



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

**From:**01.04.2024 **Period start date To:** 31.03.2025 **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 for children between the ages of 2 and 4.   |
| 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 | Lechlade Little Learners 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 steps in children's learning and development. We follow the Early Years Foundation stage statutory guidance and are registered with OFSTED. |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit   | Para 1.18          | We can confirm that the charity is only for public benefit.  |

**Additional information (optional)**

|  | 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 up their own time for meetings as well as fundraising for the charity. Fundraising has included a golden ticket fundraiser, raffle and jumble sale. |
| 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>In February 2025 we had OFSTED inspecting the setting. We received their highest achievement of outstanding which is a huge testament to the staff and their hard work.</p> <p>We have continued to welcome many children through our doors providing them with high quality early education and a loving and caring setting for them to be able to play and explore.</p> <p>We have had successful fundraising events which enable us to buy resources and continue to improve the setting for the benefit of children.</p> <p>We received some funding from the local Lions charity which enabled us to buy a communication tool kit which has and will continue to benefit children with their communication and language and being able to highlight where children need some additional support.</p> |
|---|-----------|--|

#### Additional information (optional)

|  |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|
| 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>Finances are in a much better place than this time 2 years ago but we continue to be as frugal as possible.</p> <p>We have just increased the fees to £8 per hour as of April and have introduced extra charges for early and late drops offs. We are also increasing awareness and understanding around our voluntary Consumables Charge which is a vital income.</p> <p>We ended 24/25 with a plus balance of £11048.56</p> |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | Reserves are held in case of the charity closing. Reserves are to cover redundancies and building/ land renovation prior to handing back the land. We increased our reserve account to £20000 this year.   |
| Amount of reserves held  | Para 1.22 | £20000   |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves  | Para 1.22 | n/a  |
| Details of fund materially in  | Para 1.24 | n/a  |

|  |           |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| deficit  |           |     |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | n/a |

### 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 | The majority of our income comes for the government childcare funding. We also have a small amount of private fees, fundraising and small grants.  |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | For 25/26 we will be investing in the setting to make it a more inclusive setting.   |
| 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 was to lose its outstanding rating there could be an impact on funding</li> <li>• Increases in staffing costs due to minimum wage increases</li> <li>• Loss of income due to fewer children's</li> <li>• Sudden and lengthy closure due to unforeseen circumstances.</li> </ul> |
| Other   |           |  |

### Structure, Governance and Management

|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| Description of charity's trusts:  |           |   |
| Type of governing document  | Para 1.25 | Preschool learning alliance constitution 2011   |
| 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 members of the association. They are appointed at the AGM by members and form a committee. The committee appoint the officers who oversee the operational management of the preschool. |

### Additional information (optional)

|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees                | Para 1.51 | n/a   |
| 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 (formally the Preschool Learning Alliance). The EYA 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 | No                               |
| 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,<br>Lechlade,<br>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 | Susan Howell  | Secretary        |                                   |   |
| 3 | Judith Hurt   | Treasurer        |                                   |   |
| 4 | Rachel Binns  |                  |                                   |   |
| 5 | Hazel Adamson | Nominated Person |                                   |   |

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

| Director name |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
|               |  |  |

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole year |  |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|
|              |                                   |  |

**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)**

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

### Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

### Other optional information


|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

### Declarations

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  |  |
|---|--|

**Full name(s)**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Claire Stowe |  |
|--------------|--|

**Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair, etc)**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| Chair |  |
|-------|--|

**Date**

|            |
|------------|
| 29/02/2026 |
|------------|



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Lechlade Little Learners

275288

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

|                        |          |    |            |
|------------------------|----------|----|------------|
| For the period<br>from | 1/4/2024 | To | 31/03/2025 |
|------------------------|----------|----|------------|

### Section A Receipts and payments

|   | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Endowment<br>funds<br>to the nearest £ | Total funds<br>to the nearest £ | Last year<br>to the nearest £ |
|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A1 Receipts</b>                                    |  |   |  |                                 |                               |
| Nursery Grant   | 67,116                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 67,116                          | 49,007                        |
| Childrens fees  | 7,670  | -                                       | -                                      | 7,670                           | 10,288                        |
| Consumable  | 1,210  | -                                       | -                                      | 1,210                           | 440                           |
| Grant   | 5,320  | -                                       | -                                      | 5,320                           | 3,180                         |
| Fundraising   | 1,810  | -                                       | -                                      | 1,810                           | 2,835                         |
| Donations   | 960  | -                                       | -                                      | 960                             | 224                           |
| Interest  | 245  | -                                       | -                                      | 245                             | 152                           |
| Other receipts  | 8,012  | -                                       | -                                      | 8,013                           | 98                            |
| <b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>                | <b>92,343</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>92,344</b>                   | <b>66,224</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>92,343</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>92,344</b>                   | <b>66,224</b>                 |
| <b>A3 Payments</b>                                    |  |   |  |                                 |                               |
| Employment costs                                      | 71,613                                       | -                                       | -                                      | 71,614                          | 61,099                        |
| Training & Travel                                     |  | -                                       | -                                      |                                 | 673                           |
| Premises  | 3,574  | -                                       | -                                      | 3,574                           | 1,947                         |
| Equipment & assests                                   | 227  | -                                       | -                                      | 227                             |                               |
| Insurance   | 1,662  | -                                       | -                                      | 1,662                           | 1,202                         |
| Administration  | 1,137  | -                                       | -                                      | 1,137                           | 1,573                         |
| Resources   | 1,061  | -                                       | -                                      | 1,061                           | 426                           |
| Consumables   | 1,238  | -                                       | -                                      | 1,238                           | 778                           |
| Payroll   |  |   |  |                                 | 468                           |
| Fundraising   | 61   | -                                       | -                                      | 61                              | 170                           |
| Other   | 591  | -                                       | -                                      | 591                             | 548                           |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>81,164</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>81,165</b>                   | <b>68,884</b>                 |
| <b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b> |  |   |  |                                 |                               |
|   | -  | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
|   | -  | -                                       | -                                      | -                               | -                             |
| <b>Sub total</b>                                      | <b>-</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Total payments</b>                                 | <b>81,164</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>81,165</b>                   | <b>68,884</b>                 |
| <b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>                     | <b>11,179</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>11,179</b>                   | <b>- 2,660</b>                |
| <b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>                     | <b>-</b>                                     | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>                    | <b>21,708</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>21,708</b>                   | <b>24,368</b>                 |
| <b>Cash funds this year end</b>                       | <b>32,887</b>                                | <b>-</b>                                | <b>-</b>                               | <b>32,887</b>                   | <b>21,708</b>                 |

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

| Categories    | Details  | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|---------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B1 Cash funds |  | 9,649                              | -                                | -                               |
|               |  | 15,223                             | -                                | -                               |
|               |  | 8,015                              | -                                | -                               |
|               | <b>Total cash funds</b>                                | <b>32,887</b>                      | <b>-</b>                         | <b>-</b>                        |
|               | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK                                 | OK                               | OK                              |

|                          | Details | Unrestricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Restricted funds<br>to nearest £ | Endowment funds<br>to nearest £ |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |
|                          |         | -                                  | -                                | -                               |

|                      | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 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 liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|----------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| B5 Liabilities |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |
|                |         |                                 | -                     |                     |

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

| Signature   | Print Name   | Date of approval |
|---|--------------|------------------|
|  | Claire Stowe | 27.01.2025       |
|   |              |                  |





(if any):

Address:

NORTH COTTAGE SNOWSWICK LANE  
BUSCOT FARINGDON OXON SN7 8AD

## Section B

### Disclosure

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.

## Summary

Overall it has been a good year for Little Learners. There have been challenges and stresses which we have faced and overcome, but we are still here, we are still happy and we are officially 'Outstanding' which is a tremendous achievement!

## Team

In May last year, Kimmi handed in her notice following a job offer closer to home. This was not wholly unforeseen and we of course wished her well in her new role. With Harriet's maternity leave also starting in October, we found ourselves recruiting for not one, but two new staff members, and were overwhelmed by such a positive response – Hazel and I were almost spoilt for choice in terms of number and quality of candidates. Beth and Laura both started in the Autumn term and I must say, they seem like a perfect fit. Together with Libby, the team feels cohesive, friendly and supportive – a welcome change after frequent turbulence in previous years. But, most importantly, Hazel seems happier and less stressed with this new team surrounding her. My hope is that, going forward with so many capable hands on deck, she will be able to work from home as and when she needs to.

## Finances

Finances are in a much better place than this time 2 years ago but we continue to be as frugal as possible. Hazel has done a great job securing grants yet again and always takes opportunities to save pennies wherever she can. We have just increased the fees to £8 per hour as of April and have introduced extra charges for early and late drops offs. We are also increasing awareness and understanding around our voluntary Consumables Charge which is a vital income. For the 9<sup>th</sup> year running, we were able to offer all staff pay rises in line with the 6.7% rise in national minimum wage, now £12.21. Summer holidays will be tough with holiday pay for 4 members of staff plus Harriet on Maternity Pay. Hazel will look at juggling everyone's hours in the Autumn term once Harriet is back.

## Committee

In November last year we were finally able to release Becky from her years of service to Little Learners as Susan Hicks kindly joined us and took on the Secretary role. Although we are small, we are a mighty committee and I thank everyone for their consistent, reliable presence at meetings and willingness to help at the drop of a hat. I can not convey how reassuring it is have them all on board – Judy our diligent accountant, Rachel our wise wordsmith, Susan our parental perspective and Hazel the Little Learners Matriarch. As always, we need to try and recruit again in September to keep the committee fresh and rejuvenating so that opportunities to step up or down are possible.

## FOLLies

FOLLies have had mixed success this year with fundraising. The school fete raised £147, a litter pick in July raised £97, Smartie tubes in October £70, the Xmas Raffle and Fayre held at The Riverside £1,148 and cake sale in April £122, making a total of £1,584. Some of the smaller events were poorly supported by families which was disappointing, and frustratingly the money raised at Christmas was ineligible for the £4£ donation from Becky. Elna is sadly leaving Lechlade so we need to appoint a new member to take over her position and take charge going forward.

## Setting

The setting has undoubtedly had it's highs and lows this year. The high was being awarded Outstanding by Ofsted following a very successful inspection in February. Hazel and her team shone in every category and the committee could not be more thrilled or more proud of them. The low has been the outdoor surface which has been a big issue this last year. Soon after the last AGM, we began to notice considerable black carbon residue rubbing off onto children's shoes, clothes, skin, toys and furniture. We contacted Bonded Surfacing to complain but were essentially fobbed off for over a year, which included time waiting for test on the rubber mulch to be performed, yet we are doubtful these tests ever took place. Finally in April this year they came back to apply a layer of resin over the top which they claimed would seal rubber mulch. However afterwards the surface was rock hard and presented a serious health and safety hazard for our children. The committee pulled together quickly and sent a strongly worded letter to Bonded Surfacing which thankfully did the trick. Within a week they returned again and installed a complete new layer of rubber mulch over everything. The sponginess and vibrant colours have been restored, but we shall wait and see how it performs in terms of carbon rub off. Over all the setting is in great shape and looking wonderful. As planned, what was Hazel's old office has been turned into a little sleep room for the younger children and Hazel now works in the kitchen which she says she prefers. We hope we can continue to invest in the setting this year to make further improvements which will benefit the team and the children.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee for volunteering their time, energy and expertise again this year; the staff team for their unwavering hard work and exceptional standard of care they provide to the children; and to Hazel, an extra big thank you and congratulations for everything she has done and achieved this year. She is always one, if not two steps ahead of all of us and is quite simply, an outstanding Manager. I am so relieved and also thrilled that we are standing so tall in this very challenging sector. Little Learners is an asset and a treasure and I am proud to be part of it.

## Treasurers Report AGM 19th May 2025

The Accounts for 23/24 have now been accredited and the 24/25 accounts will be sent off in due course.

Thanks to Hazel for sorting this out with Steve. Spreadsheet 1 shows the figures for the last 5 years.

I am happy to report that we have for 24/25 ended up with an amazing plus balance of £11048.56. This has been partly due to the increased funding for 2-year-olds, an extra grant for a special needs child and the maternity pay for Harriet although we still need to pay her for the next 6 months. It helps that we now get grant funding paid monthly instead of termly.

Spreadsheet 2 shows the projected figures and the actuals for 24/25. The wage increase is due to paying maternity pay which we claw back. It is good to see that payments for consumables have increased and almost covers what was paid out. Fees are up on the projected figure but less than 23/24. It was agreed at our last meeting to increase the hourly rate to £8 and a charge if children are dropped off before 9am.

I have found a difference in the premises expenses for 23/24 which includes Electric, Internet, rates, and water. The accountant has a figure of £1947.00 but from my entries I have £3084.90 so need to address this. I think we need to review what we pay for electric and see if we can get a better deal.

Going forward Hazel and I will again do projected figures, but we know wages will go up due to the increase in minimum wage and the hourly funding has not increased very much. As yet we do not have definite child numbers for September so this will have an impact on the grant funding and fees.

## Lechlade Little Learners AGM

### Manager report 2025

What a year we have had, from staff changes to our Ofsted outstanding result, we have been very busy ensuring Little Learners is the best it can possibly be. Back in summer 2024 we said a sad goodbye to Kimmi, our longstanding deputy manager after 10 years of service. Harriet stepped up into the role and we employed two new members to the team, Laura and Beth. With Harriet then having her beautiful baby girl in November Laura stepped into the role of deputy. This was a lot of change for such a small team, but they have all been showing amazing resilience and commitment to the setting and have continued to give the children the best possible care and early education. For Libby this year has been a huge change, and she has remained a wonderful constant for all the children and families during the change. I am very proud of her for everything she has done this year. We have grown as a staff team over the last 8 months, and I am so proud of the team we have created and believe the children are extremely lucky to have such amazing role models in their life.

February brought Ofsted to our door, this can be a very daunting time, with a new staff team in place and staff who had never been part of the process there were nerves from us all. As a manager I couldn't be more proud of how well the team just got on during the day, they showed what a day in the life at Little Learners is like and how hard they work to provide a challenging and inclusive curriculum in a safe environment. In the report the inspector said 'All children thrive at this group, achieving exceptionally well in their learning and development. They all have excellent relationships with the staff, who show genuine warmth and kindness to them. Children are settled, happy and very confident.' After a lovely day we were informed that the inspector was grading us with an Outstanding result. This is not an easy achievement but is a testament to the team and reinforces what we already knew that they are outstanding.

We have had another busy year of fundraising with a successful Christmas fair hosted by The Riverside pub, a litter pick, toy tombola and a cake sale. Our fundraising amount was around £1500. This amount helps to ensure we can keep the preschool running and provide the children with resources to enrich their education. We have also received some donations from local people which are always extremely appreciated.

We currently have 21 children on our books, many of which do 30 hours a week with us. We have 15 children for September including 10 returning children and 5 new children. With the increase in children over the last year financially we are looking healthier. For the year 2024-2025 we made a profit of £11,000. Although this is a huge amount some of this money was a maternity pay advance payment which will help to support maternity pay during the financial year 2025-2026. We have received many additional grants this year which have helped us to support our SEND children and ensure provide an inclusive environment for all children.

2024-2025 has been a year of change and development but Little Learners has continued to be a wonderful thriving preschool loved by so many people. We are proud to be able to serve the community of Lechlade and provide quality early education for so many children. I hope that this next year will see more growth and development and Little Learners will continue to thrive.

Thank you as always for the committee and their hard work and dedication to the setting and the fundraising team for all your hard work and ideas to keep the money coming in.

Thank you also to the staff team, Harriet, Libby, Laura and Beth who work hard and go above and beyond for the children and setting. Without a committed staff team Little Learners wouldn't be the outstanding setting it is today.