

Chair's Report for Annual General Meeting

Date: 08/12/2025

Venue: Portesbery School & Online

Reporting Period: 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025



Introduction

I am pleased to present the Chair's Report for the year ending 31 March 2025. This has been a year of significant challenge, change, and progress for Blackdown Pre-School.

Trustee Board and Governance

This year has brought considerable change within the trustee board. All Trustees hold an Enhanced DBS.

New Trustees

Kirstie Hunter - September 2024,

Debbie Eaton - January 2025, elected as Chair

Claire Eaton-Chauhan - March 2025

Resignations:

Elise Seurre, Chair - July 2024

Alison Taylor - September 2024

Charlotte Klitgaard - October 2024, effective January 2025

Martin Stout - October 2024, effective January 2025

Kirstie Hunter - March 2025.

Standing Trustee

Nathan Aspinall - Nathan stepped in as Acting Chair during the summer period, providing critical continuity. When the new chair, Debbie Eaton, was elected in January 2025 Nathan became Deputy Chair.

Recruiting and retaining trustees has remained significantly challenging throughout the year. At times, the board was reduced to only three trustees, creating governance risks. Strengthening the board remains a key priority.

Committee Meetings

Formal committee meetings were held throughout the reporting period:

- Committee Meeting – 14/05/24
- Committee Meeting – 28/06/24
- Committee Meeting – 07/10/24
- Committee Meeting – 23/01/25
- Committee Meeting – 20/03/25

Academic Year Term Dates (Funding-Based)

Summer Term 2024: 15 April 2024 to 19 July 2024

Autumn Term 2024: 5 September 2024 to 18 December 2024

Spring Term 2025: 7 January 2025 to 4 April 2025

Children on Roll and Capacity Awareness

32 children were enrolled at the end of the academic year. During the Spring 2025 term, it became clear earlier assumptions had focused on overall enrolment rather than actual daily attendance patterns. Improved clarity around daily capacity will underpin more effective strategic planning and ensure the preschool remains well-placed to adapt and grow in line with the needs of our local community.

Leadership and Staffing

The internal leadership structure strengthened during this period with the Deputy Manager and Third in Charge taking up their roles in September 2024, improving operational stability. Two members of staff continued to be supported in completing their Level 3 qualification.

Ofsted and Quality Improvement

In June 2024, the preschool received an *Inadequate* judgement following an Ofsted inspection. The trustees and manager responded promptly and worked collaboratively with Surrey Early Years Educational Team Advisors, to develop and implement a comprehensive Action Plan addressing safeguarding, leadership, training, record-keeping, and developing the learning environment.

A subsequent Ofsted inspection in November 2024 resulted in a Good grading, reflecting the substantial and sustained improvements made. As both reports are publicly available, this report does not repeat detailed findings; however, the trustees would like to acknowledge the significant efforts of the staff team, and the partnership between staff and trustees, that led to this positive turnaround.

Financial Position Statement

Position as at 31 March 2025

The financial information relates to the full audited accounts expected in December 2025 and indicates the preschool was managing its finances carefully and operating within its means.

As a mainly government-funded setting, the preschool's financial position continues to depend on consistent occupancy and funded hours. Expenditure for the year reflected normal operational needs, with staffing as the largest cost and further spending across administrative, equipment, training and running costs. The preschool will also face increased rent, service charges and utility costs in the next financial year due to changes in landlord arrangements.

In line with Charity Commission guidance, a review of financial processes and governance arrangements will be progressed in the coming year to ensure robust oversight.

Financial Summary Table (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)

Cash funds 01 April 2024	74,817.00		
Receipts		Payments	
– Parent fees	27,571	– Staff costs	119,633
– Surrey County Council funding	155,544	– Utilities	1,314
– Other income	1,019	– Other business costs	29,889
– Interest	936	Total Payments	150,836
- Fundraising	40		
Total receipts	185,110		
Operating surplus	45,075		

Looking Ahead

Priorities for 2025–2026 include strengthening the trustee board, embedding Ofsted improvements, supporting staff development, ensuring robust financial oversight, and maintaining strong communication with families.

Closing

I extend sincere thanks to the staff team for their dedication, and to trustees—past and present—for their contributions during a demanding year.

Chair: Debbie Eaton

Signature



Date: 03/12/2025



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Blackdown Pre-school

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1064517

Set out on pages

1 and 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 March 2025**.

**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 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.

Signed:

FJ Wilde

Date:

5 December 2025

Name:

FJ Wilde

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

FCCA DChA

Address:

4 Marigold Drive

Bisley

Surrey GU24 9SF



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Blackdown Pre-school

No (if any)
1199782

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/04/2024		31/03/2025

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					
Fees	27,571	-	-	27,571	21,040
Grants- Surrey CC	155,544	-	-	155,544	91,676
Other income	1,019	-	-	1,019	73
Interest earned	936	-	-	936	178
Fundraising	40	-	-	40	208
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	185,110	-	-	185,110	113,176
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	185,110	-	-	185,110	113,176
A3 Payments					
Wages/ Salaries	119,633	-	-	119,633	87,393
Utilities	1,314	-	-	1,314	1,366
Purchases	29,889	-	-	29,889	27,294
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	150,836	-	-	150,836	116,053
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	150,836	-	-	150,836	116,053
Net of receipts/(payments)	34,274	-	-	34,274	- 2,877
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,801	64,016	-	74,817	77,694
Cash funds this year end	45,075	64,016	-	109,091	74,817

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank A/c- XXXXX728	42,869	-	-
	RBS Bus Reserve A/C- XXXXX736	2,206	64,016	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	45,075	64,016	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	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	
	D Eaton	Debbie Eaton	03/12/2025	