate safeguarding, data protection and management policies in place.

The trustees are proud of the fact that no child has ever been refused enrolment to St Peter's Playgroup on any grounds including special needs or financial difficulties. A concession that playgroup makes to parents / carers with children that are two years old, is that, unlike many preschool settings no fee is charged if the child cannot attend their usual session. The manager also has the discretion to take a flexible approach where a family is in obvious financial difficulty. Such circumstances are reported verbally to the trustees however the identity of those involved is never disclosed.

## **Summary of the main activities and achievements**

### **Overview of service delivered**

There has been a full programme of activities for the children. The staff have worked hard and the records show that every child has made progress towards achieving their potential. The aims of playgroup are to help children develop in a number of areas as set out in the national foundation stage curriculum. We are pleased to report that every child has made progress with what they can do whilst developing from an individual to being able to take part in group activities. Most importantly they all do this whilst playing and having fun. We have qualified, experienced and professional staff who are good at both putting individual childcare plans into operation and identifying areas where help may be needed. The staff and the parents / carers are to be thanked for their patience and support.

We are pleased to report that playgroup has still been able to accommodate children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) despite the fact that "One to One" funding is no longer available. The staff are to be congratulated and thanked for their work in supporting those most in need. The removal of the one-to-one funding for SEN does impact on the number of staff we can employ and therefore limits the number of SEN children that we can help.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. Records are kept of each child's progress that are the property of the parent / carer, this allows them to see how their child is progressing in terms of both ability and maturity. When necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with the parent(s) / carer(s) and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding whether or not further support is needed and how it will be provided.

Parents and Carers wishing their child to enrol with playgroup are invited to visit with the child first to ensure that the setting meets their needs. When first enrolled the child's parent(s) / carer(s) are invited to stay until the child has settled, this usually is a very short time as we find that children settle in quickly.

In September 2025, 14 children transferred successfully to primary school and we have had good feedback that they have settled in quickly and happily with school life.

### **Staffing update**

Two members of staff are updating their qualifications to level 3. One is the young lady who joined us in 2023 for work experience and in 2024 became a member of staff and a mature student.

The part time member of staff recruited last year to help with the preparation of playgroup each morning is still with us and this is somebody we would find very hard to do without. This has become necessary as there is limited time in the morning to prepare the hall for the children.

### **Issues that have arisen during the year under review**

Our staffing levels over the past year have been good although we are operating at the minimal staffing level. Staffing is a major issue in the childcare sector. Fortunately, we have been able to keep staffing at a suitable level throughout the year. On the occasions when due to unexpected circumstances there has been a staff shortage we have been able to call in suitable staff to assist on a part time basis.

The crisis in the childcare sector has been brought about by the government promising free childcare to parents / carers then only paying a proportion of the cost to childcare settings. This results in a shortfall of income therefore staff are underpaid for the responsible work that they do. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff who effectively subsidise the setting. It is therefore unsurprising that the childcare sector is losing staff to better paid positions. Whilst we are lucky to have such dedicated team, we cannot expect this situation to remain long term.

The hall continues to be a problem with the high rent, removal of available storage and having to deal with rubbish and other issues left by other hall users. Discussions have taken place with the parish priest (our landlord) and Kent County Council [see page 8] in an effort to resolve these issues and it is hoped that more storage will be provided.

Finally, the trustees would like to thank the manager Mrs Willson for her tireless efforts to keep playgroup working to such a high standard, maintaining a good relationship with parents and carers and in particular making playgroup a happy and safe place for the children in our care.

### **Thank you to the staff and our community**

St Peter's Playgroup is fortunate to have reliable and conscientious staff and volunteers all of whom give a significant amount of unpaid time to ensure successful outcomes for playgroup activities. These include staff getting in early to prepare the hall, staying after sessions to pack away and in their own time preparing activities for the children. The staff are to be congratulated for their conscientious approach, commitment and innovative ideas that help to provide a rich and stimulating programme of activities for the children. We thank trustees Mrs Vivien Farrell and Mrs Brenda Harris for their support when we have been short-handed for a playgroup session.

The trustees would also like to thank the parents and carers for their positive contribution to group activities without this it would not be possible for playgroup to function effectively. The feedback from parents / carers and their involvement in activities helps playgroup to achieve one of its primary goals of contributing to the local community.

### **Challenges**

The challenges faced by trustees, management and staff of playgroup have been many over the period under review, the need to support those children with special educational needs (SEN) despite the withdrawal of funding for "one to one" assistance and the inadequate government funding rate (for qualifying children) are a major concern as both these issues present long-term risks to the charity's viability. The government claims to be providing free childcare, however this is not the case as staff are underpaid for the work that they do and playgroup relies on unpaid volunteers to carry out many back-office tasks. Additionally, the increasing bureaucratic demands placed on childcare settings to manage the SEN process and the demands of the regulatory systems has added significantly to the effort required to meet commitments. As a result of the above there is a shortage of experienced qualified staff in the childcare industry that may impact significantly on playgroup in the future.

### Latest OFSTED inspection

**The results of the OFSTED inspections carried out during the calendar year 2022.**

The first was carried out on 13 January 2022 and was required following the issues raised by the staff. The second inspection was carried out on 7 December 2022 and the improvements highlight the excellent work carried out by the new manager and her team with all areas found to be good.

The trustees congratulate all involved in achieving the improvement.

### Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection

Inspection of St Peter's Playgroup  
The O'Sullivan Centre Sacred Heart Church,  
63 West Street, Sittingbourne,  
Kent ME10 1AN

Inspection date: 7 December 2022
Overall effectiveness Good
The quality of education Good
Behaviour and attitudes Good
Personal development Good
Leadership and management Good

## St Peter's Playgroup Financial Review

### Summary of income and expenditure 2024 / 2025

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Total</b>
	Government funding and Fees	£117, 121		Wages	£91,653
	Sponsorship and donations	£3,537		Rent	£11,970
	Milk	£344		Supplies	£3,992
	Sundries / interest	£10		Renewables, Course Fees, Equipment, Insurance, Professional Fees, Loan repayment Marketing etc.	£3,630
	<b>Total Receipts</b>	£121.012		<b>Total Expenditure</b>	£111,245

The Playgroup account ended the year with a balance of £15,888 compared to an end balance of £6,121 in the previous accounting year. However, the 2023 to 2024 year includes a £4,000 interest free loan from trustee Mrs Viven Farrell that was required to meet payroll commitments in December, 2023. It is noted that fees have increased by £28,187 compared to the previous accounting year. This highlights the improvement in enrolments resulting from the proper approach to encouraging two-year-old children to attend playgroup. Another important factor has been the marketing of playgroup by Manager Jenny Willson and her team along with an effective invoice system for direct fee payers.

However, the predicted intake for September 2025 is lower than usual and is a concern. One factor is that due to the numbers of children attending playgroup towards the end of the summer term fewer tours where parents / carers could attend with their child to assess suitability of playgroup were possible as staff were fully occupied looking after the attending children. Additionally, it is understood that new childcare settings will be opening in Sittingbourne that will offer full day care and are close to Sittingbourne station.

Costs have risen in all areas of expenditure and inflation continues to be a major concern along with inadequate government funding.

The cost of the rent for the hall has increased from £11,760 to £11,970 this is an issue as much of playgroup's storage has been taken away and there is also a problem regarding staff having to deal with damage to equipment and rubbish left by other hall users.

A summary of the audited accounts with the independent examiners report (completed by Lyndens Accountants [ Kent] Ltd) is provided in Appendix 1.

A statement regarding viability of childcare settings is provided in the "Report Summary and Conclusions" section 4 (page 8) of this report.

## Report summary and conclusions

### 1. Delivery of childcare

The manager Mrs Jennifer Willson and her deputy, working with the team and the trustees, has improved the marketing of playgroup significantly. Additionally, a more effective and cost-conscious regime has been implemented. This is demonstrated by keeping the increase in the cost of wages at a reasonable level despite the rise in the minimum wage. Mrs Willson and the staff are to be thanked and congratulated.

Mrs Willson and her team have welcomed two-year old children and created a friendly and welcoming setting. This has resulted in an improvement in the rate of enrolment. Additionally, she has developed an effective invoice system for fee payers that is operating well.

The manager and staff have developed an excellent Facebook page that is supported by a website and google account entry which combined capture considerable interest of potential customers.

A major issue is the increasing weight of bureaucracy when applying for funding, dealing with the autocratic demands of OFSTED and when applying for special education needs (SEN) support. This can involve dealing with multiple agencies who all seem to want the same information on different forms.

We have been fortunate to obtain a grant, from the Government and Kent County Council for the development of our storage facility. The work included taking out all the old cupboards and replacing it with safe shelving put around 2 sides of the storage room. The work was completed by a qualified carpenter to the satisfaction of playgroup and the landlord in time for us to open for the Autumn term and therefore not lose any session time. A few months later the carpenter returned and finished his work by installing 4 radiator covers in areas where the children played. Before this we had to put furniture in front of the radiators so that children were safe from touching hot surfaces. The covers provide safety and more room for the children to play. The full cost of the work with skip hire was £2,440.

The delivery of childcare by Mrs Willson and her team has been to the highest standards and it is clear that the team has an ethos that puts the children first and there is a clear determination to ensure that they provide a safe environment where children learn through play.

### 2. Finances

A number of issues are being monitored by treasurer Mrs Farrell including the increasing cost of wages / staff training as well as the inadequate government funding that has not kept pace with inflation. The government expects childcare settings to make up the difference between the funded rate and a viable rate by charging parents / carers for other services (for example, provision of meals, nappy changing etc.). There is of course, a limit to how much income you can raise this way. For example, we have stopped providing a hot lunch and children bring in a packed lunch box as to provide hot lunch was uneconomic. We have never charged for nappy changing as we consider it part of the care we provide for the child. A free breakfast and snacks are offered so children are not hungry. Increasing costs due to inflation impacts on parents / carers ability to pay and playgroup's ability to charge a realistic rate for these services. The loss of "one to one" funding for children with special needs is a major problem as staff costs are so high. This also limited us on the number of tours we could arrange for new children as staff were needed for our SEN children.

The coming financial year will be challenging with increasing costs due to inflation, the inadequate government funding and the increase in the minimum wage being just some of the issues impacting on all aspects of childcare and could result in playgroup ceasing to be able to continue to provide the service to the community that has been available for over 40 years.

**Continued on page 8:**

### Continued from page 7

However, with the current team of committed professionals it is possible that we may overcome these challenges and build again for the future. Much will depend on the number of children who enrol at the start of the academic year (September 2025) as the new joiners are needed to replace those who move on to primary school. The uptake of potential enrolments for September 2025 does not, at the moment, look promising.

There is a proposal that from September 2025 children, in our care aged 2 to school age, will receive, government funded, 30 hours of child care per week for 38 weeks of the year, an increase of 15 hours per week per child, however this is only for parents that are both working and may impact on any benefits they receive.

### 3. Acknowledgements

The trustees wish to thank the staff and volunteers who did all they could to reduce the financial burden by volunteering their services free of charge for session preparation and back-office activities. Without this support playgroup would not be viable.

Additionally, the trustees would like to thank those who have made donations over the year and trustee Mrs Farrell for an interest free loan of £1500 made on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and repaid on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 [shown in this year's account] and £4,000 to enable wages to be paid in December 2023. Unfortunately, we have not been in a position to repay this loan and it is still outstanding. Where we have been in a position when cash flow has been difficult Mrs Farrell has put in money to keep us afloat but these loans have been repaid as soon as other money [fees etc] have come in. The cash flow problems have worsened as Kent County Council are keeping hold of the money from government longer than in previous years before paying settings. We hope finances will look up in the future. Our ethos is to help the community but we do have to cover our costs and be viable financially.

### 4. Viability of Playgroup

Following a research project Neil Leitch, CEO of the Early Years Alliance summed up the desperate situation that all childcare settings face and summarised major concerns regarding the funding of childcare. Based on this it can only be concluded that unless H M Government improve the funding system St Peter's Playgroup is unlikely to remain viable.

#### Mr Leitch stated:

*“This research confirms what we already know to be true: that increases in the national minimum wage combined with national insurance rises have placed significant financial pressure on early years providers – pressure that, for the three- and four-year-old offer at least, has not been matched by rises in early years funding. As a result, despite their best efforts, it is becoming increasingly difficult for early years settings to deliver the affordable, flexible service that families need.”*

*“If we are to have any chance of giving all children the best start in life, we need a system where access to places does not depend on income or postcode, and where providers have the financial support they need to deliver the quality care and education that all families deserve. We're clear that the time for government action on this is now. The stakes have never been higher.”*

The above statement was taken from an email sent to St Peter's Playgroup on 21 January 2026. His views are based on the latest information provided by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS).

**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025**

**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**


## Appendix 1

### St Peter's Playgroup Financial Summary and

Independent Examiners report

Financial Year

1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025

	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name	No (if any)	CC16a
		St. Peter's Playgroup	1167833	
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	01/09/2024		31/08/2025	

**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees	117,121	-	-	117,121	88,934
HMS Milk	344	-	-	344	221
Special Needs Support	-	-	-	-	-
Sponsorship and Donations	3,537	-	-	3,537	850
Teas and Raffles	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	10	-	-	10	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	14
Loan Received	-	-	-	-	4,000
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>121,012</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>121,012</b>	<b>94,019</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>121,012</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>121,012</b>	<b>94,019</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages	91,653	-	-	91,653	72,340
Rent	11,970	-	-	11,970	11,760
Supplies	3,992	-	-	3,992	3,025
Insurance	688	-	-	688	723
Course Fees	219	-	-	219	239
Renewables	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	2,365	-	-	2,365	472
PPS and Advertising	36	-	-	36	-
Legal and Professional	322	-	-	322	1,196
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>111,245</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>111,245</b>	<b>89,754</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>111,245</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>111,245</b>	<b>89,754</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>9,767</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,767</b>	<b>4,265</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>6,121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,121</b>	<b>1,856</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>6,121</b>

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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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	15,888	-	-
	Petty Cash	-	-	-
	Debtors	-	-	-
	Creditors	-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>15,888</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Independent Examiners Fee Accrual		240	
	Trustee Loan		2,500	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	<i>Una M Farrell</i>	VIVIENS M FARRELL	20.1.2026	



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity Name St Peter's Playgroup		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2025	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1167833
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1-2 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

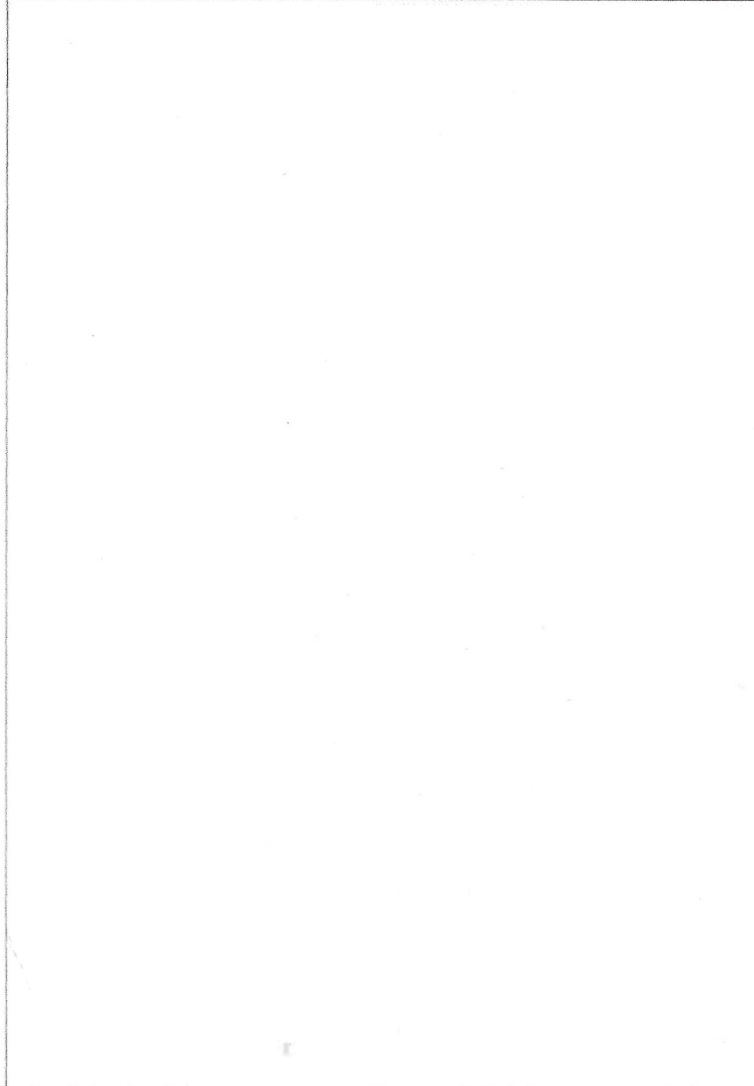
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	05/11/2025
<b>Name:</b>	Jane Henning		
<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b>	INDENS accountants		
<b>Address:</b>	53 WEST STREET SITTINGBOURNE KENT, ME10 1AN TEL: 01795 4225		

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



**ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167833

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# Accounts

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**Draft Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**



**Names of trustees who manage the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Report agreed</b>
Mrs Vivien Farrell	Trustee / Treasurer	Agreed by email
Mrs Brenda Harris	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Anne Herbert	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Gillian Keene	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mr Richard Harris	Trustee	Agreed by email

## **Summary of the purposes of the charity**

Regarding the purpose of St Peter's Playgroup, the Trustees fully endorse the following as stated in the governing document:

“For the public benefit to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents / carers to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

(a) offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children irrespective of their race, culture, religion, means or ability

(b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.”

## **Principles, objectives and ethos of St Peter's Playgroup**

St Peter's Playgroup is a preschool originally established in 1983 by parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart Sittingbourne and was in fact a parish group before becoming independent then taking charitable status. The main objective of playgroup is that children from the local community should come and enjoy themselves whilst learning irrespective of background or financial means. The trustees are proud of the fact that playgroup always meets this objective. St Peter's Playgroup has always endeavoured to have the lowest fees (for those not eligible for government funding) in the local area.

Access has always been offered to any child in the local community irrespective of race, culture, religion, means or ability. The playgroup management, trustees, staff and volunteers are proud of playgroup's record of helping parents / carers to successfully prepare their children for transfer to primary school reception class.

St Peter's Playgroup delivers education and support as specified by the National Foundation Stage Curriculum. Playgroup is fortunate to have highly qualified and experienced staff who enable this commitment to be met.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. If necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with them and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding where and how further support can be provided.

The trustees are pleased to report that all feedback received from parents / carers has been positive and that there is frequent repeat business with siblings coming to playgroup. There is a good relationship with primary schools who have also made positive comments regarding the readiness of children for reception class.

All staff, volunteers and trustees have had appropriate data barring service (DBS) checks that are kept up to date. The staff that look after the children receive appropriate training as required. There is also appropriate safeguarding, data protection and management policies in place.

The trustees are proud of the fact that no child has ever been refused enrolment to St Peter's Playgroup on any grounds including special needs or financial difficulties. A concession that playgroup makes to parents / carers with children that are two years old, is that, unlike many preschool settings no fee is charged if the child cannot attend their usual session. The manager also has the discretion to take a flexible approach where a family is in obvious financial difficulty. Such circumstances are reported verbally to the trustees however the identity of those involved is never disclosed.

## **Summary of the main activities and achievements**

### **Overview of service delivered**

There has been a full programme of activities for the children. The staff have worked hard and the records show that every child has made progress towards achieving their potential. The aims of playgroup are to help children develop in a number of areas as set out in the national foundation stage curriculum. We are pleased to report that every child has made progress with what they can do whilst developing from an individual to being able to take part in group activities. Most importantly they all do this whilst playing and having fun. We have qualified, experienced and professional staff who are good at both putting individual childcare plans into operation and identifying areas where help may be needed. The staff and the parents / carers are to be thanked for their patience and support.

We are pleased to report that playgroup has still been able to accommodate children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) despite the fact that "One to One" funding is no longer available. The staff are to be congratulated and thanked for their work in supporting those most in need. The removal of the one-to-one funding for SEN does impact on the number of staff we can employ and therefore limits the number of SEN children that we can help.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. Records are kept of each child's progress that are the property of the parent / carer, this allows them to see how their child is progressing in terms of both ability and maturity. When necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with the parent(s) / carer(s) and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding whether or not further support is needed and how it will be provided.

Parents and Carers wishing their child to enrol with playgroup are invited to visit with the child first to ensure that the setting meets their needs. When first enrolled the child's parent(s) / carer(s) are invited to stay until the child has settled, this usually is a very short time as we find that children settle in quickly.

In September 2023, 14 children transferred successfully to primary school and we have had good feedback that they have settled in quickly and happily with school life.

### **Staffing update**

Playgroup has been fortunate to have had a work experience student join us as part of her childcare course. She quickly settled in and became a useful member of the team. On completion of her work experience she was offered a contract that she accepted and has joined the team as a permanent employee. She will now work as a team member while she studies for further qualifications.

In July 2023 one long-term serving member of staff retired and we all wish her well and a long and happy retirement.

A part time member of staff has been recruited to help with the preparation of playgroup each morning. This has become necessary as there is limited time in the morning to prepare the hall for the children.

### **Issues that have arisen during the year under review**

Our staffing levels over the past year have been good although we are operating at the minimal staffing level. Staffing is a major issue in the childcare sector. Fortunately, we have been able to keep staffing at a suitable level throughout the year. On the occasions when due to unexpected circumstances there has been a staff shortage, we have been able to call in suitable staff to assist on a part time basis.

The crisis in the childcare sector has been brought about by the government promising free childcare to parents / carers then only paying a proportion of the cost to childcare settings. This results in a shortfall of income therefore staff are underpaid for the responsible work that they do. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff who effectively subsidise the setting. It is therefore unsurprising that the childcare sector is losing staff to better paid positions. Whilst we are lucky to have such dedicated team, we cannot expect this situation to remain long term.

The hall continues to be a problem with the high rent, removal of available storage and having to deal with rubbish and other issues left by other hall users. Discussions are taking place with the parish priest (our landlord) in an effort to resolve these issues and it is hoped that more storage will be provided.

Finally, the trustees would like to thank the manager Mrs Willson for her tireless efforts to keep playgroup working to such a high standard, maintaining a good relationship with parents and carers and in particular making playgroup a happy and safe place for the children in our care.

### **Thank you to the staff and our community**

St Peter's Playgroup is fortunate to have reliable and conscientious staff and volunteers all of whom give a significant amount of unpaid time to ensure successful outcomes for playgroup activities. These include staff getting in early to prepare the hall, staying after sessions to pack away and in their own time preparing activities for the children. The staff are to be congratulated for their conscientious approach, commitment and innovative ideas that help to provide a rich and stimulating programme of activities for the children. We thank trustees Mrs Vivien Farrell and Mrs Brenda Harris for their support when we have been short handed for a playgroup session.

The trustees would also like to thank the parents and carers for their positive contribution to group activities without this it would not be possible for playgroup to function effectively. The feedback from parents / carers and their involvement in activities helps playgroup to achieve one of its primary goals of contributing to the local community.

### **Challenges**

The challenges faced by trustees, management and staff of playgroup have been many over the period under review, the need to support those children with special educational needs (SEN) despite the withdrawal of funding for "one to one" assistance and the inadequate government funding rate (for qualifying children) are a major concern as both these issues present long-term risks to the charity's viability. The government claims to be providing free childcare, however this is not the case as staff are underpaid for the work that they do and playgroup relies on unpaid volunteers to carry out many back-office tasks. Additionally, the increasing bureaucratic demands placed on childcare settings to manage the SEN process and the demands of the regulatory systems has added significantly to the effort required to meet commitments. As a result of the above there is a shortage of experienced qualified staff in the childcare industry that may impact significantly on playgroup in the future.

### **Latest OFSTED inspection**

**The results of the OFSTED inspections carried out during the calendar year 2022.**

The first was carried out on 13 January 2022 and was required following the issues raised by the staff. The second inspection was carried out on 7 December 2022 and the improvements highlight the excellent work carried out by the new manager and her team with all areas found to be good.

The trustees congratulate all involved in achieving the improvement.

### **Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection**

**Inspection of St Peter's Playgroup**  
**The O'Sullivan Centre Sacred Heart Church,**  
**63 West Street, Sittingbourne,**  
**Kent ME10 1AN**

<b>Inspection date: 7 December 2022</b>
<b>Overall effectiveness Good</b>
<b>The quality of education Good</b>
<b>Behaviour and attitudes Good</b>
<b>Personal development Good</b>
<b>Leadership and management Good</b>

## St Peter's Playgroup Financial Review

### Summary of income and expenditure 2023 / 2024

	Income	Total		Expenditure	Total
	Government funding and Fees	£89,155		Wages	£72,340
	Sponsorship and donations	£850		Rent	£11,760
	Loan	£4,000		Supplies	£3,025
	interest	£14		Renewables, Course Fees, Equipment, Insurance, Professional Fees, Marketing etc.	£2,630
	<b>Total Receipts*</b>	£94,019		<b>Total Expenditure*</b>	£89,755

**\*Note: Totals rounded up to nearest pound.**

The Playgroup account ended year with a balance of £6,121 compared to an end balance of £1,856 in the previous accounting year. However, the 2023 to 2024 year includes a £4,000 interest free loan from trustee Mrs Viven Farrell that was required to meet payroll commitments in December, 2023. It is noted that fees have increased by £19,757 compared to the previous accounting year. This highlights the improvement in enrolments resulting from the proper approach to encouraging two-year-old children to attend playgroup. Another important factor has been the marketing of playgroup by Manager Jenny Willson and her team along with an effective invoice system for direct fee payers.

Inflation continues to be a major concern along with inadequate government funding however the playgroup manager and staff are to be congratulated for keeping the increase in wages costs to a minimum (£3,091). The rising cost of wages is accounted for by the increase to minimum wage and additional staff costs due to the need to employ part time help to assist with the daily setup of equipment.

The cost of the rent for the hall has increased from £11,400 to £11,760 this is an issue as much of playgroup's storage has been taken away and there is also a problem regarding staff having to deal with equipment and rubbish left by other hall users.

A summary of the audited accounts with the independent examiners report (completed by Lyndens Accountants [ Kent] Ltd) is provided in Appendix 1.

Whilst this is an improved financial position and the increased enrolment offers a more promising year ahead, playgroup like many other childcare settings is vulnerable to the current economic situation. Future increase to the minimum wage and rising inflation are a major risk to viability. However, planned improvements to the government funding process in September 2025 offers a possible solution to the ongoing problem of matching income with needs.

## **Report summary and conclusions**

### **1. Delivery of childcare**

The manager Mrs Jennifer Willson and her deputy, working with the team and the trustees, has improved the marketing of playgroup significantly. Additionally, a more effective and cost-conscious regime has been implemented. This is demonstrated by keeping the increase in the cost of wages at a reasonable level despite the rise in the minimum wage. Mrs Willson and the staff are to be thanked and congratulated.

Mrs Willson and her team have welcomed two-year old children and created a friendly and welcoming setting. This has resulted in an improvement in the rate of enrolment. Additionally, she has developed an effective invoice system for fee payers that is operating well.

The manager and staff have developed an excellent Facebook page that is supported by a website and google account entry which combined capture considerable interest of potential customers.

A major issue is the increasing weight of bureaucracy when applying for funding, dealing with the autocratic demands of OFSTED and when applying for special education needs (SEN) support. This can involve dealing with multiple agencies who all seem to want the same information on different forms.

Another concern is the removal of storage used by playgroup by the landlord. This has added considerably to the work required to set up and put away equipment each day. It has been necessary to employ someone to assist the manager to set up play equipment each morning. It is also noted that the state of the hall is less than that expected, discussions with the landlord are continuing regarding these issues. A meeting was held with Father Arbo (parish priest / landlord) attended by Mrs Vivien Farrell (trustee), Mr. John Farrell (secretary to the trustees) regarding the storage problem and a way forward was agreed. Mrs Farrell has put in a request to Kent County Council for a grant to enable necessary work on the hall, and the provision of additional storage.

The delivery of childcare by Mrs Willson and her team has been to the highest standards and it is clear that the team has an ethos that puts the children first and there is a clear determination to ensure that they provide a safe environment where children learn through play.

### **2. Finances**

A number of issues are being monitored by treasurer Mrs Farrell including the increasing cost of wages / staff training as well as the inadequate government funding that has not kept pace with inflation. The government expects childcare settings to make up the difference between the funded rate and a viable rate by charging parents / carers for other services (for example, provision of meals, nappy changing etc.). There is of course, a limit to how much income you can raise this way. For example, we have stopped providing a hot lunch and children bring in a packed lunch box as to provide hot lunch was uneconomic. We have never charged for nappy changing as we consider it part of the care we provide for the child. A free breakfast and snacks are offered so children are not hungry. Increasing costs due to inflation impacts on parents / carers ability to pay and playgroup's ability to charge a realistic rate for these services. The loss of "one to one" funding for children with special needs is a major problem as staff costs are so high.

The coming financial year will be challenging with increasing costs due to inflation, the inadequate government funding and the increase in the minimum wage being just some of the issues impacting on all aspects of childcare and could result in playgroup ceasing to be able to continue to provide the service to the community that has been available for over 40 years.

**Continued on page 8:**

**Continued from page 7:**

However, with the current team of committed professionals it is possible that we may overcome these challenges and build again for the future. Much will depend on the number of children who enrol at the start of the academic year (September 2024) as the new joiners are needed to replace those who move on to primary school. The uptake of potential enrolments for September 2024 does at the moment look promising.

There is a proposal that from September 2025 all children, in our care aged 2 to school age, will receive, government funded, 30 hours of child care per week for 38 weeks of the year, an increase of 15 hours per week per child. This should increase the fees received and fill any available capacity.

**Acknowledgements**

The trustees wish to thank the staff and volunteers who did all they could to reduce the financial burden by volunteering their services free of charge for session preparation and back-office activities. Without this support playgroup would not be viable.

Additionally, the trustees would like to thank those who have made donations over the year and trustee Mrs Farrell for an interest free loan of £4,000 to enable wages to be paid in December 2023.

## Appendix 1

### St Peter's Playgroup Financial Summary and

### Independent Examiners report

### Financial Year

1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

**Draft Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name St. Peter's Playgroup	No (if any) 1167833
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**CC16a**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date 01/09/2023	To	Period end date 31/08/2024
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**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees	88,934	-	-	88,934	69,177
HMS Milk	221	-	-	221	337
Special Needs Support	-	-	-	-	-
Sponsorship and Donations	850	-	-	850	1,242
Teas and Raffles	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	14	-	-	14	31
Loan Received	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>94,019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,019</b>	<b>70,787</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>94,019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,019</b>	<b>70,787</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages	72,340	-	-	72,340	68,249
Rent	11,760	-	-	11,760	11,400
Supplies	3,025	-	-	3,025	3,682
Insurance	723	-	-	723	467
Course Fees	239	-	-	239	331
Renewables	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	472	-	-	472	316
PPS and Advertising	-	-	-	-	35
Legal and Professional	1,196	-	-	1,196	1,030
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>89,754</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>89,754</b>	<b>85,510</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>89,754</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>89,754</b>	<b>85,510</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>- 14,723</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>16,579</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>6,121</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,121</b>	<b>1,856</b>

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	6,118	-	-
	Petty Cash	3	-	-
	CCXX R1 accounts (SS)			31/10/2024 -

**Draft Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**

Debitors	-	-	-
Creditors	-	-	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,121</b>	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>			
Details			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			
Details			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			
Details			
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			
Details			
Independent Examiners Fee Accrual		240	
Trustee Loan		4,000	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Vivien Parrall</i>	VIVIEN PARRALL	24.02.25



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
 FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
 report on the accounts**

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	St Peter's Playgroup		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1167833
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1-2 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

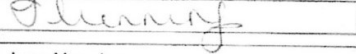
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**  **Date:** 31/10/2024

**Name:** Jane Henning

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** LYNDENS accountants

**Address:** 53 WEST STREET  
 SITTINGBOURNE  
 KENT, ME10 1AN  
 TEL: 01795 32565

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

**ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167833

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**



**Names of trustees who manage the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Report agreed</b>
Mrs Vivien Farrell	Trustee / Treasurer	
Mrs Brenda Harris	Trustee	
Mrs Anne Herbert	Trustee	
Mrs Gillian Keene	Trustee	
Mr Richard Harris	Trustee	

## **Summary of the purposes of the charity**

Regarding the purpose of St Peter's Playgroup, the Trustees fully endorse the following as stated in the governing document:

“For the public benefit to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents / carers to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

(a) offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children irrespective of their race, culture, religion, means or ability

(b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.”

## **Principles, objectives and ethos of St Peter's Playgroup**

St Peter's Playgroup is a preschool originally established in 1983 by parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart Sittingbourne and was in fact a parish group before becoming independent then taking charitable status. The main objective of playgroup is that children from the local community should come and enjoy themselves whilst learning irrespective of background or financial means. The trustees are proud of the fact that playgroup always meets this objective. St Peter's Playgroup has always endeavoured to have the lowest fees (for those not eligible for government funding) in the local area.

Access has always been offered to any child in the local community irrespective of race, culture, religion, means or ability. The playgroup management, trustees, staff and volunteers are proud of playgroup's record of helping parents / carers to successfully prepare their children for transfer to primary school reception class.

St Peter's Playgroup delivers education and support as specified by the National Foundation Stage Curriculum. Playgroup is fortunate to have highly qualified and experienced staff who enable this commitment to be met.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. If necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with them and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding where and how further support can be provided.

The trustees are pleased to report that all feedback received from parents / carers has been positive and that there is frequent repeat business with siblings coming to playgroup. There is a good relationship with primary schools who have also made positive comments regarding the readiness of children for reception class.

All staff, volunteers and trustees have had appropriate data barring service (DBS) checks that are kept up to date. The staff that look after the children receive appropriate training as required. There is also appropriate safeguarding, data protection and management policies in place.

The trustees are proud of the fact that no child has ever been refused enrolment to St Peter's Playgroup on any grounds including special needs or financial difficulties. A concession that playgroup makes to parents / carers with children that are two years old, is that, unlike many preschool settings no fee is charged if the child cannot attend their usual session. The manager also has the discretion to take a flexible approach where a family is in obvious financial difficulty. Such circumstances are reported verbally to the trustees however the identity of those involved is never disclosed.

## **Summary of the main activities and achievements**

### **Overview of service delivered**

There has been a full programme of activities for the children. The staff have worked hard and the records show that every child has made progress towards achieving their potential. The aims of playgroup are to help children develop in a number of areas as set out in the national foundation stage curriculum. We are pleased to report that every child has made progress with what they can do whilst developing from an individual to being able to take part in group activities. Most importantly they all do this whilst playing and having fun. We have qualified, experienced and professional staff who are good at both putting individual childcare plans into operation and identifying areas where help may be needed. The staff and the parents / carers are to be thanked for their commitment to ensuring all is done to support the development of the children in their care.

We are pleased to report that playgroup has still been able to accommodate children with Special Educational needs (SEN) despite the fact that "One to One" funding is no longer available. The staff are to be congratulated and thanked for their work in supporting those most in need.

One interesting aspect of our work was meeting the challenge of having a number of children whose first language is not English. It is pleasing to report that they have all progressed well and enjoyed playing and learning as part of the group. It is noted however that the numbers on the role have reduced since the period of Covid and the leaving of the European Union.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. Records are kept of each child's progress that are the property of the parent / carer, this allows them to see how their child is progressing in terms of both ability and maturity. When necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with the parent(s) / carer(s) and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding whether or not further support is needed and how it will be provided.

Parents and Carers wishing their child to enrol with playgroup are invited to visit with the child first to ensure that the setting meets their needs. When first enrolled the child's parent(s) / carer(s) are invited to stay until the child has settled, this usually is a very short time as we find that children settle in quickly.

In September 2022, 14 children transferred successfully to primary school and we have had good feedback that they settled in quickly and happily to school life.

We are fortunate that our landlord, the parish of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Sittingbourne has created an outdoor area for playgroup use that has improved our facilities considerably. All at playgroup (especially the children) thank the parish for their generosity.

### **Issues that have arisen during the year under review**

Our staffing levels over the past year have been good although our deputy manager left to take up a new position to support children with special needs. We wish her well and thank her for her work at playgroup. Another member of staff has taken up the deputy's position and has performed well. This reflects the high quality of our staff albeit we are fewer in number than we would like to be. Staffing is a major issue in the childcare sector. Fortunately, we have been able to keep staffing at a suitable level throughout the year. On the occasions when due to unexpected circumstances there has been a staff shortage, we have been able to call in suitable staff to assist on a part time basis, this includes appropriately qualified / experienced trustees who often give up their time free of charge.

The crisis in the childcare sector has been brought about by the government promising free childcare to parents / carers then only paying a proportion of the cost to childcare settings. This results in a shortfall of income therefore staff are underpaid for the responsible work that they do. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff who effectively subsidise the setting. It is therefore unsurprising that the childcare sector is losing staff to better paid positions in other sectors. Whilst we are lucky to have such dedicated staff, we cannot expect this situation to remain long term.

Finally, the trustees would like to thank the manager Mrs Willson for her tireless work to keep playgroup working to such a high standard, maintaining a good relationship with parents and carers and in particular making playgroup a happy and safe place for the children in our care.

### **Thank you to the staff and our community**

St Peter's Playgroup is fortunate to have reliable and conscientious staff and volunteers all of whom give a significant amount of unpaid time to ensure successful outcomes for playgroup activities. These include staff getting in early to prepare the hall, staying after sessions to pack away and in their own time preparing activities for the children. The staff are to be congratulated for their conscientious approach, commitment and their innovative ideas which help to provide a rich and stimulating programme of activities for the children.

The trustees would also like to thank the parents and carers for their positive contribution to group activities without this it would not be possible for playgroup to function effectively. The feedback from parents / carers and their involvement in activities helps playgroup to achieve one of its primary goals of contributing to the local community.

### **Challenges**

The challenges faced by trustees, management and staff of playgroup have been many over the period under review, the need to support those children with special educational needs (SEN) despite the withdrawal of funding for "one to one" assistance and the inadequate government funding rate (for qualifying children) are a major concern as both these issues present long-term risks to the charity's viability. The government claims to be providing free childcare, however this is not the case as staff are underpaid for the work that they do and playgroup relies on unpaid volunteers to carry out many back-office tasks. Additionally, the increasing bureaucratic demands placed on childcare settings to manage the SEN process and the demands of the regulatory systems has added significantly to the effort required to meet commitments. As a result of the above there is a shortage of experienced qualified staff in the childcare industry that may impact significantly on playgroup in the future.

### **Latest OFSTED inspection**

**The results of the OFSTED inspections carried out during the calendar year 2022.**

An OFSTED inspection was carried out on 7 December 2022 and this identified improvements that had been made since the previous inspection. This reflected the excellent work carried out by the new manager and her team with all areas found to be good.

The trustees congratulate all involved.

### **Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection**

**Inspection of St Peter's Playgroup**  
**The O'Sullivan Centre Sacred Heart Church,**  
**63 West Street, Sittingbourne,**  
**Kent ME10 1AN**

<b>Inspection date: 7 December 2022</b>
<b>Overall effectiveness Good</b>
<b>The quality of education Good</b>
<b>Behaviour and attitudes Good</b>
<b>Personal development Good</b>
<b>Leadership and management Good</b>

## St Peter's Playgroup Financial Review

The Playgroup account ended the accounting year with a balance of £1,856 compared to an end balance of £16,579 in the previous accounting year. It is noted that fees have remained at a similar level to the previous year.

Inflation continues to be a major concern along with inadequate government funding however the playgroup manager and staff are to be congratulated for reducing wages costs by £2,402.

The largest increase in cost has been to the hall rent that increased from £10,450 to £11,400.

A summary of the audited accounts with the independent examiners report (completed by Lyndens Accountants [ Kent] Ltd) is provided in Appendix 1.

### Summary of income and expenditure 2022 / 2023

	<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
	Government funding, Fees and Special Needs Support	£69,514	Wages	68,249
	Sponsorship and donations	£1,242	Rent	11,400
	Sundries, teas, raffles	0	Supplies	3,682
	interest	31	Renewables, Course Fees, Equipment, Insurance, Professional Fees, Marketing etc.	2,179
	<b>Total Receipts*</b>	£70,787	<b>Total Expenditure*</b>	£85,510

**\*Note: Totals rounded to nearest pound.**

The financial year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 was another difficult year due to the after effects of the lack of enrolment of two-year-old children in previous two years. This appears to be the result of the previous manager making a decision (without reference to the trustees) of increasing the daily rate to be charged for two-year old children. It should be noted that two-year old enrolment is essential in the September term to replace the income lost when the older children move on to primary school. However, trustees and staff have worked hard to mitigate this issue.

The current manager has welcomed two-year old children and created a friendly and welcoming setting that has resulted in an improvement in the rate of enrolment. Additionally, she has developed an effective invoice system for fee payers

The manager and staff have developed an excellent Facebook page that is supported by a website and google account entry which combined results in considerable interest from potential customers.

At a time of high inflation, the manager and staff are to be congratulated in controlling both the cost of wages and supplies by taking care to avoid unnecessary activity and purchases. The manager and team are thanked by the trustees for their efforts.

## **Report summary and conclusions**

### **1. Delivery of childcare**

The manager Mrs Willson and her deputy working with the team and the trustees has improved the marketing of playgroup significantly. Additionally, a more effective and cost-conscious regime has been implemented. This is demonstrated by the reduction in the cost of wages by over £2,400 despite the increase in the living wage. Mrs Willson and the staff are to be thanked and congratulated.

A major issue is the increasing weight of bureaucracy when applying for funding, dealing with the autocratic demands of OFSTED and applying for special education needs (SEN) support. This can involve dealing with multiple agencies who all seem to want the same information on different forms.

Another concern is the removal of storage used by playgroup by the landlord. This has added considerably to the work required to set up and put away equipment each day. It will be necessary to employ someone to assist the manager each morning. It is also noted that the state of the hall is less than that expected, discussions with the landlord are continuing regarding these issues.

The delivery of childcare by Mrs Willson and her team has been to the highest standards and it is clear that the team has an ethos that puts the children first and there is a clear determination to ensure that they provide a safe environment where children learn through play.

### **2. Finances**

A number of issues are being monitored by treasurer Mrs Farrell including the increasing cost of wages / staff training as well as the inadequate government funding that has not kept pace with inflation. The government expects childcare settings to make up the difference between the funded rate and a viable rate by charging parents / carers for other services (for example, provision of snacks, nappy changing etc.). There is of course a limit to how much income you can raise this way. For example, the increasing rate of inflation impacts on parents / carers ability to pay and playgroup's ability to charge a realistic rate for these services. The loss of "one to one" funding for children with special needs is a major problem as staff costs are so high.

The coming financial year will be challenging with increasing costs due to inflation, the inadequate government funding and the many issues impacting on all aspects of childcare could result in playgroup ceasing to be able to continue to provide the service to the community that has been available for over 40 years.

However, with the current team of committed professionals it is possible that we may overcome these challenges and build again for the future. Much will depend on the number of children who enrol at the start of the academic year (September) as the new joiners are needed to replace those who move on to primary school.

### **3. Acknowledgements**

The trustees would like to thank Mrs Farrell for an interest free loan of £1,500 to enable wages to be paid in October 2022.

The trustees wish to thank the staff and volunteers who did all they could to reduce the financial burden by volunteering their services free of charge for session preparation and back-office activities. Without this support playgroup would not be viable.

## Appendix 1

St Peter's Playgroup Financial Summary  
and

Independent Examiners report

Financial Year

1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name St. Peter's Playgroup	No (if any) 1167833
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CC16a

### Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/09/2022	To	Period end date 31/08/2023
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#### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees	69,177	-	-	69,177	72,739
HMS Milk	337	-	-	337	-
Special Needs Support	-	-	-	-	-
Sponsorship and Donations	1,242	-	-	1,242	2,244
Teas and Raffles	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	-	-	-	-	2,116
Interest	31	-	-	31	1
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>70,787</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,787</b>	<b>77,100</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
		-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>70,787</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>70,787</b>	<b>77,100</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages	68,249	-	-	68,249	70,651
Rent	11,400	-	-	11,400	10,450
Supplies	3,682	-	-	3,682	8,687
Insurance	467	-	-	467	419
Course Fees	331	-	-	331	300
Renewables	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	316	-	-	316	1,346
PPS and Advertising	35	-	-	35	237
Legal and Professional	1,030	-	-	1,030	1,096
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>85,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,510</b>	<b>93,186</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
		-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>85,510</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,510</b>	<b>93,186</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 14,723</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 14,723</b>	<b>- 16,086</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>32,665</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>16,579</b>

#### 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	3,652	-	-
CCXX R1 accounts (SS)	Petty Cash 1	58	-	26/03/2024 -

**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**

**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**

Debtors		-	-
Creditors	1,854	-	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
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**B2 Other monetary assets**

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

**B3 Investment assets**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

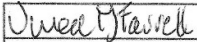
**B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use**

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

**B5 Liabilities**

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Independent Examiners Fee Accrual		240	
Trustee Loan		1,500	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	VIVIEN M. FARRELL	27/3/24



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
St Peter's Playgroup

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1167833

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2020.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

*J. Henning*

Date: 26/03/2024

Name:

Jane Henning

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

LYNDENS

accountants

Address:

53 WEST STREET  
SITTINGBOURNE  
KENT, ME10 1AN  
TEL: 01795 422565

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

**ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167833

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**



**Names of trustees who manage the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Report agreed</b>
Mrs Vivien Farrell	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Brenda Harris	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Anne Herbert	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Gillian Keene	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Hayley Kingsnorth	Trustee / treasurer	Agreed by email

## **Summary of the purposes of the charity**

Regarding the purpose of St Peter's Playgroup, the Trustees fully endorse the following as stated in the governing document:

“For the public benefit to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents / carers to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

(a) offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children irrespective of their race, culture, religion, means or ability

(b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.”

## **Principles, objectives and ethos of St Peter's Playgroup**

St Peter's Playgroup is a preschool originally established in 1983 by parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart Sittingbourne and was in fact a parish group before becoming independent then taking charitable status. The main objective of playgroup is that children from the local community should come and enjoy themselves whilst learning irrespective of background or financial means. The trustees are proud of the fact that playgroup always meets this objective. St Peter's Playgroup has always endeavoured to have the lowest fees (for those not eligible for government funding) in the local area.

Access has always been offered to any child in the local community irrespective of race, culture, religion, means or ability. The playgroup management, trustees, staff and volunteers are proud of playgroup's record of helping parents / carers to successfully prepare their children for transfer to primary school reception class.

St Peter's Playgroup delivers education and support as specified by the National Foundation Stage Curriculum. Playgroup is fortunate to have highly qualified and experienced staff who enable this commitment to be met.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. If necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with them and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding where and how further support can be provided.

The trustees are pleased to report that all feedback received from parents / carers has been positive and that there is frequent repeat business with siblings coming to playgroup. There is a good relationship with primary schools who have also made positive comments regarding the readiness of children for reception class.

All staff, volunteers and trustees have had appropriate data barring service (DBS) checks that are kept up to date. The staff that look after the children receive appropriate training as required. There is also appropriate safeguarding, data protection and management policies in place.

The trustees are proud of the fact that no child has ever been refused enrolment to St Peter's Playgroup on any grounds including special needs or financial difficulties. A concession that playgroup makes to parents / carers with children that are two years old, is that, unlike many preschool settings no fee is charged if the child cannot attend their usual session. The manager also has the discretion to take a flexible approach where a family is in obvious financial difficulty. Such circumstances are reported verbally to the trustees however the identity of those involved is never disclosed.

## **Summary of the main activities and achievements**

### **Overview of service delivered**

There has been a full programme of activities for the children. The staff have worked hard and the records show that every child has made progress towards achieving their potential. The aims of playgroup are to help children develop in a number of areas as set out in the national foundation stage curriculum. We are pleased to report that every child has made progress with what they can do whilst developing from an individual to being able to take part in group activities. Most importantly they all do this whilst playing and having fun. We have qualified, experienced and professional staff who are good at both putting individual childcare plans into operation and identifying areas where help may be needed. The staff and the parents / carers are to be thanked for their patience and support through this difficult period.

We are pleased to report that playgroup has still been able to accommodate children with Special Educational needs (SEN) despite the fact that "One to One" funding is no longer available. The staff are to be congratulated and thanked for their work in supporting those most in need.

One interesting aspect of our work was meeting the challenge of having a number of children whose first language is not English. It is pleasing to report that they have all progressed well and enjoyed playing and learning as part of the group. It is noted however that the numbers on the role have reduced since the period of Covid and the leaving of the European Union.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. Records are kept of each child's progress that are the property of the parent / carer, this allows them to see how their child is progressing in terms of both ability and maturity. When necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with the parent(s) / carer(s) and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding whether or not further support is needed and how it will be provided.

Parents and Carers wishing their child to enrol with playgroup are invited to visit with the child first to ensure that the setting meets their needs. When first enrolled the child's parent(s) / carer(s) are invited to stay until the child has settled, this usually is a very short time as we find that children settle in quickly.

In September 2021, 14 children transferred successfully to primary school and we have had good feedback that they settled in quickly and happily to school life.

We are fortunate that our landlord the parish of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Sittingbourne has created an outdoor area for playgroup use that has improved our facilities considerably. All at playgroup (especially the children) thank the parish for their generosity.

### **Issues that have arisen during the year under review**

Our staffing levels over the past year have been a concern as playgroup has experienced a period of higher than usual staff turn-over. The trustees are working hard to resolve this issue. In May 2021 the trustees agreed with the manager that she should employ a deputy who would job share whilst the manager undertook a year's enhanced training. The deputy identified by the manager had a teaching qualification however it was noted that she had worked mainly with older children. An experienced playgroup Early Years Practitioner was also employed to support the new deputy.

In September 2021 the trustees became uneasy regarding no improvement in staff morale and the continuing wish for the manager to promote the move to another premises. A meeting was held to discuss the manager's proposal and it was pointed out that no business case had been presented by the manager and that feedback from staff indicated safety concerns. It was the view of the trustees that such a venture was not viable. The proposal for the move was therefore rejected.

In early October an anonymous letter was received by the trustees raising serious concerns regarding the management of the day-to-day operations of playgroup and staff morale. The letter was raised confidentially with the manager by a nominated trustee. The manager was invited to meet with the trustees to discuss and a meeting arranged. However the manager challenged the staff and attempted to identify who wrote the letter. The staff member who wrote the letter (the whistle-blower) immediately identified herself to the manager (to avoid others being accused) who responded by telling the whistle-blower not to come in on the following day and not to bring in her child. This meant that her child missed the harvest festival playgroup event. Unfortunately the trustees were unaware of this decision until the afternoon of the day after this meeting otherwise would have intervened. The manager was offered a move to a non-managerial post but did not respond. On the evening of the trustees meeting later that week an apology for absence was received from the manager shortly before the meeting was due to start. At the meeting consideration was given to the issue and actions were agreed, however, the following day the resignation of both the manager and the deputy manager were received and accepted.

Subsequently an acting manager (Mrs Jennifer Willson) and deputy (Ms Lillie Mae-Pettit) were appointed by the trustees. They have both attended trustees-meetings regularly and made significant progress with resolving the issues left by the previous management regime and are to be congratulated. Both were formally appointed to their posts in December 2021. It is noted that staff morale has improved significantly.

Amongst the issues identified by the new manager / deputy was that necessary work regarding OFSTED requirements had been neglected and that the number of two-year old children had declined since the manager had apparently, without the knowledge of the trustees, told parents / carers that the hourly rate for two-year olds was £8.00 (not the agreed rate of £5.00). The enrolment of two-year olds is required to maintain financial stability as they are essential to raising income in September when the older children transfer to primary school. The financial report highlights the loss of income from fees later in this report.

Due to the impact of the issues described above it was necessary to report the incidents to OFSTED and an inspection was held in January 2022. Unsurprisingly given the problems experienced it identified some improvements in management areas however childcare and customer satisfaction were rated good. It is pleasing to report that at the time of writing a further OFSTED inspection has been carried out with the result of a grading of good in all areas. Jennifer, Lillie-Mae and the team are to be thanked and congratulated for their excellent work and all the effort that they have put in to bring playgroup back to where it should be.

**Challenges**

The challenges faced by trustees, management and staff of playgroup have been many over the period under review, the need to support those children with special educational needs (SEN) despite the withdrawal of funding for “one to one” assistance and the inadequate government funding rate (for qualifying children) are a major concern as both these issues present long-term risks to the charity’s viability. The government claims to be providing free childcare, however this is not the case as staff are underpaid for the work that they do and playgroup relies on unpaid volunteers to carry out many back-office tasks. Additionally, the increasing bureaucratic demands placed on childcare settings to manage the SEN process and the demands of the regulatory systems has added significantly to the effort required to meet commitments. As a result of the above there is a shortage of experienced qualified staff in the childcare industry that may impact significantly on playgroup in the future.

**Thank you to the staff and our community**

St Peter’s Playgroup is fortunate to have reliable and conscientious staff and volunteers all of whom give a significant amount of unpaid time to ensure successful outcomes for playgroup activities. These include staff getting in early to prepare the hall, staying after sessions to pack away and in their own time preparing activities for the children. The staff are to be congratulated for their conscientious approach, commitment and their innovative ideas which help to provide a rich and stimulating programme of activities for the children.

The trustees would also like to thank the parents and carers for their positive contribution to group activities without this it would not be possible for playgroup to function effectively. The feedback from parents / carers and their involvement in activities helps playgroup to achieve one of its primary goals of contributing to the local community.

**OFSTED inspections**

**The results of the OFSTED inspections carried out during the calendar year 2022.**

The first was carried out on 13 January 2022 and was required following the issues raised by the staff. The second inspection was carried out on 7 December 2022 and the improvements highlight the excellent work carried out by the new manager and her team with all areas found to be good.

The trustees congratulate all involved in achieving the improvement.

**Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection**

**Inspection of St Peter's Playgroup**  
**The O'Sullivan Centre Sacred Heart Church,**  
**63 West Street, Sittingbourne,**  
**Kent ME10 1AN**

Inspection date: 13 January 2022	Inspection date: 7 December 2022
Overall effectiveness Requires improvement	Overall effectiveness Good
The quality of education Requires improvement	The quality of education Good
Behaviour and attitudes Good	Behaviour and attitudes Good
Personal development Good	Personal development Good
Leadership and management, requires improvement	Leadership and management Good

### St Peter's Playgroup Financial Review

The Playgroup account ended the accounting year with a balance of £16,579 compared to an end balance of £32,665 in the previous accounting year. It is noted that there has been a reduction in fees of £26,152.

Inflation continues to be a major concern along with inadequate government funding however the playgroup manager and staff are to be congratulated for reducing wages costs by over £6,000.

A summary of the audited accounts with the independent examiners report (completed by Lyndens Accountants [ Kent] Ltd) is provided in Appendix 1.

#### Summary of income and expenditure 2021 / 2022

	<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>		
	Government funding, Fees and Special Needs Support	£72,739		Wages	£70,651
	Sponsorship and donations	£2,244		Rent	£10,450
	Sundries, teas, raffles	£2116		Supplies	£8,687
	interest	1		Renewables, Course Fees, Equipment, Insurance, Professional Fees, Marketing etc.	£3,398
	<b>Total Receipts*</b>	<b>£77,100</b>		<b>Total Expenditure*</b>	<b>£93,186</b>

**\*Note: Totals rounded to nearest pound.**

The financial year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 was another difficult year due to the after effects of the interruption to normal activities resulting from the impact of Covid restrictions. However, trustees and staff have worked hard to mitigate the issues. The previously reported concerns, in particular high staff turnover, loss of income due to fewer children attending playgroup and lack of opportunity to attract new children to playgroup continued.

In October 2021 a change of management occurred that helped identify a number of problems that were impacting on our income streams. In particular the discovery that it appeared that the previous manager may have discouraged the enrolment of two-year old children by (without agreement of the trustees) increasing the hourly rate charged to parents / carers to £8 from the previous rate of £5 (with no charge for non-attendance). Two-year old enrolment is essential to playgroup as it provides future government fee paid attendance. Without two-year old fees playgroup is underfunded when the older children transfer to primary school in September.

It was also reported that a serious error had occurred during the previous management regime when required documentation had not been submitted to Kent County Council during the headcount process. Whilst work was carried out with KCC to resolve this issue it is not known how much impact this had on income as this issue was not reported to the trustees by the previous manager. It was also evident that the marketing of playgroup had been ineffective prior to the appointment of the new manager and deputy.

## **St Peter's Playgroup Financial Review (continued)**

The manager Mrs Willson and her deputy Ms Lillie-Mae Pettit working with the team and the trustees has improved the marketing of playgroup significantly. Additionally, a more effective and cost conscious regime has been implemented. This is demonstrated by the reduction in the cost of wages by over £6,000 despite the increase in the living wage and having to manage more children than under the previous management regime. They are to be congratulated.

The trustees would like to thank the parents / carers for their support and donations, in particular, Mrs Debbie Pettit whose fund-raising activities contributed over £1,600 to playgroup funds.

A number of issues are being monitored by Mrs Kingsnorth and deputy treasurer Mrs Farrell including the increasing cost of wages / staff training as well as the inadequate government funding that has not kept pace with inflation. The government expects childcare settings to make up the difference between the funded rate and a viable rate by charging parents / carers for other services (for example, provision of meals, nappy changing etc.). There is of course a limit to how much income you can raise this way. For example, the increasing rate of inflation impacts on parents / carers ability to pay and playgroup's ability to charge a realistic rate for these services. The loss of "one to one" funding for children with special needs is a major problem as staff costs are so high.

The coming financial year will be challenging with increasing costs due to inflation, the inadequate government funding and the many issues impacting on all aspects of childcare could result in playgroup ceasing to be able to continue to provide the service to the community that has been available for over 40 years. However, with the current team of committed professionals it is possible that we may overcome these challenges and build again for the future.

The trustees wish to thank the staff and volunteers who did all they could to reduce the financial burden by volunteering their services free of charge for session preparation and back-office activities. Without this support playgroup would not be viable.

## Appendix 1

St Peter's Playgroup Financial Summary  
and  
Independent Examiners report  
Financial Year  
1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

St. Peter's Playgroup

1167833

**Receipts and payments accounts**

CC16a

For the period from	01/09/2021	To	31/08/2022
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**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees	72,739	-	-	72,739	98,891
HMS Milk	-	-	-	-	-
Special Needs Support	-	-	-	-	-
Sponsorship and Donations	2,244	-	-	2,244	571
Teas and Raffles	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	2,116	-	-	2,116	6,792
Interest	1	-	-	1	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>77,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,100</b>	<b>106,254</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
		-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>77,100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,100</b>	<b>106,254</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages	70,651	-	-	70,651	76,816
Rent	10,450	-	-	10,450	10,380
Supplies	8,687	-	-	8,687	6,530
Insurance	419	-	-	419	370
Course Fees	300	-	-	300	1,376
Renewables	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	1,346	-	-	1,346	1,575
PPS and Advertising	237	-	-	237	832
Legal and Professional	1,096	-	-	1,096	1,730
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>93,186</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,186</b>	<b>99,609</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
		-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>93,186</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,186</b>	<b>99,609</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>16,086</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,086</b>	<b>6,645</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>32,665</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,665</b>	<b>26,020</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,579</b>	<b>32,665</b>

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	16,507	-	-
CCXX R1 accounts (SS)	Petty Cash 1	417	-	08/12/2022 -

Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022  
 Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833

Debtors	-	-	-
Creditors	345	-	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>16,579</b>	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>			
Details	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			
Details		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			
Details		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			
Details			
Independent Examiners Fee Accrual		240	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Uwien M Farrell</i>	VIVIEN FARRELL	29/4/23



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

St Peter's Playgroup

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1167833

**Set out on pages**

1-2

to include the page

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**

*J Henning*

**Date:**

08/12/2022

**Name:**

Jane Henning

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

LYNDENS  
accountants

**Address:**

53 WEST STREET  
SITTINGBOURNE  
KENT, ME10 1AN  
TEL: 01795 422565

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

**ST PETER'S PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1167833

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' annual report for period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021**  
**Charity name: St Peter's Playgroup Charity registration number: 1167833**



**Names of trustees who manage the charity**

<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Signature agreeing report</b>
Mrs Vivien Farrell	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Brenda Harris	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Anne Herbert	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Gillian Keene	Trustee	Agreed by email
Mrs Hayley Kingsnorth	Trustee / treasurer	Agreed by email

## **Summary of the purposes of the charity**

Regarding the purpose of St Peter's Playgroup, the Trustees fully endorse the following as stated in the governing document:

“For the public benefit to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents / carers to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

(a) offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children irrespective of their race, culture, religion, means or ability

(b) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.”

## **Principles, objectives and ethos of St Peter's Playgroup**

St Peter's Playgroup is a preschool originally established in 1983 by parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart Sittingbourne and was in fact a parish group before becoming independent then taking charitable status. The main objective of playgroup is that children from the local community should come and enjoy themselves whilst learning irrespective of background or financial means. The trustees are proud of the fact that playgroup always meets this objective. St Peter's Playgroup has always endeavoured to have the lowest fees (for those not eligible for government funding) in the local area.

Access has always been offered to any child in the local community irrespective of race, culture, religion, means or ability. The playgroup management, trustees, staff and volunteers are proud of playgroup's record of helping parents / carers to successfully prepare their children for transfer to primary school reception class.

St Peter's Playgroup delivers education and support as specified by the National Curriculum Foundation Stage. Playgroup is fortunate to have highly qualified and experienced staff who enable this commitment to be met.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. If necessary, any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with them and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding where and how further support can be provided.

The trustees are pleased to report that all feedback received from parents / carers has been positive and that there is frequent repeat business with siblings coming to playgroup. There is a good relationship with primary schools who have also made positive comments regarding the readiness of children for reception class.

All staff, volunteers and trustees have had appropriate data barring service (DBS) checks that are kept up to date. The staff that look after the children receive appropriate training as required. There is also appropriate safeguarding, data protection and management policies in place.

The trustees are proud of the fact that no child has ever been refused enrolment to St Peter's Playgroup on any grounds including special needs or financial difficulties. A concession that playgroup makes to parents / carers with children that are two years old, is that, unlike many preschool settings no fee is charged if the child cannot attend their usual session. The manager also has the discretion to take a flexible approach where a family is in obvious financial difficulty. Such circumstances are reported verbally to the trustees however the identity of those involved is never disclosed.

## **Summary of the main activities and achievements**

Despite the Covid related restrictions, including the necessary deep cleaning and restricted access to parents / carers, playgroup daily sessions have gone very well. There has been a full programme of activities for the children. The staff have worked hard and the records show that every child has made progress towards achieving their potential. The aims of playgroup are to help children develop in a number of areas as set out in the national foundation stage curriculum. We are pleased to report that every child has made progress with what they can do whilst developing from an individual to being able to take part in group activities. Most importantly they all do this whilst playing and having fun. We have qualified, experienced and professional staff who are good at both putting individual childcare plans into operation and identifying areas where help may be needed. The staff and the parents / carers are to be thanked for their patience and support through this difficult period.

Our staffing levels over the past year have been a concern as playgroup has experienced a period of higher than usual staff turn-over. The trustees are working hard to resolve this issue. However, we have still been able to accommodate children with Special Educational needs (SEN) despite the fact that "One to One" funding is no longer available. The staff are to be congratulated and thanked for their work in supporting those most in need.

We are also very fortunate to have a number of fully qualified standby staff who can assist when there is staff absence.

One interesting aspect of our work was meeting the challenge of having a number of children whose first language is not English. It is pleasing to report that they have all progressed well and enjoyed playing and learning as part of the group.

Parents / Carers are supported throughout the process by being kept up to date with the achievements / progress of their child. Records are kept of each child's progress that are the property of the parent / carer, this allows them to see how their child is progressing in terms of both ability and maturity. When necessary any area of concern regarding progress or welfare is reviewed with the parent(s) / carer(s) and when appropriate, guidance is given regarding whether or not further support is needed and how it will be provided.

Due to Covid restrictions parents / carers have been unable to take an active part in playgroup activities including attending sessions / events such as the pancake day, Christmas mingle and sports day activities. We hope that once Covid restrictions are lifted parents / carers will be able to involve themselves in playgroup activities again.

Parents and Carers wishing their child to enrol with playgroup are invited to visit with the child first to ensure that the setting meets their needs. When first enrolled the child's parent(s) / carer(s) are invited to stay until the child has settled, this usually is a very short time as we find that children settle in quickly.

In September 2020, 17 children transferred successfully to primary school and we have had good feedback that they settled in quickly and happily to school life.

We are fortunate that our landlord the parish of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Sittingbourne has created an outdoor area for playgroup use that has improved our facilities considerably. All at playgroup (especially the children) thank the parish for their generosity.

In June 2021 it was suggested that playgroup should move from the current church hall premises to a nearby building. This was visited by the trustees and staff to assess suitability. The manager was then asked to produce a business plan including an assessment of the venue as a childcare setting, a financial plan and a summary project plan (including financial implications) so that the trustees could make an informed decision. This to be reported to a meeting in September 2021. Initial feedback from trustees and staff has raised both safety and financial concerns.

The challenges faced by trustees, management and staff of playgroup have been many over the period under review, the need to support those children with special educational needs (SEN) despite the withdrawal of funding for "one to one" assistance and the inadequate government funding rate (for qualifying children) are a major concern as both these issues present long-term risks to the charity's viability. Additionally, the increasing bureaucratic demands placed on playgroup to manage the regulatory systems has added significantly to the effort required to meet commitments.

St Peter's Playgroup is fortunate to have reliable and conscientious staff and volunteers all of whom give a significant amount of unpaid time to ensure successful outcomes for playgroup activities. These include staff getting in early to prepare the hall, staying after sessions to pack away and in their own time preparing activities for the children. The staff are to be congratulated for their conscientious approach, commitment and their innovative ideas which help to provide a rich and stimulating programme of activities for the children.

The trustees would also like to thank the parents and carers for their positive contribution to group activities without this it would not be possible for playgroup to function effectively. The feedback from parents / carers and their involvement in activities helps playgroup to achieve one of its primary goals of contributing to the local community.

### **Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) inspection**

The latest OFSTED inspection held on 3 October, 2016 classified playgroup as "Good" with "Outstanding" for Personal development, behaviour and welfare of the children. OFSTED reported:

- Staff provide children with a very good range of interesting and colourful resources to engage and interest them. Children are motivated to learn and make good progress from their starting points.
- Children are extremely happy and build excellent relationships with staff and each other. The highly effective key-person approach helps new children to settle well.
- Staff work extremely closely with parents. For example, they share their children's progress effectively with them and find out about their homes and families. Also, they mirror children's home routines and respect their individual interests.
- Staff place a high priority on children's safety. For example, they complete thorough risk assessments and teach them to keep safe when they move to the garden area.
- The teacher tracks children's progress very successfully to quickly identify and plan for any gaps in their learning.
- Staff update their knowledge regularly. For example, they received training on science for young children and have incorporated more enjoyable experiments into their activities.

We continue to work to meet OFSTED's latest requirements by keeping our staff aware of changes that may need to be made.

### **St Peter's Playgroup Financial Review**

The Playgroup account ended the accounting year with a balance of £32,665. A summary of the audited accounts with the independent examiners report (completed by Lyndens Accountants [ Kent] Ltd) is provided in Appendix 1.

The financial year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021 was another difficult year due to the continued interruption to normal activities resulting from the impact of Covid restrictions. However, trustees and staff have worked hard to mitigate the issues. There has been a number of concerns, in particular high staff turnover, loss of income due to fewer children attending playgroup and lack of opportunity to attract new children to playgroup. However, treasurer, Mrs Hayley Kingsnorth reports that the balance for this financial year is satisfactory. Mrs Kingsnorth has implemented improvements in budgetary control and presentation of receipts and invoices. Additionally, use is now made of the XERO accounting software to provide access for all trustees, to the financial status of playgroup.

A number of issues are being monitored by Mrs Kingsnorth and former treasurer Mrs Farrell including the increasing cost of wages / staff training as well as the inadequate government funding that has not kept pace with inflation. The government expects childcare settings to make up the difference between the funded rate and a viable rate by charging parents / carers for other services (for example, provision of meals, nappy changing etc.). There is of course a limit to how much income you can raise this way. For example, the increasing rate of inflation impacts on parents / carers ability to pay and playgroup's ability to charge a realistic rate for these services. The loss of "one to one" funding for children with special needs is a major problem as staff costs are so high.

#### **Summary of income and expenditure 2020 / 2021**

	<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
	Government funding, Fees and Special Needs Support	£98,891	Wages	£76,816
	Sponsorship and donations	£571	Rent	£10,380
	Sundries, teas, raffles	£6,792	Supplies	£6,530
	interest	0	Renewables, Course Fees, Equipment, Insurance, Professional Fees, Marketing etc.	£5884
	<b>Total Receipts*</b>	£106,255	<b>Total Expenditure*</b>	£99,610

**\*Note: Totals rounded to nearest pound.**

The trustees wish to thank the staff and volunteers who did all they could to reduce the financial burden by volunteering their services free of charge for so many, session preparation and back-office activities. Without this support playgroup would not be viable.

## Appendix 1

St Peter's Playgroup Financial Summary  
and  
Independent Examiners report  
Financial Year  
1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION  
 FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
 St. Peter's Playgroup

Charity Number  
 1167833

**Receipts and payments accounts**

CC16a

For the period from 01/09/2020 To 31/08/2021

**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Fees	98,891	-	-	98,891	79,683
HMS Milk	-	-	-	-	272
Special Needs Support	-	-	-	-	2,072
Sponsorship and Donations	571	-	-	571	386
Teas and Raffles	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	6,792	-	-	6,792	3,984
Interest	0	-	-	0	13
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>106,255</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,255</b>	<b>86,410</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>106,255</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>106,255</b>	<b>86,410</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Wages	76,816	-	-	76,816	69,375
Rent	10,380	-	-	10,380	8,269
Supplies	6,530	-	-	6,530	7,625
Insurance	370	-	-	370	-
Course Fees	1,376	-	-	1,376	-
Renewables	-	-	-	-	-
Sundries	1,575	-	-	1,575	-
PPG and Advertising	832	-	-	832	-
Legal and Professional	1,730	-	-	1,730	6,508
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>99,610</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99,610</b>	<b>91,777</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>99,610</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99,610</b>	<b>91,777</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>6,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,645</b>	<b>5,367</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>26,020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,020</b>	<b>31,386</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>32,665</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,665</b>	<b>26,019</b>

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank	32,736	-	-
	Petty Cash	370	-	-
	Debtors	505	-	-
	Creditors	945	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>32,665</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Independent Examiners Fee Accrual		240	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	HAYLEY KINGSNOCK	21/6/22
Vivien Farrell	VIVIEN FARRELL	21/6/22



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
 FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's  
 report on the accounts**

**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Charity: St Peter's Playgroup		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1167833
<b>Set out on pages</b>	1-2		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

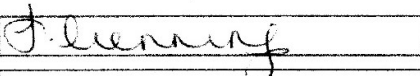
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement** I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**  **Date:** 25/05/2022

**Name:** Jane Henning

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** LYNDENS  
 accountants

**Address:** 53 WEST STREET  
 SITTINGBOURNE  
 KENT, ME10 1AN  
 TEL: 01795 422565

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

