

Foundations for Families & Their Communities

England & Wales · Charity number 1169508

Details

Other names	PARKLANDS PLAYGROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2016-10-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Parklands Nursery School Spinney Hill Road Parklands Northampton NN3 6DW
Phone	01604642118
Email	paulas@croyland-nur.northants.sch.uk
Website	http://parklandsplaygroup.co.uk/

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY WORKS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT HAVING AS ITS OBJECTS THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR BY: 1.GIVING YOUNG CHILDREN THE BEST START IN LIFE 2.PROMOTING THEIR CARE AND SAFETY 3.PROMOTING THEIR EDUCATION AND PROMOTING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT 4.PROMOTING THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING 5.PROVIDING SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS 6.WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SERVICES, CARE AND EDUCATION PERTINENT TO THE CHILD AND THEIR FAMILY

Activities: Giving young children the best start in life by:Promoting their care and safety,Promoting their education, development & parental involvement,Promoting their health & wellbeing,Providing services & working with others to support them, their families, carers & community,Seeking to promote research into evidence based best practice for children & families,Working within their community

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Northamptonshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£0	£0	-	-
2023-08-31	£14,964	£12,601	-	-
2022-08-31	£40,090	£47,594	-	-
2021-08-31	£38,947	£32,255	-	-
2020-08-31	£42,848	£62,090	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paula Stafford	Chair	2024-01-09
Claire Eustace		2024-01-09
LAUREN Jacques		2013-03-08
Lyndsey Lambert		2020-06-17

Foundations for Families & Their Communities

England & Wales - Charity number 1169508

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Foundations for Families & their Communities

Trustees' Annual Report

Sept 2023 – Aug 2024

Charity number 1169508

A CIO supporting the families and communities of the
Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation

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Section 1: Introduction

The Foundation for Families & their Communities CIO supports the communities and families of the 4 Nursery Schools that make up the Foundations for Children Nursery Schools (FFCNS) Federation in Northampton and Wellingborough.

The charity raises funds to support the schools and other partnerships projects, including family groups for the local communities, training for Early Years professionals across Northamptonshire and action research to support the wider Early Years community.

The organisation was originally registered as a Charity on 6th October 2016 as Parklands Playgroup.

In March 2022, the Governing Board of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation (FCNSF), together with the leadership team of Parklands Nursery School, notified the Playgroup staff that they proposed to expand the existing nursery provision to provide full time and part time places for 2- year-old children. A consultation was also held with families. It was explained that this change would enable the school to become more sustainable, as local authority-maintained nursery schools continue to face increasing constraints on funding; this would also address some of the challenges the Playgroup have faced with limited numbers.

The Playgroup Trustees and Committee members decided that the best option for the children and families would be for the Playgroup to cease offering its provision for 2–3-year olds from the end of 5 August 2022. Children of this age range could attend the nursery school, thus attending the same premises, staff would be transferred across to the nursery school under TUPE, and so in essence, there would be no fundamental difference in the service provided to parents and children because of the closure.

The additional work possible due to funds received by the CIO would continue. This work includes groups operated at the four Nursery Schools, such as Stay & Play, Time for Us and Baby Massage; funding projects to provide training for Early Years professionals across Northamptonshire and action research to support the wider Early Years community.

A number of resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Trustees and Committee in May 2022, to reflect the new focus of the Charity. The resolutions included agreement to:-

- Alter the purpose of the CIO to have a wider, more community-based focus
- Change the name of the charity from Parklands Playgroup to Foundations for Families and Their Communities and register this with the Charity Commission
- Amend the Constitution of the Charity to incorporate these changes and include the other strands of the Charity work

Due to role and staffing changes the list of trustees was also updated; the trustees are now as follows:

- Lyndsey Lambert, Executive Headteacher of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation
- Lauren Jacques (CIO Secretary), Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School
- Paula Stafford (CIO Chair), Community Engagement Lead for Foundations for Children Nursery School Federation
- Claire Eustace (CIO Treasurer), Bursar of Parklands Nursery School

The trustees will serve the charity until they choose to resign or the charity closes. Members are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of charity trustees. Members are eligible for re-election. In electing trustees, the charity gives due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All trustees complete DBS checks in line with statutory requirements. Trustees and members meet termly – a minimum of 3 times a year. The CIO currently has no direct employees but payments are made to the Nursery Schools from the CIO to cover the time used by employees to run projects on behalf of the CIO.

Section 2: Review of activities and achievements

During the year covered by this report – September 2023 to August 2024, there were still income and expenditure transactions linked to the running of the Playgroup; but there were also new sources of income and expenditure, related to the CIO's new purposes,

including a Community Grant payment and expenditure linked to the running of community-based projects and Early Years training.

Section 3: Finances

As at 31/08/24 the CIO held a balance of £12,304.57; the income across the previous year totalled £4,163.50.

Foundations for Families & their Communities			
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31/08/24			
Income		Expenses	
Fees	£0.00	Rent	£0.00
NCC Headcount Funding	£956.00	Wages / PAYE	£4,575.60
Grants	£3,207.50	Pension	£0.00
Miscellaneous	£0.00	Training	£0.00
Surplus	£0.00	Equipment	£1,159.97
		Marketing	
		Insurance	£0.00
		Projects	£1,451.08
		Miscellaneous	£0.00
		Deficit	-£3,023.15
Total	£4,163.50		£4,163.50
Balance as at 31/08/24 = £12,304.57			

Section 4: Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are in place to support all aspects of safeguarding, child protection and health & safety, during the work of the CIO. Policies are reviewed and updated regularly.

Data Protection Officer : Lyndsey Lambert, Executive Headteacher, Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation, Parklands Nursery School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DE; llambert@ffcnschools.com; 01604 64211

Section 5: Future Plans

Going forward the CIO will be focusing on raising funds to support our communities. A priority list will be drawn up of projects across the Federation and appropriate funding streams will be identified.

Section 6: Trustees Interests

Foundations for Families & their Communities : Charity Business Interests Updated May 2024						
Trustee Name	CIO Position	Start Date	End Date	Business Interests related to CIO (Including role in Federation)	Personal Interests related to CIO	Positions held in other charitable organisations
Claire Eustace	Treasurer	09/01/2024		Bursar, Parklands Nursery School	None	None
Paula Stafford	Chair	09/01/2024		Community Engagement Lead. FFCNS Federation / Co-opted Governor FFCNS Federation	None	Trustee of Camrose Community Toy Library / Trustee of Home-Start Wellingborough
Lauren Jacques	Secretary	08/03/2013		Family Support Worker, Parklands Nursery School	None	None
Lyndsey Lambert	Trustee	17/06/2020		Executive Head Teacher, FFCNS Federation	None	None

Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a Charity

As trustees, we are confident that we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

PDStafford Trustee & Chair

Date: 27/06/25

Contact details:- Foundations for Families & their Communities, Parklands Nursery School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton Northamptonshire NN3 6DW. 01604 642118

pstafford@ffcnschools.com

Foundations for Families & Their Communities

England & Wales - Charity number 1169508

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Foundations for Families & their Communities Trustees' Annual Report Sept 2022 – Aug 2023

Charity number 1169508

A CIO supporting the families and
communities of the Foundations for Children
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Section 1: Introduction

The Foundation for Families & their Communities CIO supports the communities and families of the 4 Nursery Schools that make up the Foundations for Children Nursery Schools (FFCNS) Federation in Northampton and Wellingborough.

The charity raises funds to support the schools and other partnerships projects, including family groups for the local communities, training for Early Years professionals across Northamptonshire and action research to support the wider Early Years community.

The organisation was originally registered as a Charity on 6th October 2016 as Parklands Playgroup.

In March 2022, the Governing Board of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation (FCNSF), together with the leadership team of Parklands Nursery School, notified the Playgroup staff that they proposed to expand the existing nursery provision to provide full time and part time places for 2- year-old children. A consultation was also held with families. It was explained that this change would enable the school to become more sustainable, as local authority-maintained nursery schools continue to face increasing constraints on funding; this would also address some of the challenges the Playgroup have faced with limited numbers.

The Playgroup Trustees and Committee members decided that the best option for the children and families would be for the Playgroup to cease offering its provision for 2-3-year olds from the end of 5 August 2022. Children of this age range could attend the nursery school, thus attending the same premises, staff would be transferred across to the nursery school under TUPE, and so in essence, there would be no fundamental

difference in the service provided to parents and children because of the closure.

The additional work possible due to funds received by the CIO would continue. This work includes groups operated at Parklands Nursery School and the Camrose Centre for families with young children such as Stay & Play, Time for Us and Baby Massage. The Charity aims to expand this work, to incorporate some of the other communities covered by the FFCNS and to fund projects to provide training for Early Years professionals across Northamptonshire and action research to support the wider Early Years community.

A number of resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Trustees and Committee in May 2022, to reflect the new focus of the Charity. The resolutions included agreement to:-

- Alter the purpose of the CIO to have a wider, more community-based focus
- Change the name of the charity from Parklands Playgroup to Foundations for Families and Their Communities and register this with the Charity Commission
- Amend the Constitution of the Charity to incorporate these changes and include the other strands of the Charity work

Due to role and staffing changes the list of trustees was also updated; the trustees are now as follows:

- Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation
- Lauren Jacques (CIO Secretary), Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School
- Paula Stafford (CIO Chair), Community Engagement Lead for Foundations for Children Nursery School Federation
- Claire Eustace (CIO Treasurer), Bursar of Parklands Nursery School

The trustees will serve the charity until they choose to resign or the charity closes. Members are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of charity trustees. Members are eligible for re-election. In electing trustees, the charity gives due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All trustees complete DBS checks in line with statutory requirements. Trustees and members meet termly – a minimum of 3 times a year. The CIO currently has no direct employees.

Section 2: Review of activities and achievements

During the year covered by this report - September 2022 to August 2023, the CIO went through many changes due to the closure of the Playgroup.

However the majority of the transactions recorded in this period reflect that there was still income and expenditure linked to the running of the Playgroup during this year; but that there were also new sources of income and expenditure, related to the CIO's new purpose.

A new training group called Northamptonshire Early Years Partnership was established in 2023, to run Early Years CPD sessions for professionals across Northamptonshire, funded by both West and North Northants Councils. The CIO manages these resources and pays the costs incurred by these training sessions.

Section 3: Finances

As at 31/08/23 the CIO held a balance of £15,033.72; the income across the previous year totalled £12,590.68 (including a surplus on account of £2,373.99). As described above, the majority of these transactions were still related to the running of the Playgroup and the CIO is continuing the process of separating the Playgroup funding from the rest of the CIO funds.

A payment of £6,000 was also made in this period by West Northants Council (listed as a 'grant' below) for the Northamptonshire Early Years Partnership to deliver training to Early Years professionals. All the finances for this project are being managed through the CIO.



Foundations for Families & their Communities				
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31/08/23				
Income			Expenses	
Fees	£957.50		Rent	
NCC Headcount Funding	£5,235.72		Wages / PAYE	£10,854.64
Grants	£6,000.00		Pension	£608.23
Miscellaneous	£2,771.45		Training	
Surplus	-£2,373.99		Equipment	
			Marketing	
			Insurance	£28.87
			Projects	£846.94
			Miscellaneous	£252.00
			Deficit	
Total	£12,590.68			£12,590.68

Section 4: Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are in place to support all aspects of safeguarding, child protection and health & safety, during the work of the CIO. Policies are reviewed and updated regularly.

Data Protection Officer : Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher, Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation, Parklands Nursery School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DE; llambert@ffcnschools.com; 01604 64211

Section 5: Future Plans

Going forward the CIO will be focusing on raising funds to support our communities. A priority list will be drawn up of projects across the Federation and appropriate funding streams will be identified.

Section 6: Trustees Interests

Foundations for Families & their Communities : Charity Business Interests Updated May 2024						
Trustee Name	CIO Position	Start Date	End Date	Business Interests related to CIO (Including role in Federation)	Personal Interests related to CIO	Positions held in other charitable organisations
Claire Eustace	Treasurer	09/01/2024		Bursar, Parklands Nursery School	None	None
Paula Stafford	Chair	09/01/2024		Community Engagement Lead. FFCNS Federation / Co-opted Governor FFCNS Federation	None	Trustee of Camrose Community Toy Library / Trustee of Home-Start Wellingborough
Lauren Jacques	Secretary	08/03/2013		Family Support Worker, Parklands Nursery School	None	None
Lyndsey Lambert	Trustee	17/06/2020		Executive Head Teacher, FFCNS Federation	None	None

Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a Charity

As trustees, we are confident that we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

With the change in the CIO's purpose the trustees and committee would like to thank Parklands Nursery School who have hosted the Playgroup since its incorporation; the Playgroup staff for their hard work and commitment, and the parents who put their trust in the Playgroup for the care and education of their children.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

PDStafford Trustee & Chair

Date: 27/06/25

Contact details:- Foundations for Families & their Communities, Parklands Nursery School, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton Northamptonshire NN3 6DW. 01604 642118

pstafford@ffcnschools.com

Foundations for Families & Their Communities

England & Wales - Charity number 1169508

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Parklands Playgroup

Trustees' Annual Report

Sept 2021 – Aug 2022

Charity number 1169508

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Section 1: Introduction

Parklands Playgroup is run as a charity for the public benefit of the children in the local area with the purpose of advancing their education, specifically during their preschool years, so that they are well prepared for statutory schooling.

The organisation was registered as a Charity on 6th October 2016. The Trustees, together with the Playgroup Committee, are responsible for the work of Parklands Playgroup.

Trustees

Parklands Playgroup trustees are as follows:--

- Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation
- Lauren Jacques, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School
- Victoria Rollins, Parklands Playgroup Leader
- Nancy Fitzmaurice, Trustee & Treasurer

The trustees will serve the charity until they choose to resign or the charity closes. Members are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of charity trustees. Members are eligible for re-election. In electing trustees, the charity gives due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All trustees complete DBS checks in line with statutory requirements.

Aims

Parklands Playgroup aims to advance the development and education of children aged five and under in such ways as the charity's trustees think fit, including:

- Giving young children the best start in life
- Ensuring children's safety
- Promoting children's education and promoting parental involvement
- Promoting children's health and wellbeing
- Providing services to support children and their families and carers
- Working with other agencies in order to provide services, care and education pertinent to the child and their family.
- Providing each child with a keyworker to work with them throughout their time at Playgroup.

For the public benefit, the charity may carry out such other charitable activities as the trustees think fit.

In accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements, trustees have agreed to:-

- Be a non-profit making organisation where any profits made are used to extend and develop the preschool provision;
- Work with Parklands Nursery School, local Children's Centres and other agencies to ensure that the education given by the playgroup links to the children's future learning and supports other areas of their development.

Structure, Governance & Management

Parklands Playgroup is registered with Ofsted and complies with the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The day-to-day running of Parklands Playgroup is the responsibility of the staff team, led by the Playgroup Leader, who in turn reports to the nursery school's Deputy Headteacher. The committee oversees the running of the playgroup and makes decisions about when the Playgroup is open, the

fees charged to parents, staffing levels and appointments. The committee oversees the quality of the provision ensuring every child and their family can access high-quality provision.

There are two management groups; the main committee on which the following people serve:-

- Lyndsey Barnett (Trustee)
- Lauren Jacques, Chair, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School (Trustee & Chair)
- Victoria Rollins, Playgroup Leader (Trustee)
- Sarah Brooking (Committee Member & Ofsted nominated person)

and the Finance Committee which comprises:-

- Lyndsey Barnett (Trustee)
- Lauren Jacques, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School (Trustee & Chair)
- Nancy Fitzmaurice (Trustee & Treasurer)

Both groups have historically met termly, every 12 weeks, a minimum of 3 times per year; however, since the pandemic, this has not been the case, though communication has been made through virtual and electronic means to ensure the committee is informed of any relevant developments.

Playgroup Team

Due to the relatively low numbers the team continues to consist of:-

- Playgroup Leader
- Early Years Assistant

These members of staff hold a relevant level 3 qualification.

The Deputy Headteacher for Parklands Nursery School oversees Playgroup and has line management responsibility for the Playgroup Leader.

The trustees ensure that staff have regular supervision and Performance Management reviews where clear targets are agreed. There are also opportunities for CPD.

Section 2: Review of activities and achievements

The Playgroup operates from the premises of Parklands Nursery School. In the previous year, the Playgroup children had joined the nursery school children which allowed the setting to face the numerous challenges brought about by the pandemic. The advantages of this arrangement were significant and staff from both settings were able to plan activities together, share their expertise and benefit from the support of a wider team. Most importantly, the children benefited from the additional resources made available to them and the arrangement helped the children's transition when they progressed from playgroup to nursery school. A decision was made to continue with this arrangement for September 2021.

The children's emotional wellbeing continued to be well supported with a well-planned and robust settling in programme, and the use of the 'Voice of the Child' system used to capture the many aspects of each child's life, including medical, health and any other relevant needs. Access to the nursery school's Family Support Worker was another benefit for those children and/or their families that were identified as needing support.

Children's development was observed and assessed, enabling early intervention where necessary. Procedures for planning and 'next steps' continued to be in place and worked effectively to plan for both individual children's needs and the needs of the group as whole.

Section 3: Pupil Numbers and Fees

Numbers in September 2021 were relatively low, increasing to 15 children on roll by the end of the year.

Fees remained at the 2020-2021 rate of £17.25 per session with session times being 08:30 - 11:30 and 12:30 – 15:30. These times were in line with the session times of Parklands Nursery School.

The Nursery School continued to operate a Lunch Club to which a small number of Playgroup children attended. This provides wraparound care for parents; and for the children the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects of mealtimes with their peers and carers. Lunch Club prices remained at £7.00 per session and was supported by Playgroup staff.

Section 4: Finances

Playgroup made a loss in the 2021-2022 academic year of £7,503.51. Playgroup were able to absorb this deficit with reserves, though these reserves are now exhausted.

The financial statement for 2021-2022 shows an income of £40,090.24. This is made up of fees paid by parents for the sessions their child attends and funding received from the local authority for those children entitled to either universal/extended funding that are aged 3 and above and those 2-year-olds entitled to funded sessions. There were no children eligible for High Needs Funding during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The greatest expenditure related to staffing costs which amounted to £34,138.15.

Increases in staff salaries was implemented in April 2022 to account for the increase to the National Living Wage. The Playgroup continued to operate its pension scheme through NEST.

There was a notable downturn in income for September 2021 due to children not taking as many sessions as in previous years. This can be attributed to the hours on offer not suiting all working parents and financial pressures that have arisen post-Covid. It was agreed that longer hours and all

year-round provision should be revisited; however, this will be taken up by Parklands Nursery School (see Section 6 - 'Future Plans').

Fundraising

Due to the continuation of the pandemic, and staffing constraints, no major fundraising activities took place.

Section 5: Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are in place for all aspects of safeguarding, child protection and health & safety. Policies are reviewed and updated regularly. Weekly staff meetings and staff training days were used to ensure staff training was kept up to date. The staff benefited from joining in with the training provided for the nursery school from the Nursery School Federation. Training included safeguarding, food hygiene, learning and development and planning. In addition, staff attend Ofsted recognised 2-day paediatric first aid training on a rota basis to ensure that at any one time, at least one staff member will have the most up to date knowledge and skills in this area. Throughout the year, staff received supervision to support them in their work.

Risk assessments are carried out for activities and trips as appropriate. Health & safety checks are made by Parklands Nursery School who commission a company to assess playground equipment annually as part of their health & safety procedures. Additionally, termly checks of the premises are made by the Deputy Headteacher or a governor and Bursar/School Business Manager. No major works were undertaken for this period, though a plan for repairs and maintenance was put in place for Autumn 2022, which included several repairs to outdoor equipment belonging to the nursery school, used by the Playgroup.

Section 6: Future Plans

In March, the Governing Board of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation (FCNSF), together with the leadership team of Parklands Nursery School, notified Playgroup that they proposed to expand the existing nursery provision to provide full time and part time places for 2-year-old children. It was explained that this would enable the school to become more sustainable, as local authority-maintained nursery schools continue to face increasing constraints on funding.

This proposal was discussed with the staff and Trustees of Parklands Playgroup and options for the Playgroup were explored. Challenges faced by Playgroup were highlighted to include the following: -

- The Playgroup has, for the past 3 years or so, faced limited numbers, particularly for the September intake.
- As children turn three, the nursery school wants to take them onto their roll as this means they are included in the Nursery census, supporting their funding allocation. However, this can be detrimental to Playgroup finances.
- The School Business Manager of the nursery school, who was also Trustee and Treasurer, resigned leaving a gap in finance support and committee membership.
- Other staffing constraints put pressure on the operation due to part-time working hours and demands of the wider federation
- Committee membership continues to be low
- Ofsted challenges working within Nursery (nursery staff working with playgroup children).
- Limited provisions with less staff/children.

The Playgroup Trustees and Committee members decided that the best option for the children and families would be for the Playgroup to cease offering its provision for 2–3-year olds from the end of

August 2022. Children of this age range could attend through the nursery school, thus attending the same premises, staff would be transferred across to the nursery school under TUPE, and so in essence, there would be no fundamental difference in the service provided to parents and children because of the closure.

The additional work possible due to funds received by the Charity would continue. This work includes groups operated at Parklands Nursery School for families with young children such as Stay & Play, Time for Us and Baby Massage. The Charity aims to expand on this work, to incorporate some of the geographical areas covered by the FCNFS; in addition, the Charity will incorporate funded work around action research for the benefit of the Early Years sector as a whole.

A number of resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Trustees and Committee in May 2022, to reflect the new focus of the Charity. The resolutions included agreement to:-

- Alter the provision of the Charity
- Change the name of the charity from Parklands Playgroup to Foundations for Families and Their Communities
- Amend the Memorandum & Articles of the Charity

These changes will allow other strands of the Charity work to continue, and further develop.

Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a Charity

As trustees, we are confident that we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

The trustees and committee thank Parklands Nursery School who have hosted the Playgroup since its incorporation; the Playgroup staff for their hard work and commitment, and the parents who put their trust in the Playgroup for the care and education of their children.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

Nancy Fitzmaurice
Trustee & Treasurer

Date:

Contact details:-
Parklands Playgroup
Spinney Hill
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 6DW

01604 642118

head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk
senco@parklands-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Section 8: Appendix ~ Names and Addresses of Advisors

Bankers:	Barclays Leicester LE87 2BB
Independent Examiners	Cobley Desborough - Accountants Artisans House 7 Queensbridge Northampton NN4 7BF
Insurance Brokers	Pre-School Learning Alliance 50 Featherstone Street London EC1Y 8RT
Advisors	Early Years Team Northamptonshire County Council One Angel Square Angel Street Northampton NN1 1ED
Date Protection Officer	Lyndsey Barnett Executive Headteacher, Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation (FCNSF) Parklands Nursery School Spinney Hill Road Parklands Northampton NN3 6DE head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk 01604 642118



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: Parklands Playgroup

On accounts for the year ended

31/8/2022 Charity no (if any) 1169508

Set out on pages

3 (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 31/8/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement: [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report 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: Andrew Hasner

Date: 08-03-2023

Name: ANDREW HASNER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FCCA FMAAT

(if any):

--

Address:

Cobley Desborough Artisans house
7 Queensbridge Northampton
NW4 7BF

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

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Parklands Playgroup

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2022

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Fees	19,711.38	Rent	9,333.00
NCC Headcount funding	20,378.86	Wages /PAYE	32,645.77
Grants		Pension	1,492.38
Miscellaneous		Equipment	820.22
		Marketing	
		Insurance	520.65
		Misc	2,288.50
		nursery projects	493.23
		Deficit	-7,503.51
	<u>40,090.24</u>		<u>40,090.24</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022

Accumulated fund B/fwd.	22,278.38	Cash at bank	14,774.87
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	-7,503.51		
	<u>14,774.87</u>		<u>14,774.87</u>

Foundations for Families & Their Communities

England & Wales - Charity number 1169508

Accounts



Parklands Playgroup

Trustees' Annual Report

Sept 2020 – Aug 2021

Charity number 1169508

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Section 1: Introduction

Parklands Playgroup is run as a charity for the public benefit of the children in the local area with the purpose of advancing their education, specifically during their preschool years, so that they are well prepared for statutory schooling.

The organisation was registered as a Charity on 6th October 2016. The Trustees, together with the Playgroup Committee, are responsible for the work of Parklands Playgroup.

Trustees

Parklands Playgroup trustees are as follows:--

- Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation
- Lauren Jacques, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School
- Victoria Rollins, Parklands Playgroup Leader
- Nancy Fitzmaurice, Trustee & Treasurer

The trustees will serve the charity until they choose to resign or the charity closes. Members are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of charity trustees. Members are eligible for re-election. In electing trustees, the charity gives due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All trustees complete DBS checks in line with statutory requirements.

Aims

Parklands Playgroup aims to advance the development and education of children aged five and under in such ways as the charity's trustees think fit, including:

- Giving young children the best start in life
- Ensuring children's safety
- Promoting children's education and promoting parental involvement
- Promoting children's health and wellbeing
- Providing services to support children and their families and carers
- Working with other agencies in order to provide services, care and education pertinent to the child and their family.
- Providing each child with a keyworker to work with them throughout their time at Playgroup.

For the public benefit, the charity may carry out such other charitable activities as the trustees think fit.

In accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements, trustees have agreed to:-

- Be a non-profit making organisation where any profits made are used to extend and develop the preschool provision;
- Work with Parklands Nursery School, local Children's Centres and other agencies to ensure that the education given by the playgroup links to the children's future learning and supports other areas of their development.

Structure, Governance & Management

Parklands Playgroup is registered with Ofsted and complies with the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The day-to-day running of Parklands Playgroup is the responsibility of the staff team, led by the Playgroup Leader, who in turn reports to the nursery school's Senior Family Worker. The committee oversees the running of the playgroup and makes decisions about when the Playgroup is open, the

fees charged to parents, staffing levels and appointments. The committee oversees the quality of the provision ensuring every child and their family are able to access a high quality provision. The committee's Ofsted Nominated Person is still registered as Sarah Brooking, the previous Headteacher of Parklands Nursery School; however, the process is underway to transfer this to Lyndsey Barnett. Lyndsey is the Executive Headteacher of the Foundation for Children Nursery Schools Federation, of which Parklands Nursery School is a member.

There are two management groups; the main committee on which the following people serve:-

- Lyndsey Barnett (Trustee)
- Lauren Jacques, Chair, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School (Trustee & Chair)
- Victoria Rollins, Playgroup Leader (Trustee)
- Sarah Brooking (Committee Member & Ofsted nominated person)

and the Finance Committee which comprises:-

- Lyndsey Barnett (Trustee)
- Lauren Jacques, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School (Trustee & Chair)
- Nancy Fitzmaurice (Trustee & Treasurer)

Both groups have historically met termly, every 12 weeks, a minimum of 3 times per year; however, throughout the pandemic, this has not been the case, but communication has been made through virtual means to ensure the committee is informed of any relevant developments.

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration nor expenses were paid in the year.

Playgroup Team

We believe the Playgroup team to be coherent and effective. Staff turnover is extremely low. Due to the relatively low numbers the team currently consists:-

- Playgroup Leader
- Early Years Assistant

These members of staff hold a relevant level 3 qualification.

The Family Support Worker for Parklands Nursery School oversees Playgroup and has line management responsibility for the Playgroup Leader.

The trustees ensure that staff have regular supervision and Performance Management reviews where clear targets are agreed. There are also opportunities for CPD.

Section 2: Review of activities and achievements

Numbers in September 2020 were relatively low; and this in part can be put down to the impact of the pandemic. The Playgroup closed for the whole of the summer term 2020 due to Covid-19 and many families continued to keep their children at home to reduce risk of infection. Strict Covid-19 protocols and procedures were in place for September 2020 to reduce risk as far as reasonably possible, and Playgroup continued to provide a range of activities to provide experiences across the whole Early Years' curriculum. The range of activities had to necessarily change, for example, water play, sand play and the use of resources that could not be regularly hygienically cleaned were suspended for a while, then gradually reintroduced in line with government guidelines. Staff continued to plan activities to ensure the individual needs of children were catered for and resources purchased that were more easily utilised in the circumstances.

As Playgroup operates from the premises of Parklands Nursery School, to successfully operate within government guidelines and the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the Playgroup children amalgamated with a relatively small number of nursery school children. This allowed both settings to operate in separate 'bubbles', whilst providing the necessary staffing numbers; crucial as neither setting was able to allow staff to work outside of their designated bubble due to the increase risk of infection this imposed. The Playgroup staff quickly got used to this way of working and were able to share their expertise with nursery school staff, and in turn learn from them; a great benefit for both parties. Whilst challenging at times to share space and cater for the wider age range, there were benefits for the children too and this way of working was deemed to be overall extremely successful.

Whilst children's emotional wellbeing continued to be well supported with, for example, a robust settling in programme, home visits which had historically been part of this programme, had to cease as part of the Covid-19 risk assessment, and other means of working alongside parents and children and facilitating the sharing of information had to be sought. "Getting to Know You" sessions were held at the Playgroup premises with just one parent/carer and the child present. Voice of the Child documentation was completed, but instead of this being alongside the parent/carer, to capture the many aspects of a child's life, and to collect medical and health needs etc, this valuable information was collected via telephone consultations.

The clear emphasis on learning through play continued with much of this taking place outside, in line with the Covid-19 risk assessments. In line with government guidelines, indoor areas were well ventilated.

Children's development continued to be observed and assessed, enabling early intervention where necessary. Procedures for planning and 'next steps' continued to be in place and worked effectively to plan for both individual children's needs and the needs of the group as whole.

The 'Playing Together Group', held once a week during term time, for parents with babies and young children was suspended throughout the year due to the pandemic with plans to reintroduce once the situation allowed. This group has been a huge success in the past, funding the services of a Speech and Language Therapist, able to provide support and advice to parents and staff. Baby massage courses, led by the Family Support Worker of Parklands Nursery School but aimed at all parents of the community with babies, were also suspended throughout the year due to the pandemic. Invaluable family support continued to be offered to all families, whether from the community groups or from Playgroup.

The normal celebrations and activities that take place throughout the year to include the celebration of special occasions and religious festivals; community walks and other trips out, to which parents and

carers are normally invited, were also curtailed but we very much look forward to being in a position to instigate these activities.

Section 3: Pupil Numbers and Fees

The 2020-2021 year began with 15 children on roll.

Fees were increased to £17.25 per session with session times being 08:30 - 11:30 and 12:30 – 15:30, to fall in line with the session times of Parklands Nursery School. The increase in fees was felt to bring the charges in line with fees charged by other settings and necessary to meet the cost of salaries, rent and services and other associated costs.

The Nursery School operates a Lunch Club to which Playgroup children may attend. This provides wraparound care for parents; and for the children the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects of mealtimes with their peers and carers. Lunch Club prices remained at £7.00 per session. Lunch Club was supported by Playgroup staff when necessary, and this is in part the reason the rent and service charge made by the nursery school has remained relatively low.

Section 4: Finances

Playgroup made a loss in the 2020-2021 academic year of £6,692.48. The financial statement for 2020-2021 shows an income of £36,583.37. This is made up of fees paid by parents for the sessions their child attends and funding received from the local authority for those children entitled to either universal/extended funding that are aged 3 and above and those 2 year olds entitled to funded sessions. One child in Playgroup was eligible for High Needs Funding.

In addition, Playgroup received £2,353.39 in grant payments relating to the Retention Scheme Grant funding, and a £10 donation.

The greatest expenditure was salaries (including employer pension payments) which amounted to £36,432.79. The second largest expense was rent & services which amounted to £5,333 for the year (vastly reduced by Parklands Nursery School due to the Playgroup closure in the summer term, and the support provided by Playgroup staff to the nursery throughout the pandemic). Playgroup were able to absorb this deficit with reserves, though these reserves were much depleted due to the summer term closure.

Increases in staff salaries was implemented in April 2021 to account for the increase to the National Living Wage.

The Playgroup continues to operate its pension scheme through NEST.

As already mentioned, the Playgroup operates out of the Nursery School premises and pays rent and services for the facility. This arrangement, and the close working arrangements between Nursery and Playgroup staff is extremely beneficial. It allows for the shared use of resources and a smooth transition for the children when they progress from playgroup to nursery school.

Fundraising

Due to the pandemic, no major fundraising activities took place with the plan being to revive the fundraising committee once things returned to normal, post pandemic.

Section 5: Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are in place for all aspects of safeguarding, child protection and health & safety. Policies are reviewed and updated regularly. Policies and procedures around the pandemic were made available to staff and parents and these were updated in a timely manner in light of emerging government guidance. Ad hoc training days were planned to ensure all staff were completely conversant with the new Covid-19 related policies. Weekly staff meetings and staff training days are used to ensure staff are trained and fluent in all policies and procedures.

Staff attend Ofsted recognised 2-day paediatric first aid training on a rota basis to ensure that at any one time, at least one staff member will have the most up to date knowledge and skills in this area. All Playgroup staff attend annual safeguarding training and updates. Throughout the year they also receive supervision to support and to be aware of individual children's needs

Risk assessments are carried out for activities and trips as appropriate. An annual risk assessment of premises and equipment is normally undertaken; however, this has not happened due to the pandemic. Health & safety is a regular agenda item for Parklands Nursery School's senior leadership team meetings regular checks carried out by the premises team and termly checks by the Headteacher or a governor and School Business Manager. No major works have been undertaken for this period.

Section 6: Future Plans

External funding opportunities are sought as and when this is feasible though the pandemic has curtailed such activities; in part due to the challenges of additional workload that has resulted from the effects of the pandemic (e.g. staff cover needs, particularly where we are unable to cross bubbles/staff shielding or isolating, robust sanitising regimes etc.).

The committee intends to continue with previous strategies of investing in the provision of high quality care and education with a strong emphasis on learning through discovery; together with the provision of meaningful family support.

Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a Charity

As trustees, we are confident that we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

The trustees and committee thank Parklands Nursery School who have hosted the Playgroup since its incorporation; the Playgroup staff for their hard work and commitment, and the parents who put their trust in the Playgroup for the care and education of their children.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

Nancy Fitzmaurice
Trustee & Treasurer

Date:

Contact details:-
Parklands Playgroup
Spinney Hill
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 6DW

01604 642118

head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk

senco@parklands-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/Parklands-Playgroup>

Section 8: Appendix ~ Names and Addresses of Advisors

Bankers:	Barclays Leicester LE87 2BB
Independent Examiners	Cobley Desborough - Accountants Artisans House 7 Queensbridge Northampton NN4 7BF
Insurance Brokers	Pre-School Learning Alliance 50 Featherstone Street London EC1Y 8RT
Advisors	Early Years Team Northamptonshire County Council One Angel Square Angel Street Northampton NN1 1ED
Date Protection Officer	Lyndsey Barnett Parklands Nursery School & Playgroup Spinney Hill Road Spinney Hill Northampton NN3 6DE head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk 01604 642118



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Parklands Playgroup

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2021

Charity no
(if any)

1169508

Set out on pages

3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

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:

[Signature]

Date:

27/4/22

Name:

A WASKEL

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

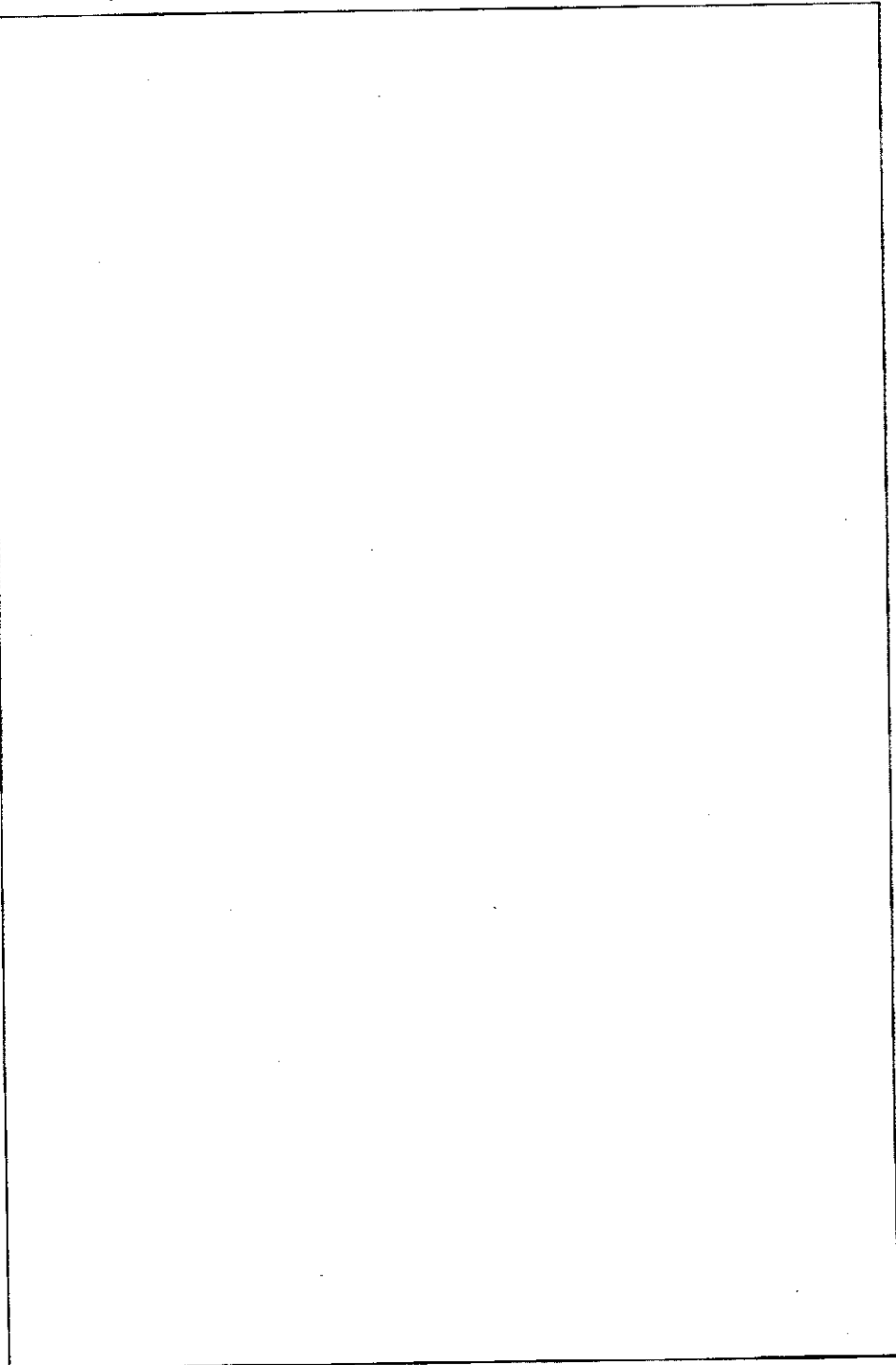
FCCA, FMAAT

Address:

Coburn Desborough, ARTISANS' HOUSE
7 QUEENSBIDGE, NORTHAMPTON
NN4 7DF

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.



Parklands Playgroup

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2021

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Fees	16,323.00	Rent	5,333.00
NCC Headcount funding	20,260.37	Wages /PAYE	35,038.08
Grants	2,353.39	Pension	1,394.71
Miscellaneous	10.00	Equipment	1,271.73
		Marketing	150.00
		Insurance	510.61
		Misc	1,941.11
		Deficit	-6,692.48
	<u>38,946.76</u>		<u>38,946.76</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2021

Accumlated fund B/fwd	26,855.72	Cash at bank	20,163.24
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	-6,692.48		
	<u>20,163.24</u>		<u>20,163.24</u>



Foundations for Families & Their Communities

England & Wales - Charity number 1169508

Accounts



Parklands Playgroup

Trustees' Annual Report

Sept 2019 – Aug 2020

Charity number 1169508

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Section 1: Introduction

Parklands Playgroup is run as a charity for the public benefit of the children in the local area with the purpose of advancing their education, specifically during their preschool years, so that they are well prepared for statutory schooling.

The organisation was registered as a Charity on 6th October 2016. The Trustees, together with the Playgroup Committee, are responsible for the work of Parklands Playgroup.

Trustees

Parklands Playgroup trustees are as follows:--

- Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher of Wellingborough Federation & Parklands Nursery School
- Lauren Jacques, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School
- Victoria Rollins, Parklands Playgroup Leader
- Nancy Fitzmaurice, Business Manager, Parklands Nursery School

The trustees will serve the charity until they choose to resign or the charity closes. Members are appointed for a term of two years by a resolution passed at a properly constituted meeting of charity trustees. Members are eligible for re-election. In electing trustees, the charity gives due regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO. All trustees complete DBS checks in line with statutory requirements.

Aims

Parklands Playgroup aims to advance the development and education of children aged five and under in such ways as the charity's trustees think fit, including:

- Giving young children the best start in life
- Ensuring children's safety
- Promoting children's education and promoting parental involvement
- Promoting children's health and wellbeing
- Providing services to support children and their families and carers
- Working with other agencies in order to provide services, care and education pertinent to the child and their family.
- Providing each child with a keyworker to work with them throughout their time at Playgroup.

For the public benefit, the charity may carry out such other charitable activities as the trustees think fit.

In accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements, trustees have agreed to:-

- Be a non-profit making organisation where any profits made are used to extend and develop the preschool provision;
- Work with Parklands Nursery School, local Children's Centres and other agencies to ensure that the education given by the playgroup links to the children's future learning and supports other areas of their development.

Structure, Governance & Management

Parklands Playgroup is registered with Ofsted and complies with the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The day-to-day running of Parklands Playgroup is the responsibility of the staff team, led by the Playgroup Leader, who in turn reports to the nursery school's Senior Family Worker. The committee oversees the running of the playgroup and makes decisions about when the Playgroup is open, the

fees charged to parents, staffing levels and appointments. The committee oversees the quality of the provision ensuring every child and their family are able to access a high quality provision. The committee's Ofsted Nominated Person is Lyndsey Barnett. Lyndsey Barnett is the Executive Headteacher of the Wellingborough Federation & Parklands Nursery School.

There are two management groups; the main committee on which the following people serve:-

- Lyndsey Barnett (Trustee & Ofsted nominated person)
- Lauren Jacques, Chair, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School (Trustee & Chair)
- Victoria Rollins, Playgroup Leader (Trustee)
- Trudi Connors-Plater, Committee Member and Chair of Finance Committee
- Sarah Brooking (Committee Member)

and the Finance Committee which comprises:-

- Lyndsey Barnett (Trustee & Ofsted nominated person)
- Lauren Jacques, Senior Family Worker, Parklands Nursery School (Trustee & Chair)
- Trudi Connors Plater (Chair)
- Nancy Fitzmaurice (Trustee & Treasurer)

Both groups meet termly, every 12 weeks, a minimum 3 times a year. The finance committee meet ahead of the main committee and discuss finances, staffing, numbers on roll, premises and any other pertinent issues. This information then feeds into the main committee at which meeting the Playgroup Leader provides a detailed report and progress against the Development Plan is discussed. At both committee meetings safe guarding issues and safe recruitment, child protection, SEND and vulnerable children are discussed. Attendance at committee meetings is good.

All trustees give their time freely and no remuneration nor expenses were paid in the year.

Playgroup Team

We believe the Playgroup team to be coherent and effective. Staff turnover is extremely low. The team currently consists:-

- Playgroup Leader
- Early Years Assistants x 2

All members of staff hold a relevant level 3 qualification.

Lauren Jacques oversees Playgroup and has line management responsibility for the Playgroup Leader. The trustees ensure that staff have regular supervision and Performance Management reviews where clear targets are agreed. There are also opportunities for CPD.

Section 2: Review of activities and achievements

In August 2019 Sarah Brooking, Headteacher of Parklands Nursery School and Trustee & Secretary of Parklands Playgroup retired. Sarah remains a valued member of the Playgroup Committee and this allows Playgroup to benefit from Sarah's wealth of experience.

Ofsted – October 2019

The Playgroup was subjected to an Ofsted inspection in October 2019 and received a rating of 'Good' with inspectors acknowledging the good progress made by the children as a result of the **"dedication of highly skilled staff who have ambitious aspirations for all children's ongoing achievements"**. Ofsted acknowledged that Playgroup **"significantly contributes to the happiness, security and overall feeling of safety that children demonstrate as soon as they enter the premises."** It was reported that **"staff promote children's interests through skilful interactions and by showing genuine interest in what children are doing."** Our staff are our most valuable asset and we are proud to see that Ofsted recognised this, reporting them to be **"positive role models"** and **"calm, consistent and sensitive."** The full Ofsted report is available here <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50124359>.

In March 2020, Playgroup closed for the whole of the summer term due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No parents in 'key worker' roles required a place for their child during this time. Playgroup was able to take advantage of the governments Job Retention Scheme and all staff were paid 100% of their normal salaries to the end of August 2020. Vulnerable children and families were supported throughout this period with regular telephone contact and signposting from the Senior Family Worker of Parklands Nursery School and the delivery of resources to the families' homes. In addition, resources developed by the staff of the nursery school were successfully shared via the website and social media and some activity ideas posted out to families where appropriate. In September 2020, with strict protocols and procedures in place, Playgroup was able to open its doors once again.

A wide range of activities are offered to provide experiences across the whole Early Years' curriculum. Staff ensure that every child matters and activities are planned to cater for the needs of individual children.

Children's emotional well-being is well supported and a settling in programme supports this. Home visits take place for new children as part of the overall settling in programme. This allows staff to work alongside parents and children, thus facilitating the sharing of information in order to assist in the support of children and their families. Since the pandemic, the settling in procedures have had to be revised and "Getting to Know You" sessions are held at the Playgroup premises with just one parent/carer and the child.

Voice of the Child documentation is completed alongside the parent/carer to capture the many aspects of a child's life. This also enables staff to understand and find out more about medical and health needs and identify any early help support for the family. The development and planning captured and recorded is reviewed termly with parents. Due to the pandemic, much of this has been done via telephone consultations.

There is a clear emphasis on learning through play and children learn through a range of practical experiences with free access to play inside and outside all year through.

Children's development is continually observed and assessed which enables early intervention where necessary. Procedures for planning and 'next steps' are in place and work effectively to plan for both individual children's needs and the needs of the group as whole.

The Playgroup operates a 'Playing Together Group' once a week during term time which is for parents with babies and young children to come into the setting and meet other parents and carers whilst allowing their children to experience the Playgroup setting. Lauren Jacques was successful in a bid for lottery funding to develop this group and has used some of the funds to recruit the services of a Speech and Language Therapist who attends the group regularly providing support and advice to parents and staff. Lauren is supported in the operation of the Playing Together Group by Leanne Goodall. In addition, Lauren has qualified as an Infant Massage Instructor and runs regular baby massage courses complementing the services already provided to families with young children. Due to COVID-19, the group has not met since March 2020 but family support is offered where necessary.

Activities take place throughout the year to include the celebration of special occasions and religious festivals; together with community walks and other trips out, to which parents and carers are invited.

Section 3: Pupil Numbers and Fees

The 2019-2020 year began with 18 children on roll.

Fees were increased to £16.50 per session with session times being 08:45 - 11:45 and 12:30 – 15:30. The increase in fees was felt to bring the charges in line with fees charged by other settings and is necessary in order to cover the cost of salaries, rent and services and other associated costs.

The Nursery School operates a Lunch Club to which Playgroup children may attend. This provides wraparound care for parents; and for the children the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects of mealtimes with their peers and carers. Lunch Club increased to £6.00 per session in September 2019 and to £7.00 per session in September 2020. Playgroup staff support the delivery of Lunch Club and this is in part the reason the rent and service charge made by the nursery school has remained relatively low.

Section 4: Finances

Playgroup made a loss in the 2019-2020 academic year of £19,241.70. The financial statement for 2019-2020 shows an income of £42,847.85. This is made up of fees paid by parents for the sessions their child attends and funding received from the local authority for those children entitled to either universal/extended funding that are aged 3 and above and those 2 year olds entitled to funded sessions. One child in Playgroup was eligible for High Needs Funding.

In addition, Playgroup received £7,122 in grant funding; comprising £2,500 Covid-19 related discretionary grant and £4,622 as part of the government's Job Retention Scheme grant funding.

The greatest expenditure was salaries which amounted to £38,138.99. The second largest expense was rent & services which amounted to £14,000 for the year. Fortunately, the reserves were such that Playgroup has been able to absorb this deficit. Despite government support in the form of grants, the pandemic has had a negative financial impact for Playgroup. Whilst early years settings were able to continue to claim funding for eligible 2 year olds and 3 years olds as part of the governments early years funding entitlement, a considerable loss arose from the closure during the summer term as the majority of the income is from fee paying parents.

Increases in staff salaries was implemented in April 2020 to account for the increase to the National Living Wage.

The Playgroup continues to operate its pension scheme through NEST. Staff eligibility for auto enrolment continues to be reviewed.

The Playgroup operates out of the Nursery School premises and pays rent and services for the facility. This arrangement, and the close working arrangements between Nursery and Playgroup staff is extremely beneficial. It allows for the shared use of resources and a smooth transition for the children when they progress from playgroup to nursery school.

The committee regularly review the finances, budgets and spend against budget and maintain a health reserve as a contingency against unforeseen circumstances.

Fundraising

The nursery and playgroup normally fundraise throughout the year through a number of shared activities (e.g. Summer Fayre, raffles, and commission on the sale of photographs). However, challenges faced during the 2019-2020 year were such that no fundraising activities took place. The revival of the fundraising committee comprising parent and staff volunteers that work to raise funds for both the Nursery School and Playgroup, is planned post pandemic.

Section 5: Policies & Procedures

Policies and procedures are in place for all aspects of safeguarding, child protection and health & safety. Policies are reviewed and updated regularly. Policies and procedures around the pandemic were made available to staff and parents and these were updated in a timely manner in light of emerging government guidance. Ad hoc training days were planned to ensure all staff were completely conversant with the new Covid-19 related policies. Weekly staff meetings and staff training days are used to ensure staff are trained and fluent in all policies and procedures.

Staff attend Ofsted recognised 2 day paediatric first aid training on a rota basis to ensure that at any one time, at least one staff member will have the most up to date knowledge and skills in this area. All Playgroup staff attend annual safeguarding training and updates. Throughout the year they also receive supervision to support and to be aware of individual children's needs

Risk assessments are carried out for activities and trips as appropriate. An annual risk assessment of premises and equipment is undertaken. Health & safety is a regular agenda item for Parklands Nursery School's weekly senior leadership team meetings with daily checks carried out by the premises team and termly checks by the Headteacher or a governor and School Business Manager. No major works have been undertaken for this period.

Section 6: Future Plans

External funding opportunities are sought as and when this is feasible though the pandemic has curtailed such activities; in part due to the challenges of additional workload that has resulted from the effects of the pandemic (e.g. staff cover needs, particularly where we are unable to cross bubbles/staff shielding or isolating, robust sanitising regimes etc.).

The committee intends to continue with previous strategies of maintaining the Playgroup's position in a competitive market by investing in the provision of high quality care and education with a strong emphasis on learning through discovery; together with the provision of meaningful family support.

Section 7: Our Statutory Duty as a Charity

As trustees, we are confident that we have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Commission.

The trustees and committee thank Parklands Nursery School who have hosted the Playgroup since its incorporation; the Playgroup staff for their hard work and commitment, and the parents who put their trust in the Playgroup for the care and education of their children.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee's Annual Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

Nancy Fitzmaurice
Trustee & Treasurer

Date:

Contact details:-
Parklands Playgroup
Spinney Hill
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 6DW

01604 642118

head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk

bursar@parklands-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk

www.parklandsplaygroup.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/Parklands-Playgroup>

Section 8: Appendix ~ Names and Addresses of Advisors

Bankers:	Barclays Leicester LE87 2BB
Independent Examiners	Cobley Desborough - Accountants Artisans House 7 Queensbridge Northampton NN4 7BF
Insurance Brokers	Pre-School Learning Alliance Pre-school Learning Alliance 50 Featherstone Street London EC1Y 8RT
Advisors	Early Years Team Northamptonshire County Council One Angel Square Angel Street Northampton NN1 1ED
Date Protection Officer	Lyndsey Barnett Parklands Nursery School & Playgroup Spinney Hill Road Spinney Hill Northampton NN3 6DE head@croyland-nur.northants-ecl.gov.uk 01604 642118



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
Parklands Playgroup

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st August 2020
Charity no (if any) 1169508

Set out on pages

(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 31/08/2021.

**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: 08/03/2021

Name: Andrew Wasker

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

FCCA, FMAAT

Address:

Cobley Desborough, Artisans' House
7 Queensbridge