

Chair's Report 2024–2025, Ovingham and district under 5s

Finance update

This year has been a year characterised by challenge and resilience. Significant financial pressures because of lower enrolments have led to a weaker set of results than we would have hoped to have announced, however, the preschool has continued to deliver high-quality early years education through careful management, strong community support, and the unwavering dedication of our staff and trustees.

From a financial perspective, this past year has been one of the most challenging in our history. The trustees have closely monitored our cashflow throughout the year, recognising the pressures on both income and expenditure. For the financial year ending 31 July 2025, we are declaring a modest deficit of £605, with total income of £66,919 and total expenditure of £67,524. While the result represents a small loss, it is noteworthy that it is not larger, given the reduced number of children attending our setting this year. Our ability to limit the deficit to such a small amount reflects the dedication and careful financial management of both staff and our trustees. The bank and cash balance at year-end stood at £12,657, down slightly from £13,262 in 2023/4.

Expenditure was, as expected, dominated by staff costs, which totalled £56,836 (including salaries, pension contributions, and HMRC liabilities). Our dedicated and skilled staff team remains the cornerstone of the preschool's success, and we continue to look at options to improve pay and to offer more CPD, despite financial pressures.

Update on building project

We continue to make steady progress towards our long-term goal of securing a new building for the preschool. During the year, we reached a major milestone in agreeing a long lease with our landlord, the Diocese of Newcastle. Architectural plans have been approved in consultation with stakeholders, and comprehensive business plans have been prepared. The next phase will involve refining the drawings and seeking funding sources to bring the project to fruition. The trustees remain fully committed to delivering a sustainable, fit-for-purpose facility for future generations.

Governance & outlook

This year, we strengthened our governance structure by appointing two additional trustees. Charlie Downing was elected as Secretary for a three-year term, and we warmly welcomed Clara Shield to the team as our Fundraising Officer. Their skills and enthusiasm will be invaluable as we continue to develop our setting.

These remain difficult times for all early year's providers, particularly those in the voluntary sector, where the so-called "free" childcare hours do not cover the true cost of provision. The resulting tight margins limit our ability to build financial reserves, making long-term planning increasingly complex. However, despite these pressures, I firmly believe that our community-focused model of governance remains a powerful asset. We have an unwavering focus on the wellbeing and development of our children, and every decision the staff and I make, is guided by what is best for the children, their families, and our wider community. As we look ahead, enrolment numbers have improved significantly, and work on securing funding for our building is progressing. With that in mind, the trustees remain committed to ensuring the preschool's financial resilience and to ensure we continue to deliver high-quality early years education in an independent setting.

Dr Michael Price, Chair – Ovingham and district under 5's.

Ovingham & District Under 5s

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Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 July 2025

Charity Registration Number 1176119

Ovingham & District Under 5s

Cashflow Summary from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025

Business Receipts	£66919
Business Payments	£67524
Cash Generated by the Business	£0
Bank and cash balance at 1 August 2024	£13262
Bank and cash balance at 31 July 2025	£12657
Decrease in bank and cash balances for the period	£605

Ovingham & District Under 5s

Income and Expenditure

Year Ending 31 July 2025

Income

Grant Income	£51799
Fee Income	£8860
Wreath Making Evening	£645
Proceeds from Raffle	£110
Small Grant Karbon Homes	£500
Grant – Ovingham Parish Council	£100
Interest Free Loan	£3800
Fundraising	£1063
Paypal Refund	£25
BT Refund	£17

£66919

Expenditure**Staff Costs**

Wages/Salaries	£50068
HMRC	£3935
NEST Pension Contributions	£2833

Total Staff Costs**£56836****Non-Staff Costs**

Tapestry Online Learning Journal	£162
OFSTED Registration	£50
Telephone/Broadband	£701
Website Fees	£121
Interior Repairs to Nursery Building	£600
Petty Cash	£360
Resource Materials	£1663
Pre-School Learning (Insurance)	£727
Portable Appliance Testing	£253
School Lunches	£974
PHS	£84
Wreath Making Evening – Costs	£608
Ovingham Oracle Advert	£15
Northumberland CC	£180
Loan Repayment	£3800
Bereavement Package	£27
Council Tax	£363

Total Non-Staff Costs**£10688****TOTAL OPERATING COSTS****£67524****Deficit****£605**

Ovingham & District Under 5s

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 July 2024

Monetary Assets	2025	2024	2023	2022
Bank Current Account	£12657	£13262.00	£12793.00	£9050.00
Bank Deposit Account	£0	£0	£0	£11031
Cash	£0	£0	£0	£0
TOTAL	£12657	£13262.00	£12793.00	£9050.00



Independent examiner's report on the accounts



Report to the trustees

Ovingham & District Under 5s

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 July 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1176119

Set out on pages

2-5 of attached Financial Statements

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

**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: Ray Marley

Date: 08/05/2026

Name: Ray Marley

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

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Address:

79 Kenton Lane

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE3 3BS

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.**