



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01/09/2023 **Period start date** **To** 31/08/2024 **Period end date**

Charity name: Stepping Stones nursery and pre-school (Claverdon) CIO

Charity registration number: 1173990

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

To enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, ensuring that they offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability; by encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area; and by adhering to and furthering the aims and objectives of the Pre-School Learning Alliance.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

- The Charity opens five days per week to children under 5 years of age, reaching a maximum of 30 children.
- We continue to write a monthly update and advertise in the parish magazine as well as maintain a social media presence, paying regard to child privacy.
- We attend various activities at the local church to which we are invited to attend.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The Trustees have due regard to the guidance published by The Charity Commission on public benefit.

Policy on grant making

We welcome all applications, and try to offer at least one free place where we reasonably can. This is based on financial need and agreed between the manager and treasurer.

We were given a donation of money several years ago to be allocated to children within the local community who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Contribution made by volunteers

We rely and appreciate the support from individuals who give time and resources free of charge to support the pre-school:

- All committee members are volunteers who give their time freely.
- Running fundraising events and the setting's website. Fundraising activities have resumed following COVID measures being relaxed. The hugely popular cinema club has recommenced.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

Play is organised and planned in accordance with guidelines set out by Ofsted to ensure all areas of the appropriate curriculum are covered; all activities are available to all children and activities are planned with varying levels of ability in mind. Information about the children's abilities and achievements at the pre-school is recorded and shared with their parents and carers. The pre-school communicates details about each term's topics and activities via a newsletter to all parents.

We have continued to provide support to families through one on one staffing and preparing Educational Health and Care plans for those children who require our support.

The setting received an inspection visit from OFSTED in July 2022. The result was outstanding, which is testament to the hard work of the manager and all staff.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

We finished the year at 31/08/2024 with a cash balance of £46,335, an increase of circa fifteen thousand pounds. Grant income has risen considerably following the changes made by the government to expand the eligibility of the 15 hours childcare offering to include two year olds.

Other factors have remained consistent, however, minimum wage rose again and the wage bill accordingly.

We continue to monitor the local environment and plan ahead for any likely changes to impact the finances.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

We try to maintain a level of 6 months cashflow at the end of the financial year. This includes any expected costs likely to be paid: rent, staff wages, redundancy payments and an allowance for reduced income potential.

We monitor and recalculate the required redundancy payments in the event of the permanent closure of the pre-school.

There is no long term rent requirement. The financial outlook is discussed between the manager and treasurer on a regular basis. The cashbook and bank balance are monitored monthly paying regard to timing of invoice and grant payments.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)

The main sources are almost an even split between government grant for eligible 2 and 3 year olds and private fee income.

Any further grants for SEN are listed separately.

A description of the principal risks facing the charity

The risks include:

- Inability to retain or attract staff with the appropriate levels of qualifications.
- As tenants we face the risk of no longer having a building to run the playgroup from.
- Changes to government policy on free childcare entitlements and restrictions on charges we can apply outwith the government funded hourly rate.
- Competition from other local nurseries.
- An event which forces our closure or seriously impacts our reputation.

We have no long-term financial commitments. The main commitment relates to staff payments and any staff members entitled to redundancy payments. We monitor the amounts required bi-annually.

The cash balance of the pre-school are monitored monthly.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:

Type of governing document

The Pre-School Learning Alliance Model pre-school constitution was adopted on 1/9/2019 when the pre-school became a CIO.

How is the charity constituted?

The charity is a CIO.

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees.

Trustees are appointed or re-appointed annually at the AGM in May/June of each year.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Stepping Stones nursery and pre-school (Claverdon) CIO
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1173990
Charity's principal address	Church Centre, Church Rd, Claverdon, Warwick CV35 8PB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Francesca Lever	TREASURER		
2	Katy Jones	Chair		
3	Julia Stephanie Wagstaffe			
4				

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's	

own assets	
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Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

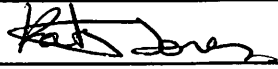

Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Katy Jones	Francesca Lever
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer

Date 5/6/25.

Charity Name Stepping Stones nursery and pre-school Claverdon	No (if any) 1173990
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/09/2023	To	Period end date 31/08/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Warwickshire Council Grant 2/3/4 year old	72,451	-	-	72,451	44,967
Additional Grant	4,280	-	-	4,280	3,768
Fees	59,770	-	-	59,770	53,921
Fundraising	2,691	-	-	2,691	1,045
Miscellaneous	907	-	-	907	4,673
interest on savings	331	-	-	331	66
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	140,430	-	-	140,430	108,440
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	140,430	-	-	140,430	108,440
A3 Payments					
SALARIES	95,757	-	-	95,757	87,074
RENT & PREMISES	8,118	-	-	8,118	8,262
OFFICE COSTS/ADMIN	5,536	-	-	5,536	4,767
TAX & N.I	7,876	-	-	7,876	2,233
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY	5,210	-	-	5,210	3,677
TRAINING	1,562	-	-	1,562	129
MISCELLANEOUS	1,473	-	-	1,473	1,514
FUNDRAISING		-	-	-	1,269
		-	-	-	-
Sub total	125,533	-	-	125,533	108,926
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
payments	125,533	-	-	125,533	108,926
payments)	14,897	-	-	14,897	- 486
A5 Transfer	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash fund	31,439	-	-	31,439	-
s year end	46,335	-	-	46,335	- 486

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories Details

B1 Cash funds

Current Account	
Savings account	
Total cash funds	

(sign or stamp with original and payment account(s))

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

22,273
24,062
-
46,335

OK

Restricted funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Restricted funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Endowment funds
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

B3 Investment assets

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Fund to which asset belongs

Cost (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

B5 Liabilities

Fund to which liability relates

Amount due (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Stepping Stones Nursery and pre-school Claverdon

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st August 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1173990

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st August 2024.

**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:

K. W. Baldwin

Date:

24th June 2025

Name:

Keith Baldwin – KWB Accounting Limited

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

Address:

13 Newfield Crescent

Halesowen

B63 3SS

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.