



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From 01.04.2023**      **Period start date**      **To 31.03.20024** **Period end date**

**Charity name: Lechlade Little Learners**

**Charity registration number: 275208**

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Lechlade Little Learners is an early years preschool setting providing quality early years education, offering school hours care to children between 2 and 4 years.
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.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	We aim to develop a child's feeling of security, independence, self-worth and confidence in a stimulating environment where they can foster a love of learning. We provide the crucial first step in children's learning and educational journey. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory guidance and are registered with CEFETED.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We confirm that the charity is only for public benefit.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	All trustees of the charity are volunteers. They give their time up for meetings as well as fundraising. Fundraising activities include sponsored events, raffles, Christmas fayre and a little pick.
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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.	Para 1.20	<p>Lechlade Little Learners is a parent governed preschool, staffed by early years professionals with the aim to develop a child's feeling of security, independence, self-worth and confidence in a stimulating environment where they can foster a love of learning. We provide the crucial first step in children's learning and educational journey.</p> <p>Lechlade Little Learners want children to be exposed to new activities, environments and experiences, from social skills and creative expression to exploring the world around them. We build on the strengths and interests of each child, helping build a solid foundation on which they can develop their futures. We want children to be actively involved and motivated in their learning and creative in their own thinking.</p> <p>Lechlade Little Learners aims to develop a child's feeling of security, independence, self-worth and confidence in a stimulating environment where children can take pleasure in learning. During each session, we operate a free flow approach, which allows the children to be in control of what they would like to play with and where they would like to play. Staff setup provocations to interest and entice the children and allow their curiosity and imagination to run free. The children are also able to self-select toys and resources throughout the session. Both our indoor and outdoor areas help to support children in the seven areas of learning and development of the Early Years Foundation Stage. We always ensure the seven areas of learning and development are covered with the resources on offer and use our own knowledge of the children to develop learning experiences throughout the day.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Annual income from childcare was £59000 this was an increase on the previous year. Although there was an increase in the childcare employment costs rose as well as due to the increase in national living wage and high needs children.</p> <p>Our financial position has been a worry, although we made a loss it could have been worse if it wasn't for some amazing fundraising and receipt of grants.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Trustees aim to hold a minimum of £15000 in reserves. Reserves are held to cover terminal obligations if the preschool were to close permanently.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£15000
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	With another loss this financial year therefore as a charity we need to keep a close eye on finances to avoid closure of the setting.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Government early years funding, private fees, fundraising.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Risks facing the charity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the preschool were to lose its 'good' ofsted rating there would be an impact to funding eligibility.</li> <li>• Increase in staffing costs due to minimum wage increase and funding increase not matching.</li> <li>• Loss of income due to fewer children attending preschool.</li> <li>• Sudden and lengthy closure of preschool due to unforeseen circumstances.</li> </ul>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Association
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	Para 1.25	Trustees are all members of the association. They are appointed at the AGM by the members and form a committee. The committee appoints the Officers (who oversee the operational management of the preschool).

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The charity is a member of the Early Years Alliance, which provides information, advice and training to childcare providers and campaigns to influence early years policy and practice.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Lechlade Little Learners
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	275208
Charity's principal address	Wharf Lane, Lechlade, GL7 3AU

### 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	Claire Stowe	Chair		
2	Rebecca	Secretary		
3	Judith Hurt	Treasurer		
4	Rachel Binns			
5				
6				
7				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
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	

## 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)

Hazel Adamson - Manager

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## **Summary**

It's been a very challenging year, both for the setting and for the committee, but we are still here to tell the tale, thanks to an enormous amount of effort and dedication from all the Little Learners team, especially Hazel.

## **Team**

There have been no changes to the staff team since this time last year - they are small but mighty. They have a high number of children with additional needs at the setting and this has been both stressful and emotionally exhausting for them all. However they never give up, instead they just give their all and I couldn't be more impressed.

The committee organised some informal catch ups with all the staff last month. It was a lovely opportunity to us to get to know one another better and find out more about their day-to-day work. We hope to repeat this every year.

Libby seems very happy. She is motivated to process her skills and keen to restart her apprenticeship in September. She is very grateful for all the support and encouragement she receives from the rest of her team.

Having now achieved her Level 3, Harriet appears to be a very confident and capable presence within the setting. We wish her all the best for her 3rd baby at the end of this year and hope she returns after her maternity leave. Hazel is currently advertising the maternity cover role.

Despite another external job application this year, Kim remains on as Deputy Manager and we are very grateful to still have her. She is always calm under pressure and I hope that this year she can step up further and take on some additional managerial tasks to help share the load with Hazel.

Hazel has been a force of positivity this year when the rest of us have struggled to see the light. And that positivity has paid dividends, literally. She has secured £2.5k from local grants and considerably reduced our outgoings by switching various providers. Her determination to keep LL open for the good of our community is so admirable. I am immensely grateful for another year of relentless hard work and the constant juggling of staff dynamics, office admin, complex children and a needy committee!

We were able to offer all staff pay rises for the 8th year running. As ever, we wish we could have offered more, but we did our best in light of our financial situation. Due to a 9.8% rise in the Nat. Min Wage, monthly wages will be considerably more this year but we are making provisions to increase our income to compensate.

## **Committee**

In September 2023 we launched our dedicated fundraising team FOLLies - Friends of Little Learners. There are currently 4 members: me, Katherine, Sinead and Elna who is in charge. Since September 2023 FOLLies have been brainstorming, organising and running fundraiser events for the LL families and for the wider community. They have had mixed success, but overall a very healthy year with over £2.4k raised, mostly thanks to a very successful Christmas Fair in the Pavilion which we plan to repeat this year.

This leaves the committee to focus on the 'nuts and bolts' of the setting without having to share any potentially delicate issues with current parents. Hazel and I need to re-visit the constitution as a matter of priority now to reflect our new makeup.

Judy has been keeping a very close eye on the accounts on all year and I am so grateful for her all her time and dedication she has put in this year.

Becky has kindly remained on as Secretary for another year. We are so grateful to still have her experience and wisdom with us, but hopefully we will be able to recruit a new Secretary this year and finally relieve her. I would like to put out a new call for members in September.

Rachel has been a fantastic addition to the committee and has brought a huge wealth of creative ideas and practical solutions to many of the issues we have had over the last year. She and her husband have dedicated a lot of time to various projects – we are so grateful for this and expertise.

### **Setting**

Finances have been a very real concern this year and it has been touch-and-go as to whether we can remain viable for another year. But we vowed not to give up until we tried everything. At the end of 2023 Hazel and I approached Mr Soutar about the possibility of merging with the school. Although it was a positive meeting, the board decided against the idea due to their own financial worries. So we put together a letter/flyer to send out to the local community asking them to help support us through this nationwide early years crisis. However we are still undecided as to whether this is the right course of action. We will discuss this further tonight.

Thanks to fundraising and some very generous grants secured by Hazel, projections are looking more positive. If finances allow, it would be wonderful to help facilitate a mini-makeover of Hazel's old office into a sleep room for the younger children and potentially create a new, dedicated work space for her.

### **Closing**

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all the committee for all their time and support this last year. It's been really tough but we made it, thanks to a strong will to survive and a lot of heart. It has never been more the truth that without you, there would be no LL, so thank you. A huge well done to one and all. I really hope we can build on this positive momentum and be in a stronger, more stable position next year.

## **Lechlade Little Learners AGM**

### **Manager report**

Lechlade Little Learners continues to provide high quality childcare and learning for the children of Lechlade and surrounding areas. We have again seen low numbers during this year but are serving children from a variety of backgrounds and with varying needs. We know how crucial affordable and accessible childcare is for many, and we pride ourselves on being able to give our families this. This alongside low numbers have brought some financial concern. The government continues to implement funded hours for more children but at a financial cost to early years settings, and with the increase in minimum wage we are really having to tighten our purse strings. Making the books balance continues to be a worry and something we are very conscious of. As a setting we don't want to be another statistic in the ongoing decline of preschools and early years settings.

We had some successful fundraising events this year, particularly the Christmas fair and raffle. This was well received by all and was for all the community as well as our own families. The raffle was amazing and raised a significant amount of money and we cannot thank the local businesses enough for their generous donations. We have also been given several grants retrospectively for beautiful



garden upgrade. I hope that we can continue with the successful fundraising, and I know that the FOLLies team have been working hard planning new events and raising more funds for our preschool.

Our little staff team of 4 have been working hard over the last year and continue to give the children all the support and care they need. We have supported a few children in their transition to school and other children who have relocated to other areas. We pride ourselves on the support we give those families and children during transition time and know that we give them the best start to their next chapter. Alongside working two of the staff have been studying and back in January Harriet passed her level 3 course. Massive congratulations to Harriet, I know it's been hard work and a long process. This has helped ease some of the pressure on myself and Kim knowing we have another qualified staff member.

We currently have 18 children on the books with 6 of those children going to school in September. We have some children already on our waiting list for September and with the new government funding in place I can see our numbers increasing more.

We have been working very closely with the Gloucestershire County Council early years inclusion team to ensure that as a setting we are as inclusive as we can be and can offer a safe space for all children. Our advisor is very impressed with the inclusivity of the setting and has directed us to areas of training that will only support the children and staff more.

My hope for the next 12 months is that we can get Little Learners back to a more comfortable financial place and to see more children come through our doors. We have another difficult year ahead of us with some changes in staffing, but we will make it through as we always do. We are only small, but we are a mighty setting, and we are such an integral part to the local area.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and the team over the last year and for keeping such a good eye on things.

## Treasurers Report for AGM 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

The set of accounts you have before you are for the past 4 years. The April 2023 to March 2024 is yet to be accredited by our independent accountant but will be sent off in due course. They are to be filled by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. I thought it would be good to review the figures for the previous 3 years as a comparison.

It was a tough year but as you can see, we have managed to reduce the deficit to £6085.64 as opposed to £9118.13 for the previous year. If we (mainly due to Hazel's efforts!) had not managed to access some grants and the amazing fundraising again mainly from the Christmas Fair it would have been much worse, a deficit of £12477.00.

We have also looked at how we could reduce costs on essentials. So far, we have changed provider for the Internet, and Family App which will save us quite a bit and Hazel has taken over the payroll so another great saving.

Wages as predicted went up due to the new minimum wage and Harriet now on a higher rate and only wish we had been able to give Hazel and Kimmi a more substantial increase. The insurance also increased.

Going forward things are looking much brighter. Although wages will go up, with the new incentive from the government to fund 2-year-olds paying £7.15 an hour this will help. Hazel has had a good uptake on places for 2-year-olds.

Although not compulsory we need to look at the consumable charge and invoice out to the parents especially to those that are funded. We need to make it clear to parents how vital this is. We may also need to put up the fees to £8 an hour for non-funded children.

Hazel and I have also looked at the projected figures for 24/25. This does not include fundraising or any other grants we may be able to obtain so hopefully we will be able to really get back on track by the end of 2025. Our figures almost match and some of it is guess work but we are looking at only a small overspend.

### Bank Accounts 23/5/24

Current	£23,220.54
Contingency	£15,000.13
Saver	£878.40
Total	£39,099.07



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Lechlade Little Learners

No (if any)

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from

01/04/2023

To

31/03/2024

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Nursery grants	49,007	-	-	49,007	45,078
Children's fees	10,288	-	-	10,288	11,497
Consumable charge	440	-	-	440	-
Grant	3,180	-	-	3,180	800
Fundraising	2,835	-	-	2,835	312
Donations	224	-	-	224	1,184
Interest	152	-	-	152	44
Other receipts	98	-	-	98	225
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>66,224</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,224</b>	<b>59,140</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>66,224</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,224</b>	<b>59,140</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Employment costs	61,099	-	-	61,099	59,081
Training & Travel costs	673	-	-	673	1,528
Premises	1,947	-	-	1,947	449
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	1,202	-	-	1,202	1,091
Administration	1,573	-	-	1,573	1,901
Refreshments	426	-	-	426	-
Consumables	778	-	-	778	2,582
Payroll fees	468	-	-	468	479
Fundraising costs	170	-	-	170	-
Other	548	-	-	548	672
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>68,884</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,884</b>	<b>67,783</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	19,358
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,358</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>68,884</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>68,884</b>	<b>87,141</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,660</b>	<b>28,001</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>					52,369
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>21,708</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,708</b>	<b>24,368</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Barclays Current Account	5,828	-	-
	Barclays Active Saver	879	-	-
	Barclays contingency fund	15,001	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>21,708</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's  
report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
LECHLADE LITTLE LEARNERS

On accounts for the year  
ended

31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024

Charity no  
(if any)

275 208

Set out on pages

1 to 3.

(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

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:

S R Hatcher

Date:

20/1/2025

Name:

S R HATCHER

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

F. C. A.

Address:

North Cottage Smeeth Lane  
Boscot NR FARINGDON OXON  
SN 7 8AP

**Section B****Disclosure**

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.

