

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NO. 1173988

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended

31 August 2025



ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Annual Report
for the year ended 31 August 2025

INDEX

1 - 4	Trustees' Annual Report
5	Independent Examiners Report
6	Statement of Financial Activities
7	Assets and Liabilities Statement
8 - 12	Notes to the accounts

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 August 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The Acorn Pre-School was originally constituted by deed of gift and was a registered charity, No. 518623 on 30 March 1987. 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 2025 were:

Mrs Lisa Hollis	Chairperson
Mrs Lucy Driver	
Mrs Tsitsi Samantha Iredia	
Mrs Helen Rosalind Robson	
Mrs Holly Wright	
Ms Belinda Needham	Appointed 1 April 2025
Mrs Anne Cook	Retired 1 April 2025

Non Committee Members

Mr. M. Hollis Treasurer

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 2025

Review of the year

During the year ended 31 August 2025, the charity provided the pre-school facility to children in the area and the wider community of surrounding villages.

As at 31 August 2025, the current account amounted to £7,536, the savings accounts amounted to £30,184 and the petty cash £149.

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

The children have the opportunity and encouragement to join in with other children and adults, to grow, play learn and develop together, this helping to enrich and develop local community for the long term. All children are helped and encouraged to build on their over all development and knowledge by giving all children experiences that they may not have a chance to experience and by all children having a personal key person, whom have a strong understanding and knowledge of where each child is at in their development through ages and stages and what next steps the children needed to develop further in their care and education.

The key person supports families through ideas, lending bags and homework activities to give families the tools they may need to support their child/ren at home creating a strong, firm working together ethnic between the school and the home environment.

Staff and volunteers cover all the areas in the early year's foundation stage, these being:

Prime areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development;
- Physical Development;
- Communication and Language.

Specific areas:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world;
- Expressive Arts and Design.

Over the years and in the current period we have continued to work on the Children's confidence and build on their independence to leave familiar adults and enter a new environment where they are settled into preschool. We have recently started home visits before a child begins so the children had a familiar face in their key person on their first day.

The children are encouraged to build relationships among adults and peers alike, we helped to develop this by ensuring we had information on what the children enjoy playing with and their interests at home. We asked parents/Carers for Photos of the child's family and pets, which we displayed on our walls for the child's first day to encourage a smooth transition and to support parents/carers on their first day of leaving their child, we send lots of photos of their child playing and having a good time, to ease that anxiety for the family too.

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2025

Review of the year (continued)

The children are encouraged to follow a routine that encourages the development of individual independence which includes:-

- Removing and putting on own shoes and coats;
- Finding name cards;
- Placing personal possessions in required areas, e.g. lunch boxes and drinks on the lunch table;
- Use the toilet/potty*Hand washing and teeth cleaning;
- Choosing own activities / equipment;
- Pouring own drinks into a cup;
- Helping adults with jobs e.g. choosing a story for reading time, Helping set tables up for meals etc.

All important factors in growing up and becoming confident and independent.

We start the children's educational skills by assessing and identifying where each and every child is at in their development and then we plan activities and provide resources to enable children to achieve their next goals.

Staff and volunteers complete training and develop their own CPD regular to ensure all their knowledge and skills are kept up to date. Staff and volunteers role model behaviours and play enabling children to learn important aspects of daily life and social skills such as taking turns, sharing and making relationships.

Acorns has been working on bridging the gaps between home and preschool by introducing the family app allowing staff to place photos observations and messages straight to parents/carers and encouraging parents to do the same, this opens up communication channels, not only for adults but also between adults and children. Each child has been given a book bag to take home, a book from the lending library they have chosen and share with their families

Future developments

We have recently opened a breakfast and after school club to help meet the needs of our families and giving staff more opportunities to help and support individual children who are struggling in some areas of their development.

The trustees are aware that funding is currently tight with government cuts and tax increases. There is little they can do about the economic climate but they can try to raise funds internally and continue to provide the children of the area with this much needed support and learning.

The trustees wish to be able to build funds in order to undertake building repairs to the portacabin and to also ensure that they are able to continue in the long term. This does not only require funds but will need more volunteers and some taking on the longer term supporting roles as trustees.

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.

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Trustees' Annual Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2025

Reserves policy (continued)

The level of reserves expected to be required is approximately, £6,000 to cover the term costs if funding was not to be available. The trustees are expecting the level of funding required to cover repairs and maintenance in ongoing years to the portacabin and equipment is likely to be significant.

The current excess funds at 31 August 2025, amounting to approximately £27,000 is likely to be short of this requirement but any surplus is always available for spending on the children improving the activities they are able to undertake and safely.

The trustees would love to be able to expand the facilities and provision to enable a wider coverage, at the date of the last Ofsted report in May 2022, they had 20 places available but 31 children on the roll. This means that not everyone can be provided the necessary and valuable start to life and education.

Going concern

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: **2026**

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Independent Examiners Report

I report to the charity on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 2.

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: 2026

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2025

		2025			2024
	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	Total £
Income from:					
Investments		523	-	523	244
Charitable activities	2	123,592	2,259	125,851	111,348
Fundraising		527	-	527	1,025
Total income		124,642	2,259	126,901	112,617
Expenditure on:					
Costs of charitable activities	3	129,830	14	129,844	98,101
Grants paid out and administration		-	2,259	2,259	2,260
Total expenses		129,830	2,273	132,103	100,361
Net (expenditure) / income		(5,188)	(14)	(5,202)	12,256
Fund balances brought forward		53,481	144	53,625	41,369
Fund balances carried forward		48,293	130	48,423	53,625

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

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Assets and Liabilities Statement
at 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	6		10,539		9,360
Current assets					
Debtors:					
Prepayments and accrued income		1,629		1,758	
		<u>1,629</u>		<u>1,758</u>	
Cash at bank and in hand:					
Current account		7,536		19,105	
Reserve account		30,184		24,570	
Petty cash		149		71	
		<u>37,869</u>		<u>43,746</u>	
Current assets			39,498		45,504
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year:					
Charitable activities' creditors		75		75	
Accruals and deferred income		<u>1,539</u>		<u>1,164</u>	
			(1,614)		(1,239)
Net current assets			37,884		44,265
Total assets less current liabilities			48,423		53,625
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			48,293		53,481
Restricted funds	8		130		144
			<u>48,423</u>		<u>53,625</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 **2026.**

.....
Mrs Lisa Hollis - Chairperson

.....
- Trustee

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 August 2025

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.

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.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost, less estimated residual value, of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Games, toys and equipment	10% reducing balance
---------------------------	----------------------

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL

Notes to the accounts (continued)

for the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

2. Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Fees	116,258	-	116,258	105,094
Household Support Grant	-	2,259	2,259	2,315
Employment allowance	6,963	-	6,963	3,643
Trips and outings	371	-	371	296
	<u>123,592</u>	<u>2,259</u>	<u>125,851</u>	<u>111,348</u>

Included above

Central Government funding	6,963	-	6,963	3,643
Local Government funding	110,071	2,259	112,330	100,795
	<u>117,034</u>	<u>2,259</u>	<u>119,293</u>	<u>104,438</u>

3. Costs of charitable activities

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	97,473	-	97,473	83,009
Social security costs	6,963	-	6,963	3,643
Outings	630	-	630	200
Training and course fees	90	-	90	90
Repairs and maintenance	10,104	-	10,104	253
Cleaning materials and waste disposal	1,604	-	1,604	865
Telephone and internet	550	-	550	546
Rent paid and hall hire	475	-	475	200
Rates	240	-	240	327
Licences	257	-	257	207
PLA insurance	994	-	994	676
Building insurance	1,109	-	1,109	252
Electricity	1,489	-	1,489	2,019
Computer costs	2,539	-	2,539	632
Refreshments and fund raising	234	-	234	176
Purchases of equipment, books and similar items	2,376	-	2,376	2,992
Postage, stationery and office expenses	254	-	254	146
Depreciation	1,158	14	1,172	1,038
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	455	-	455	-
Independent examiners fees	745	-	745	735
Legal and professional	35	-	35	35
Bank charges	56	-	56	60
	<u>129,830</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>129,844</u>	<u>98,101</u>

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2025

4. Employee emoluments

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Average number of employees during the year	<u>8</u>	<u>8</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.

6. Fixed assets

	Leasehold Property £	Nursery equipment £	Computers and IT £	Other assets £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 September 2024	14,370	7,389	3,443	210	25,412
Additions	196	2,180	290	140	2,806
Disposals	-	(514)	(1,363)	(99)	(1,976)
At 31 August 2025	<u>14,566</u>	<u>9,055</u>	<u>2,370</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>26,242</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 September 2024	7,835	5,348	2,680	189	16,052
Charge for the year	674	412	71	15	1,172
On disposals	-	(412)	(1,022)	(87)	(1,521)
At 31 August 2025	<u>8,509</u>	<u>5,348</u>	<u>1,729</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>15,703</u>
Net book value					
At 31 August 2025	<u>6,057</u>	<u>3,707</u>	<u>641</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>10,539</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>6,535</u>	<u>2,041</u>	<u>763</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>9,360</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.

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2025

8 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 Sep 24 £	Incoming funds £	Outgoing funds £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Aug 25 £
Interactive Play for Children	144		(14)	-	130
Household Support Grant	-	2,259	(2,259)	-	-
	<u>144</u>	<u>2,259</u>	<u>(2,273)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130</u>

	Balance at 1 Sep 23 £	Incoming funds £	Outgoing funds £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Aug 24 £
Interactive Play for Children	211	-	(67)	-	144
Household Support Grant	-	2,315	(2,260)	(55)	-
	<u>211</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>(2,327)</u>	<u>(55)</u>	<u>144</u>

The funds are represented by:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Cash at bank and in hand £	Other assets £	Liabilities £	Total £
Interactive Play for Children	130	-	-	-	130
Household Support Grant	-	75	-	(75)	-
	<u>130</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(75)</u>	<u>130</u>

2024	Tangible fixed assets £	Cash at bank and in hand £	Other assets £	Liabilities £	Total £
Interactive Play for Children	144	-	-	-	144
Household Support Grant	-	75	-	(75)	-
	<u>144</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(75)</u>	<u>144</u>

Interactive Play for Children fund relates to the balance of a grant received from Lincolnshire County Council in order to provide interactive play and learning for the young children within a safe and controlled environment.

Household Support Grant fund relates to funds provided to schools and early years providers for children eligible for free school meals and early years pupil premium and to support to care leavers in supported living accommodation received from South Holland District Council. A small surplus is eligible for use against the costs of administration by the school.

ACORN PRE-SCHOOL
Notes to the accounts(continued)
for the year ended 31 August 2025

9 Comparative period

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Income from:			
Investments	244	-	244
Charitable activities	109,033	2,315	111,348
Fundraising	1,025	-	1,025
Total income	<u>110,302</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>112,617</u>
Expenditure on:			
Costs of charitable activities	98,034	67	98,101
Grants paid out and administration	-	2,260	2,260
Total expenses	<u>98,034</u>	<u>2,327</u>	<u>100,361</u>
Net (expenditure) / income	<u><u>12,268</u></u>	<u><u>(12)</u></u>	<u><u>12,256</u></u>