

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1204278

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 14117966

The logo for Wildwood Nature School features the word "Wildwood" in a large, dark green, serif font. A stylized leafy branch is integrated into the letter "i". Below "Wildwood", the words "Nature School" are written in a smaller, dark green, serif font.

Wildwood

Nature School

CHARITABLE COMPANY

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st JULY 2025

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JULY 2025

Trustees' Annual Report	p 2-12
Independent Examiner's Report	p13
Income Statement	p14
Statement of Changes in Equity	p15
Statement of Financial Position	p16-18
Detailed Income Statement	p19-22

Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for Wildwood Nature School for the year ended 31 July 2025 and confirm they comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, the trust deed and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

In shaping the objectives for the year and planning the charity's activities, the trustees referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Objectives

The objectives as established in the governing document are:

- to advance the education of children by the provision and maintenance of a primary school or schools; and
- insofar as it is incidental or ancillary to the advancement of education, such other charitable purposes as the Trustees in their absolute discretion shall from time to time decide.

The main public-facing aims and articulations are:

Wildwood Nature School is a charitable, independent, nature-based primary school for children aged 4-11 years in North London. We offer an alternative to mainstream education with a strong focus on children's well-being and spending time in nature following the Forest School principles.

Our mission is to create a different kind of school: one where children can learn, play and feel good about who they are, lovingly held by community and nature.

Our values are:

- *Well-being* - we prioritise the well-being of the children who attend the school. We do this by having a very small school, high adult:child ratios and a trauma-informed approach to behaviour - without rewards and punishments - that aims to meet each child's unique needs;

- *Community* - we place great emphasis on forging caring relationships between children and their teachers, with each other, with the family community and beyond.
- *Everybody* - we create an environment where everybody is welcome. Our hope is for our small school community to reflect the rich diversity of London. This value also covers our commitment to equity - 20% of our places are fee free, we also offer another 30% of our places at reduced fees. We believe that this model allows a truly diverse spectrum of families to access Wildwood.
- *Play* - Children learn best through play. Play allows them the freedom, time and space to be curious, to explore, to experiment, to take risks, to create & to problem-solve. We prioritise play and dedicate a portion of every day to uninterrupted play.
- *Empowerment* - We give the children at Wildwood the opportunity to determine how they learn, what they learn and how they build their community so that they have a sense of agency over their lives.
- *Nature* - We commit to being outside every day and a minimum of 50% of our time over the week is spent outdoors in nature. By being in nature, children's well-being improves, as does their curiosity and ability to learn.

Activity in this period

The 2024–25 academic year was Wildwood Nature School's second year of operation as a registered primary school. At the start of the year, there were 19 children enrolled across Reception to Year 3, with one child having left at the very beginning of the year. The school cohort included:

Full-fee places: 36.8% (£19,000 per annum)

Supported fee places: 42.1%

Free places: 21%

One child continued to receive 1:1 support funded through Westminster Local Authority for an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). A small number of families applied for ADHD assessments through GPs.

Staffing Updates

The leadership structure remained stable, with Tara Royle serving as Head of School and Steve Tromans as School Business Manager. Daisy Bodley started successfully in the lead teacher role, acting as liaison between staff and leadership and managing the day-to-day operations at school. Another teacher, Kate French, who already does half a day of administrative work, took on further organisational responsibilities and a corresponding pay rise.

Staffing included:

1 full-time teacher

4 part-time teachers, plus 2 in leadership roles

1 support staff member

1 play assistant (who increased to 3 days per week after a teacher left in December 2024, taking on Forest School lead responsibilities as well as classroom support)

In December 2024, one teacher left to travel and was replaced by Peter Clackson, an Early Career Teacher (ECT) with previous experience in a SEN school, similar in style to Wildwood. Pete has been supported in adapting to the school's child-led approach, with coaching and observation visits arranged to strengthen his practice.

Professional development and CPD focused on embedding the school's ethos while enhancing teaching and learning, particularly for children with additional needs. Leadership was more involved in day-to-day support for staff.

Alongside this, the school strengthened its focus on staff well-being. The Head of School continued the twice-yearly one-to-one supervision meetings with each member of staff. These sessions provide a dedicated space for reflection, support and open discussion, and have been valued by staff as an opportunity to share their experiences and raise individual needs. This has led to practical adjustments where appropriate, supporting staff retention and well-being.

All staff also have access to a Well-being benefit towards the cost of therapy or counselling, to support their well-being.

Our annual review day - a whole day when all staff come together to have an honest reflection on what went well over the year and what did not go well, and what needs improvement, was a great success. The main priorities were around the environment at school (see below, Future Plans).

Teaching & Learning

Following feedback from the July 2024 Ofsted inspection, there was a deliberate focus on strengthening teaching and learning. A staff review day at the end of the 2023–24 year confirmed that the school was performing well on well-being, but further development was needed in engagement and academic structure.

Key changes included:

- Topic work: Children now explore a single topic per term (rather than half-term), with end-of-term input into choosing the next theme. Topics for the year were Fantastic Fungi, Storytelling, and Wings.
- Curriculum development: Wildwood introduced a bespoke curriculum for all subjects except mathematics (which continues to follow The National Curriculum, using the White Rose scheme). The curriculum is skills-based and adaptable to children's chosen topics, drawing from the National Curriculum outcomes, Ferré Laevers' domains of learning, and expert input from teachers.
- Planning and assessment: Teachers now include explicit learning objectives linked to curriculum outcomes, with clear differentiation and support strategies for individual children. Summative assessment in English and mathematics is conducted each half term, ensuring progress is monitored.
- Team teaching: In the Spring term, Steve started a termly cycle of team teaching with each teacher. This involves planning 2 lessons together, the teacher teaching one lesson and Steve teaching the other, and then a reflection and evaluation together. This has been working well as a way for leadership to identify particular strengths and areas for development among the teachers. Teaching together in this style reduces the pressure on teachers of being observed, as they are to observe Steve as well. This is very much in keeping with Wildwood's ethos.

The impact has been positive. Children are more engaged in formal learning, including those with additional SEMH needs, and participation in lessons has increased significantly by the end of the year.

To support school improvement, the school engaged Marion Hunter, an experienced former headteacher and inspector, as a School Improvement Partner. She visited once per half term from the summer term, providing guidance to sharpen teaching and strengthen the learning environment.

Ofsted / Inspection Updates

In April 2025, the school Ofsted visited for a Progress Monitoring Inspection (PMI). While the school did not yet meet the independent school standard for quality of education, the inspector noted significant progress and effective actions being taken to improve. A subsequent inspection in October 2025 successfully met all required standards.

Outdoor Provision

Following the end of the Mortimer Terrace lease, the school adapted its outdoor learning programme:

- Queen's Wood: continued weekly visits every Tuesday
- Hampstead Heath: PE and exploration sessions (Steve Tromans in discussion with the Corporation of London regarding a formal licence for Forest School use on Hampstead Heath - this was approved in September 2025)
- St Ann's Church site: a newly cleared space near the school for fires, tool work, and small group activities
- Meadow Orchard Project: one Tuesday per month, children experienced lunch cooked over a fire by a visiting Forest School teacher, and learning more about this special site.

These arrangements have maintained rich, hands-on nature learning experiences despite site changes.

Community & Parent Engagement

Community engagement continued to be strong:

- Half-termly Community Forums and regular coffee mornings continued
- A parent group was formed to support school activities
- Parents contributed in multiple ways, including a musical performance by a parent which was attended by many families; a parent coming in to run a badge-making session; and a parent coming in to share about their family's Hmong ancestry and some cultural stories and traditions.

Feedback from parents remained highly positive, with no families leaving at the end of the year.

Admissions & Demand

Admissions were affected by the previous Ofsted report and the introduction of VAT, limiting new enrolments. Only two new siblings were admitted for September 2025. The school had some interest for the full-fee places offered, but for various reasons, these did not materialise into enrolments. No supported places could be offered for 2025-26 as these were already allocated. Retention was high, with no children leaving during the year.

Safeguarding & Well-being

Safeguarding remains the school's highest priority - it is on the agenda at every trustee meeting, staff meeting and staff supervision - and everyone is aware of their statutory duty to keep children safe. Policies were updated in line with the revised Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024) guidance.

All staff, trustees (both charity and school trustees), regular additional adults (e.g. after-school club providers, cover teachers), and regular volunteers have an enhanced DBS check, certification of ID documents, 2 references and full employment history. All staff and trustees have up to date safeguarding training, as well as regular safeguarding updates throughout the year.

Computing was introduced this year with a focus on teaching children about online safety. Pete took over the role of Deputy DSL in January after Grace left, and completed the relevant training. All staff training was up to date, and there were no significant safeguarding incidents during the year.

Financial Review

The school's total income for 2024–25 was £525,863 comprising:

Fees income: £184,944

Charitable donation from the Koukab Trust: £330,000

No other grants were received

Expenditure totaled £399,168, resulting in a surplus of £126,695. Staffing remains the largest cost at £203,634. Other expenditure included premises costs, outdoor licences, educational resources, and staff training.

The school maintained financial stability, continuing to rely on charitable support while moving toward greater self-sufficiency.

During the year, VAT was introduced on independent school fees from January 2025. Trustees took the decision not to pass this cost on to families during the academic year, absorbing the additional financial burden from January to August 2025. This decision was made in recognition of the mid-year timing of the policy change and to avoid placing unexpected financial pressure on families.

From September 2025 onwards, VAT will be applied to fees. However, due to the charity's ability to reclaim VAT on certain expenditures, the effective increase to families is expected to be lower than the standard rate, at approximately 16%.

While the introduction of VAT presents an ongoing financial challenge, trustees recognise the broader policy intention of increasing equity across the education system and have sought to balance this with the charity's commitment to accessibility.

Related Party Transactions

During the financial period, the charity received donations from a related party - The Koukab Trust - based in Jersey. The trust is a non-profit entity and is classified under 'Charities, Non-Government Organisations or Not for Profits outside of the United Kingdom.'

The related party is a family trust administered by the father of Tara Royle, who is a trustee of the charity. The trustees consider this relationship to constitute a related party under applicable accounting standards.

The total amount of donations received from this related party during the period was £330,000. The donations were made on an unrestricted basis and no conditions were attached. The trustees confirm that the charity has not provided any material benefit to the related party in return for these donations.

Reserves policy

It is the charity's policy to hold reserves amounting to a minimum of £60,000, or approximately 3 months' operating costs.

The present level of funding is adequate to support the continuation of the charity for the medium term and the trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be satisfactory.

Progress Against 2023–24 Priorities

a) Teaching & Learning

- Oldest group (joined in Year 2, many with missed Reception/Year 1) showing strong progress in maths, reading, and English thanks to Pete's targeted work since January.
- Year 1 making steady progress.
- Year 2 cohort presents more challenges due to emotional issues, trauma, and neurodiversity, but engagement is gradually improving.

b) Financial Sustainability

- No movement yet toward 50% full-fee enrolment.
- Marketing plan in place for 2026–27 to attract higher-earning families.

c) Community Engagement

- Continued parent and community involvement in school events and activities.
- Informal parent feedback highlights strong appreciation for the school's ethos and approach.

d) Outdoor Learning

- Loss of Mortimer Terrace led to positive changes: better space for older children.
- Greater use of Hampstead Heath, with licence secured for 2025–26—a significant win for outdoor learning.

e) Governance

- No new trustees this year; recruitment remains a priority for next academic year.
- Current trustees continue to provide effective oversight.

Structure, governance and management

Wildwood Nature School is controlled by its governing document, the articles of association, which was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 19 May 2022. It was amended by special resolution and registered as a charitable company on 16 June 2023.

The board of trustees, chaired by the chairperson, is responsible for the organisation's good governance, and delegates day-to-day management responsibility to the team of employees who run the school who are overseen by two of the founders. New trustees are recruited by word of mouth and advertising on the school website and relevant websites. None of the trustees are employed by the charity and do not receive remuneration for their services.

The charity trustees are also the directors of the board of the charitable company. There are additional school trustees who attend trustee meetings and support the trustees in their discussions and decisions. At present, these are Steve Tromans (founder and business manager) and Mariam Sbaiti (a parent from the school community).

- **Current Charity Trustees:** Emma Shaw, Susanna Knox, Tara Royle
- **Appointments/Resignations:** None
- **Governance Improvements:** Policies reviewed and leadership satisfied with current oversight.

Risks & Challenges

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The main risks and challenges the organisation faces are:

- **Regulatory Pressure:** Continued stress from Ofsted PMIs; aim to transition to Independent School Inspectorate inspections. Passed PMI in October 2025.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Challenge remains to increase full-fee enrolment and manage grant applications.
- **Staffing & Well-being:** Supporting staff through regulatory stress and complex pupil needs continues to be key.

Future Plans (2025–26)

What Continues:

- Embedding teaching and learning systems.
- Commitment to pupil well-being and outdoor learning.
- Maintaining child-led approaches in topic work and Forest School.

What's New:

- Engagement with a school improvement partner to support strategic development and quality assurance.
- A big rethink and reorganisation of both the inside and outdoor learning space at school. The teachers identified the need for:
 - more delineated learning spaces for each of the groups to facilitate more focussed learning;
 - more options for movement and regulation outside - the decision to move the woodworking tables indoors (as these were not being used regularly) and use the outdoor space to create a climbing wall and use it for football and other activities that will support children's need for movement between lessons;
 - Seats for children to sit on during community circle times - teachers reflected that children are always more engaged sitting on the logs outside and tend to move around more on the carpet inside, so we decided to create a log circle indoors, using real logs, which also reflects Forest School approach.

Shift in Priorities:

- Increased focus on financial sustainability and trustee recruitment.

Example of Impact

- **Parent Quote:** *"The Ofsted report didn't affect us—this school is exactly why we wanted a different approach. Our child is happy and thriving."*
- **Child Quote:** *"I love school so much, I'd hate to be in a normal school sitting at desks all day with only a concrete playground."*

The Board of Trustees

Ms Emma Shaw (Chairperson)

Mrs Tara Royle (Secretary)

Mrs Susannah Knox

Registered address

Wildwood Nature School

St Mary Brookfield Hall

York Rise

London NW5 1SB

Registered charity number

1204278

Company registration number

14117966

Independent Examiner

Grosvenor Partners LLP

Chartered Accountants

80 Coleman Street

London EC2R 5BJ

On behalf of the board,



Tara Royle

Signed on Wednesday 1 April 2026

Wildwood Nature School

**Chartered accountants report to the board of directors on the preparation of the
unaudited statutory financial statements of Wildwood Nature School
Year ended 31st July 2025**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of Wildwood Nature School for the year ended 31st July 2025 which comprise the income statement, statement of financial position and related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance/>.

This report is made solely to the board of directors of Wildwood Nature School, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 5th March 2026. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of Wildwood Nature School and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the board of directors of Wildwood Nature School as a body, in this report in accordance with ICAEW Technical Release 07/16 AAF. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Wildwood Nature School and its board of directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that Wildwood Nature School has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit of Wildwood Nature School. You consider that Wildwood Nature School is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of Wildwood Nature School. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Grosvenor Partners LLP

Chartered Accountants
80 Coleman Street
London
EC2R 5BJ

Wildwood Nature School

Income statement

Year ended 31st July 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover	523,363	487,096
Other income	2,500	-
	<hr/> 525,863	<hr/> 487,096
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(24,936)	(18,775)
Staff costs	(203,634)	(179,612)
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	(14,964)	(13,929)
Other charges	(155,634)	(153,299)
Profit	<hr/> 126,695	<hr/> 121,481

Wildwood Nature School
Statement of changes in equity
Year ended 31st July 2025

	Profit and loss account	Total
	£	£
At 1st August 2023	(157,353)	(157,353)
Profit for the year	121,481	121,481
Total comprehensive income for the year	121,481	121,481
At 31st July 2024 and 1st August 2024	(35,873)	(35,873)
Profit for the year	126,695	126,695
Total comprehensive income for the year	126,695	126,695
At 31st July 2025	90,822	90,822

Wildwood Nature School

Statement of financial position

31st July 2025

	2025		2024
	£	£	£
Fixed assets		113,554	124,381
Current assets	259,280		126,849
Prepayments and accrued income	17,809		12,500
		277,089	139,349
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(886)	(817)
Net current assets		276,203	138,532
Total assets less current liabilities		389,757	262,913
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		(280,500)	(280,500)
Accruals and deferred income		(18,435)	(18,285)
Net assets/(liabilities)		90,822	(35,872)
Capital and reserves		90,822	(35,872)

Wildwood Nature School
Statement of financial position (continued)
31st July 2025

Notes to the financial statements

1. Tangible assets

	Improvements to leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1st August 2024	87,580	40,893	14,825	143,298
Additions	-	328	3,810	4,138
At 31st July 2025	<u>87,580</u>	<u>41,221</u>	<u>18,635</u>	<u>147,436</u>
Depreciation				
At 1st August 2024	-	12,837	6,081	18,918
Charge for the year	-	10,305	4,659	14,964
At 31st July 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>23,142</u>	<u>10,740</u>	<u>33,882</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31st July 2025	<u>87,580</u>	<u>18,079</u>	<u>7,895</u>	<u>113,554</u>
At 31st July 2024	<u>87,580</u>	<u>28,056</u>	<u>8,744</u>	<u>124,380</u>

2. Directors advances, credits and guarantees

	Balance brought forward and o/standing 2025 £	Balance brought forward and o/standing 2024 £
Tara Royle	<u>280,500</u>	<u>280,500</u>

Wildwood Nature School

Statement of financial position (continued)

Year ended 31st July 2025

For the year ending 31st July 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 5th March 2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Signed by:

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Tara Royle
Director

Company registration number: 14117966

Registered charity number: 1204278

The company is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales.

Wildwood Nature School**Detailed income statement****Year ended 31st July 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Turnover		
Fees Receivable	184,944	161,663
Other income	1,365	20,182
Charitable receipts	330,000	303,500
SEN provision receipts	7,054	1,751
	<u>523,363</u>	<u>487,096</u>
Other income		
Interest on cash and cash equivalents	2,500	-
	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-</u>
Cost of raw materials and consumables		
Direct costs	(24,936)	(18,775)
	<u>(24,936)</u>	<u>(18,775)</u>
Staff costs		
Wages and salaries	(188,212)	(169,462)
Employer's social security contributions	(11,131)	(6,377)
Staff pension costs - defined contribution	(4,291)	(3,773)
	<u>(203,634)</u>	<u>(179,612)</u>
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets		
Depreciation of tangible assets	(14,964)	(13,929)
	<u>(14,964)</u>	<u>(13,929)</u>

Wildwood Nature School**Year ended 31st July 2025**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other charges		
Subcontract labour	-	(9,500)
Staff training	(1,443)	(3,311)
Rent payable	(75,000)	(84,244)
Insurance	(4,110)	-
Light and heat	(9,919)	(3,792)
Cleaning	(8,978)	(9,823)
Repairs and maintenance	(6,552)	(2,190)
Printing, postage and stationery	(310)	(347)
Advertising	(1,297)	(1,249)
Telephone	(2,031)	(1,605)
Computer costs	(506)	(615)
Travelling and entertainment	(772)	(430)
Entertaining	-	(119)
Legal and professional	(1,004)	(8,827)
Consultancy fees	(35,036)	(15,547)
Accountancy fees	(4,133)	(2,450)
Bank charges	(83)	(144)
Staff welfare	(1,805)	(3,005)
General expenses	(63)	(1,502)
Recruitment fees	(1,934)	(3,741)
Charitable donations	-	(30)
Subscriptions	(658)	(828)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(155,634)	(153,299)

Wildwood Nature School

Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	13,458	-
	<u>13,458</u>	<u>-</u>
Other debtors		
Other debtors	37,500	37,500
VAT recoverable	9,619	17,751
PAYE recoverable	1,681	10,000
	<u>48,800</u>	<u>65,251</u>
Prepayments and accrued income		
Prepayments	17,809	12,500
	<u>17,809</u>	<u>12,500</u>
Total	<u>80,067</u>	<u>77,751</u>

Wildwood Nature School

Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Other creditors		
Pension contributions	886	817
	<u>886</u>	<u>817</u>
Accruals and deferred income		
Accountancy accrual	2,600	2,450
Deposits	15,835	15,835
	<u>18,435</u>	<u>18,285</u>
Total	<u>19,321</u>	<u>19,102</u>