

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NO. 1173988**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**for the year ended**

**31 August 2023**



**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Annual Report**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

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**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Trustees' Annual Report**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

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The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The Acorn Pre-School was originally constituted by deed of gift and was a registered charity, No. 518623. The charity is converted and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in England and Wales on 27 July 2017, registered number 1173988. The funds were transferred across on 1 February 2021.

The registered address is Acorn Preschool, The Portacabin, Whaplode Primary School, Mill Lane, Whaplode, Spalding, Lincs, PE12 6TS

This is also the principal address for the operation of the preschool.

The charity's trustees and committee members during the year to 31 August 2023 were:

Mrs. Lisa Hollis	Chairperson
Mrs. Anne Cook	
Mrs. Stacey Stafford	
Mrs. Lucy Driver	
Mrs. Tsitsi Samantha Iredia	

**Non Committee Members**

Mr. M. Hollis	Treasurer
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Bank: HSBC Bank Plc, 53-54 Market Place, Boston, PR21 6LS.

Independent Examiner: Ken Maggs, Chartered Accountant, Hoekman Way, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 3HE.

**Aims and objectives**

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 offering appropriate facilities and training courses, encouraging the study of needs of the children and instigating and adhering to and furthering the aim of the Pre-school Learning Alliance.

The trustees will normally be volunteers from parents of children attending the pre-school and therefore their tenure will be relatively short-term. Nominations are agreed at the Annual General Meeting and will be those persons willing to offer the skills and experience required by the charity.

The pre-school may further the aims by providing accommodation, equipment and engage staff, raise money, make payments as necessary, fix and collect fees, control the admission of children to the groups, take up membership of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and take such other action as may benefit the pre-school.

**Public benefit**

The trustees consider that the objectives and activities of the charity are in accordance with the Charity Commissions' general guidance on public benefit because the children leaving the pre-school are considered to be well placed for the furtherance of their education.

The trustees regard all children and their families as members of our setting who have full participatory rights. These include a right to be:

- valued and respected;
- kept informed;
- consulted;
- involved;
- included at all levels.

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

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**Review of the year**

During the year ended 31 August 2023, the charity provided the pre-school facility to children in the area.

As at 31 August 2023, the current account amounted to £27,184, the savings accounts amounted to £3,457 and the petty cash £210.

We have continued to ensure that all the children and their families are in a safe and stimulating environment. Each of the children is given generous care and attention, because of our ratio of qualified staff to children, as well as volunteer helpers which are also trustees.

The children have the opportunity to join in with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together and thus helps to develop the local community for the long term. They are all helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do. In order to achieve these and their ambitions, each child has a personal key person who makes sure each child makes satisfying progress.

As a result of the last two years' expenditure on repairs and maintenance, and the capital items within note 3, to the financial statements, each child is in a setting that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop and each is in the appropriate setting in which parents can help to shape the service it offers.

The staff and volunteers cover all the seven areas in the early years foundation stage, which are personal, social and emotional development, Physical development, mathematic development, communication and language, literacy, knowledge and understanding of the world and expressive arts and design.

At the end of the summer term, we offered a trip for the children and their parents to Ferry Meadows, in Peterborough. At the end of the year, the trustees gave out books and gifts to the children that were moving up to primary school.

In March 2023, the charity organised a trip to a local farm during their lambing season. The parents were once again invited to this event and all were able to cuddle some lambs, as well as seeing some born.

The trustees are very grateful for the assistance of the parents at these events which makes the whole outing more exciting for the children.

**Future developments**

Some of the activities we have planned are as follows:-

- Sensory dough for ginger bread men.
- Role play/ doctors and baby care.
- Autumn collages.
- Learning about fire safety.
- Pumpkin carving.
- Mask making fire works.
- Scissor skills/snowmen shapes.
- Frozen tuff tray.
- Creating hedgehogs.
- Autumn walks around the village, spotting signs of autumn.
- Yoga.
- Christmas crafts.
- Recognition of shapes, colours and numbers.

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Trustees' Annual Report (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

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**Reserves policy**

The charity has a small reserves policy in place due to the nature of the charity. The trustees will be made aware of the changes in Government policy well before such an eventuality would ever occur. Therefore, if Government funding was ever to be removed then the charity would be forced to cease. In such circumstance, the trustees consider that it would only be necessary to hold reserves to cover redundancy. The Government would be required to provide a replacement for the benefits offered by the charity.

Funding is received at the start of each term and the summer break so government funding dictates the continuance of the charity. Any excess funds that the charity is able to raise can then be put back into expenditure for the good of the children attending.

The level of reserves expected to be required is approximately, £5,000 to cover redundancies and a similar figure for repairs and maintenance in ongoing years to the portacabin and equipment. Therefore, there are currently excess funds of £21,000 approximately which is available for spending on the children.

**Going concern**

At the start of the 2021 school year, lockdown restrictions had ceased and the school was operating within government guidelines. Based on the level of liquid reserves and continued funding it is believed that the charity will be able to continue to operate into the foreseeable future despite any new lockdown measures which may be announced.

The pre-school has many plans for the future as indicated above and expects to be here now and for future generations to continue with the good work within the local community.

**Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SOP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed by order of the Trustees:

**Mrs. Lisa Hollis - Chairperson**

**Date: 24 January 2024**

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Independent Examiners Report**

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I report to the charity on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 0.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records, or
3. the accounts do 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.

**K.J. Maggs B.A., F.C.A.**  
Chartered Accountant  
Spalding

Date: **25 January 2024**

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

		2023			2022
	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
<b>Income from:</b>					
Investments		33	-	33	1
Charitable activities	2	97,296	-	97,296	83,679
<b>Total income</b>		<b>97,329</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,329</b>	<b>83,680</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Fundraising costs		35	-	35	-
Costs of charitable activities:	3	97,947	-	97,947	78,445
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>97,982</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,982</b>	<b>78,445</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) / income</b>		<b>(653)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(653)</b>	<b>5,235</b>
Fund balances brought forward		41,811	211	42,022	36,787
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<b>41,158</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>41,369</b>	<b>42,022</b>

All income and expenditure in both the current and prior year are regarding unrestricted funds.

The notes on pages 7 - 10 form a part of these accounts

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Assets and Liabilities Statement**  
**at 31 August 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	6		10,238		10,711
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors:					
Charitable activities' debtors		67		-	
Prepayments		934		221	
		<u>1,001</u>		<u>221</u>	
Cash at bank and in hand:					
Current account		27,184		28,337	
Reserve account - General fund		3,246		3,208	
- Restricted fund		211		211	
Petty cash		210		36	
		<u>30,851</u>		<u>31,792</u>	
<b>Current assets</b>			<b>31,852</b>		<b>32,013</b>
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts falling due within one year:					
Charitable activities' creditors		54		-	
Accruals		<u>667</u>		<u>702</u>	
			<b>(721)</b>		<b>(702)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>31,131</b>		<b>31,311</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b>41,369</b>		<b>42,022</b>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds			41,158		41,811
Restricted funds			211		211
			<u>41,369</u>		<u>42,022</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on **24 January 2024**

**Mrs. Anne Cook**

**Mrs. Lisa Hollis - Chairperson**

The notes on pages 7 - 10 form a part of these accounts



# ACORN PRE-SCHOOL

## Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 August 2023

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### 1. Accounting policies

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

The **restricted fund** relates to the balance remaining to be spent of a Grant received from Lincolnshire County Council in respect of Interactive Play for Children.

Expenditure which complies with these criteria is identified to the fund.

#### Income recognition

All income is recognised in the statement of financial activities when the conditions for receipt have been met and there is reasonable assurance of receipt. Where a claim for repayment of income tax has or will be made, such income is grossed for the tax recoverable.

Grants are recognised in the statement of financial activities when the conditions for receipt have been met.

Investment income is accounted for in the period in which the charity is entitled to receipt.

Donations and all receipts from charitable activities are reported gross and are accounted for on a receivable basis.

#### Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is included in the statement of financial activities on an accruals basis and has been allocated as detailed below:

Charitable activities include the costs of the activities defined by the charity's aims for the benefit of the persons sited in the charity objects. Costs of charitable activities includes the direct costs of the activities and depreciation on related assets. Where such assets relate to more than one functional cost category, they have been allocated on either an estimate time or floor space basis, as appropriate.

Within charitable activities, governance costs include the costs which relate to the general running of the charity as opposed to the direct management function inherent in generating funds, service delivery and programme or project work.



# ACORN PRE-SCHOOL

## Notes to the accounts (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2023

### 3. Costs of charitable activities:

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	83,756	-	83,756	63,948
Outings	370	-	370	-
Uniform and other clothing	-	-	-	26
Computer costs	73	-	73	63
Milk purchases	29	-	29	136
Training and course fees	45	-	45	9
Repairs and maintenance	1,186	-	1,186	2,815
Cleaning materials and waste disposal	954	-	954	1,247
Telephone and internet	564	-	564	555
Rent paid and hall hire	400	-	400	733
Rates	201	-	201	176
Licences	586	-	586	680
Entertainer	-	-	-	165
PLA insurance	745	-	745	610
Building insurance	252	-	252	252
Electricity	1,594	-	1,594	1,424
Refreshments and fund raising	225	-	225	213
Purchases of equipment, books and similar items	4,781	-	4,781	3,089
Postage and stationery	92	-	92	140
Subscriptions	132	-	132	13
Depreciation	1,141	-	1,141	1,190
Independent examiners fees	726	-	726	810
Legal and professional	35	-	35	105
Bank charges	60	-	60	46
	<u>97,947</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>97,947</u>	<u>78,445</u>

### 4. Employee emoluments

There are no employees who received emoluments exceeding £60,000.

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Average number of employees during the year	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

### 5. Payments to trustees

No trustee has been paid in respect of their position as a trustee. All trustee work has been on a voluntary basis only.

Due to the nature of the charity's activities several trustees are also employees. However, no element of their remuneration is linked to their role as trustees.

**ACORN PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Notes to the accounts (continued)**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**6. Fixed assets**

	<b>2023</b>			<b>2022</b>		
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Depr'n</b>	<b>NBV</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Depr'n</b>	<b>NBV</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Portacabin	1,227	1,122	105	1,227	1,110	117
Extension	2,819	2,577	242	2,819	2,550	269
Computer	374	342	32	374	338	36
Fridge	81	75	6	81	74	7
Fence and gate	576	526	50	576	521	55
Outdoor equipment	3,284	3,002	282	3,284	2,971	313
Computer	499	456	43	499	451	48
Police car, dumper truck and tractor	353	302	51	353	296	57
Filing cabinet	30	26	4	30	26	4
Henry Hoover	99	86	13	99	84	15
Skills compact discs	94	81	13	94	80	14
Camera	90	76	14	90	74	16
Computer	1,830	1,536	294	1,830	1,503	327
Chairs	169	142	27	169	139	30
Play shelter	1,126	925	201	1,126	902	224
Paint "n" Store tray units	515	401	114	515	388	127
2 Sophia armchairs	326	254	72	326	246	80
2 book / toy storage units	187	146	41	187	141	46
5 tables and 21 chairs	630	440	190	630	419	211
Laptop	189	82	107	189	71	118
Playhouse	200	69	131	200	54	146
Laptop	300	103	197	300	81	219
2 Oil heaters	100	27	73	100	19	81
3 Room dividers	346	94	252	346	66	280
High wooden fence	3,560	964	2,596	3,560	676	2,884
Outside sink	390	106	284	390	74	316
Water dispenser	166	32	134	166	16	150
Post box	20	5	15	20	2	18
LED lighting	987	188	799	987	99	888
New rectangular table	352	67	285	352	35	317
Six new radiators	2,990	568	2,422	2,990	299	2,691
New laminate floor	675	127	548	675	68	607
Outdoor sorting boxes and table	512	51	461	-	-	-
Drying rack	156	16	140	-	-	-
	<u>25,252</u>	<u>15,014</u>	<u>10,238</u>	<u>24,584</u>	<u>13,873</u>	<u>10,711</u>

All the assets above are used by the charity in the furtherance of its objectives.

**7. Related parties and control**

The trustees consider that there are no related parties to the charity requiring disclosure.

The charity is controlled by the Board of Trustees and no individuals can or do exert control.