

MAYFLOWER PLAYGROUP HAYWARDS HEATH CIO (Reg. Charity No. 1181625) Page 1 of 2 TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for 2023

Mayflower Playgroup was established in 1973. It is a registered CIO (no. 1181625) and operates in association with Christ Church Haywards Heath in West Sussex. The Playgroup continues to work in accordance with its constitution, maintaining its evangelical Christian ethos.

The Playgroup provides Sessional Care and Nursery Education on a non-profit-making basis, catering for children from two years to school-age, from the locality. Sessional care is offered five days a week, with varying lengths of day available. The playgroup offers a safe learning environment and high staff-to-child ratio to encourage maximum spiritual, intellectual, and physical development in preparing the children for their next developmental stage and for life and citizenship in general. The staff operate within the Early Years Foundation framework and best practices learned from their training.

Children are cared for in secure, safe, and suitable premises that are organised to provide a warm welcome to children and their parents. The provision of well-resourced workshop areas and appropriate projects allow children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. Staff seek to provide a range of learning opportunities and experiences for children both inside and outside. The outside area is used in all weather, and the planting and landscaping of this area have been worked on for the benefit of the children. Many of the children benefit from the use of a large hall on-site for weekly sporting activities with an outside provider.

The day-to-day running of the Playgroup is the responsibility of a Supervisor who reports regularly to the other Trustees. In 2023, Mrs Caroline Nicholls continued to lead the Playgroup as Supervisor in a dedicated and professional manner, ably assisted by Mrs Sarah Konig as Deputy Supervisor.

During the year ended December 2023, the following served as Trustees of the CIO:

Andrew Billingham (resigned March 2023)

Sarah McQuaker (Chair of Trustees)

Caroline Nicholls

Mark Ventham

Carol Eggleton (from November 2023)

Elizabeth Martin (from November 2023)

Ruth Nicholls (from November 2023)

This arrangement is in line with the Constitution of the CIO. We were thankful for the provision of new Trustees, who share a commitment to the aims, ethos and development of the Playgroup.

At the end of 2023, there were 9 permanent members of staff, which provided consistency of provision. The Playgroup was open on Mondays to Fridays for 38 weeks of the year. The daily session length varied from 3 hours to 5.5 hours in accordance with statutory requirements.

There was an average of 28 children per morning with a total of 48 children on register over the year. We are grateful for the continued provision of young children attending the Playgroup.

During this year, the staff of Mayflower continued to prioritise caring for the children and helping them to settle and flourish; seeking to offer them rich experiences in line with EYFS themes. Staff also took time to speak with families to support them as needed. End of term services were held, to which many parents and relatives came.

The Playgroup celebrated its 50th anniversary with a family fun day in July and a special feature in a service at Christ Church, Haywards Heath in September. Invitations to the family fun event were sent to current and former parents, children and staff, as well as others connected with the setting. A good number of people came along and enjoyed looking at old photos, playing games and eating cake. At the service, we gave thanks to God for the work of Mayflower and the service it has given families in the community over 50 years.

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The coronation of King Charles III was also celebrated with a family picnic in the setting, which was a happy event.

The Playgroup continued to support a number of children with additional needs as well as speech and language needs and continued to welcome a number of children with English as an additional language.

The Playgroup operates in accordance with a financial plan approved by the Trustees. Income is derived primarily from the 'Free Entitlement' payment from West Sussex County Council (WSCC). The Playgroup receives some additional income from fees paid by parents of children who are too young to qualify for the Free Entitlement provision. Fees are set at an affordable level for parents, commensurate with the grant provided for funded children.

The Playgroup expends all funds to meet the operating costs of the Playgroup, including the cost of paying staff and purchasing learning and welfare resources to enhance the provision of Sessional Care and Nursery Education, as well as maintaining the fabric of the setting. Funding received for children with additional needs was spent to purchase equipment to enable these children to benefit from their day-to-day experience in the setting and for their peers to enjoy alongside them. Staff continued to attend training events as required (Safeguarding and First Aid); to develop good practices, and to continue learning in line with the EYFS statutory framework.

The Playgroup has continued to benefit from the ongoing generosity of Christ Church Haywards Heath in providing premises for use by Mayflower at a discounted rate.

Total cash reserves at the end of 2023 were £72,000. Of this, £30,000 is held with the aim, in the event of the unexpected closure of the playgroup, of meeting the costs of giving parents and staff at least half a term's notice of any closure plans plus meeting all financial obligations including staff redundancy pay. The cash reserves enabled the setting to maintain good staffing levels above statutory ratios, and to be able to cope with the increasing cost of utilities and daily essentials, as well as resourcing the setting in response to the children's needs. The Family App continues to benefit the setting, assisting with communication with parents, as well as with staffing and invoicing.

We were thankful for the additional Local Authority funding received this year (September 23 to April 24), and anticipate further news of the proposed national changes to funding arrangements for 2-year olds. The Trustees remain confident that ongoing management of costs, coupled with the stable Local Authority funding rate, will enable the Playgroup to maintain a stable reserve position for 2024. However, playgroups such as Mayflower continue to see significant increases in annual costs and it will be essential to the longer-term financial stability of such playgroups that Local authority rates for funded places continue to increase annually in line with inflation.

The Trustees continued to review the financial position of the Playgroup and how best to reduce the administrative load of the Supervisor.

On this 50th year, the Trustees are thankful to the Lord that the Playgroup has continued to be provided for financially and wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Playgroup staff that has led to such a secure, loving and developmentally valuable setting for young children and their families.

SIGNED

Sarah McQuaker
On behalf of the Trustees

10 October, 2024



Receipts and payments account

For the period from	01/01/2023	To
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts			
Fees from Council funded places	92,068	-	-
Fees from Privately funded places	21,789	-	-
Other Income	4,000	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total receipts	117,857	-	-

Payments			
Staff Costs	89,105	-	-
Rent and Utilities	6,743	-	-
Equipment	1,417	-	-
Insurance	1,015	-	-
Training	587	-	-
Administration	347	-	-
Accountancy	-	-	-
Other Expenses	9,465	-	-
	-	-	-
Total Payments	108,679	-	-

Net of receipts/(payments)	9,178	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-
funds from prior years	63,013	-	-
Cash funds this year end	72,191	-	-

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

Categories

Details

Unrestricted
funds

Cash funds

Bank Accounts	to nearest £ 72,115
Petty Cash	76
	-
Total cash funds <small>(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))</small>	72,191

OK

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

Signature

Print Name

	Sarah Mc
	Mark Ve

NOTE: The CIO was formed on 18th January 2019. On 1st August 2019, the CIO took on the Charitable also known as Mayflower Playgroup (registered Charity number 1072441). It also received cash assets together with payments for amounts received by the Trust on behalf of the CIO.

NOTE; Cash funds include an advance payment from the Local Authority for fees due during the Spring

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31/12/2023

CC16a

Total funds

Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

92,068	90,069
21,789	14,336
4,000	5,735
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
117,857	110,140

89,105	87,774
6,743	4,535
1,417	1,338
1,015	954
587	690
347	354
-	-
9,465	10,105
-	-
108,679	105,750

9,178	4,390
-	-
63,013	58,623
72,191	63,013

period

Restricted
fundsEndowment
funds

to nearest £	to nearest £
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
OK	OK

lame	Date of approval
Quaker	
ntham	

activities of the Charitable Trust
from the Charitable Trust

term 2024.

37 Marlow Drive

Haywards Heath

West Sussex

RH16 3SR

21st May 2024

MAYFLOWER PLAYGROUP CIO

Report of Examiner

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023

I have examined the accounts for the Mayflower Playgroup CIO to the year ended 31st December 2023 and believe the accounts agree to the underlying records. I am satisfied that the records and reports are adequate and that the expenses/cost control is adequate.



Paul Arkell