

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 702025

Details

Other names	THE VICARAGE LODGE PLAYGROUP, VICARAGE LODGE COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1989-09-26
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Vicarage Lodge Playgroup 1A Highlands Road Runcorn Cheshire WA7 4PS
Phone	01928500004
Email	vicaragelodgepreschool@gmail.com
Website	www.vicaragelodgepreschool.com

Activities

Objects: THE AIMS OF THE PRESCHOOL ARE TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN PRIMARILY UNDER STATUTORY SCHOOL AGE BY ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND BY:(A) OFFERING APPROPRIATE PLAY, EDUCATION AND CARE FACILITIES, FAMILY LEARNING AND EXTENDED HOURS GROUPS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SUCH GROUPS, ENSURING THAT SUCH GROUPS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN WHATEVER THEIR RACE, CULTURE, RELIGION, MEANS OR ABILITY;(B) ENCOURAGING THE STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SUCH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND RECOGNITION OF SUCH NEEDS IN THE LOCAL AREA.

Activities: A sessional preschool, within the group all children are supported in developing their potential at their own pace, by means of appropriate play, activities and a high level of adult input within a safe secure stimulating environment.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Halton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£156,543	£132,384	-	-
2024-08-31	£148,737	£135,972	-	-
2023-08-31	£134,703	£132,018	-	-
2022-08-31	£95,284	£104,904	-	-
2021-08-31	£109,273	£103,282	-	-
2020-08-31	£120,086	£107,174	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amanda Blythe	Chair	2024-01-11
Andrew Blythe		2024-01-11
Georgia Oates		2025-10-21
Janet Oates		2026-05-26
Lisa Randles		2022-03-10
Louise Lawless		2017-01-26

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 702025

Accounts

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Charity number 702025

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

gmcas

Greater Merseyside Community
Accountancy Service

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

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Statement of assets and liabilities	6
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Prepared by the Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Trustees' report

The Trustees during the year were:

Name	Position	Dates
Amanda Blythe	Chair	
Georgia Oates	Trustee	Appointed 21 October 2025
Andrew Blythe	Trustee	
Lisa Randles	Trustee	
Louise Lawless	Trustee	

Custodian Trustees

J Owen
D McDermott
H Brownbill

Method of appointment

Trustees are appointed with regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

Principal address

1a Highlands Road
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Bankers

Natwest Bank
5 Ormskirk Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 1DR

Governing document

26 September 1989 Standard Registration

Objects of the organisation

The aims of the preschool are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

Offering appropriate play, education and care facilities, family learning and extended hours groups, together with the right of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, ensuring that such groups offer opportunities for all children, whatever their race, culture, religion, means, or ability.

Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local area.

Independent examiner

on behalf of:

Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service

Beacon Building
College Street
St Helens
WA10 1TF

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Trustees' report

Progress & Achievements

During the Autumn term of 2024 we held our Christmas festival and Nativity, the latter being quite the magical event, held in All Saints church, all the children were endearing and many of us had huge smiles on our faces and a tear in our eye!

In Spring 2025, the children had a great time at our 'Strictly' style Valentine Danceathon and the grownups also enjoyed a bit of fun at our Easter Bingo, where the prizes were numerous, with parents donating a huge number of Easter eggs for the event. During this term we also started our Coins for Craft donations, this helped us to purchase items that your child uses to create all the wonderful sticky, fluffy, shiny, huge, tiny, pieces of art that they bring home to you.

Finally to the Summer term 2025, the children showed off their bike and scooter skills at our Sponsored Wheelython in May and we ended the school year with our Buzz into Summer party in July, what a wonderful family event this was, the children were all superstars as they entertained us with their summer sing song and ended the day jumping around at their mini disco, despite the sweltering weather!

I also thank Sainsburys for their £200 donation last year.

As Andrea referenced, your generosity has meant some wonderful new resources for the children, funds raised from all these events enabled us to buy IT equipment for the children, a large range of new items for the garden, an outdoor library cupboard (due to arrive shortly) and funded Summer and Christmas children's parties.

As part of the requirements of our lease, it is our responsibility to maintain the building to a high standard, this means a percentage of our income must be spent on maintenance. In order to keep this to a minimum, several maintenance days have been held over the past year where parents, committee members and staff have volunteered time to do DIY jobs. In the Autumn of 2024, a maintenance party cleared the gutters and revarnished the outdoor woodwork, unfortunately our spring term maintenance day was cancelled due to bad weather but we held a successful day during the summer holidays where we managed to paint the main room and the garden fences. A big thank you to Andy Blythe for organising these maintenance days, to those who have attended them, Wickes for donating paint and Janet Oates for donating brushes etc, it makes a significant improvement to the learning environment for the children and enables us to spend the money saved elsewhere.

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Independent examiner's report on the accounts of VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL for the year ended 31 August 2025

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025, which are set out on pages 5 to 8

Respective responsibilities of trustees and the examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act:
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jane Williams
MAAT
Greater Merseyside Community Accountancy Service
Beacon Building
College Street
St Helens
WA10 1TF

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025	2025	2025	2024
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Grants and donations	(2)	145,175	-	145,175	125,292
Fees received		5,202	-	5,202	15,286
Fundraising		2,574	-	2,574	1,960
Refreshment sales		2,618	-	2,618	2,692
Lunch club		842	-	842	886
Other incoming resources		133	-	133	2,621
Total receipts		<u>156,543</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156,543</u>	<u>148,737</u>
Payments					
Playgroup Equipment and furniture		4,613	-	4,613	3,874
Wages & Salaries		111,461	-	111,461	107,415
Resources		1,482	-	1,482	-
Light & Heat		1,524	-	1,524	6,720
Water		1,469	-	1,469	-
Rent		1,124	-	1,124	1,124
Rates		349	-	349	2,095
Repairs & Development costs		264	-	264	2,511
Telephone		2,787	-	2,787	1,769
Photocopier Hire		503	-	503	1,176
Subscriptions & Fees		1,073	-	1,073	-
Alarm and security expense		288	-	288	246
Insurance costs		4,119	-	4,119	3,372
Training		98	-	98	826
Waste Collection		528	-	528	255
Accountancy		350	-	350	-
Sundry expenses/credit card payments		352	-	352	4,589
Total payments		<u>132,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>132,384</u>	<u>135,972</u>
Net receipts / (payments)		<u>24,159</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,159</u>	<u>12,765</u>
Cash fund balances brought forward		<u>45,230</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,230</u>	<u>32,465</u>
Cash fund balances carried forward		<u>69,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,389</u>	<u>45,230</u>

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Statement of assets and liabilities

as at 31 August 2025

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Natwest current account	12,733	-	12,733	11,983
Natwest Business Reserve account	47,406	-	47,406	33,081
Natwest Business Reserve account	9,084	-	9,084	-
Alliance & Leicester current account	75	-	75	75
Alliance & Leicester deposit account	91	-	91	91
Total cash funds	<u>69,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,389</u>	<u>45,230</u>

Approval of the accounts

The annual report and accounts were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held on ~~20~~²¹ April 2026

Name: A Blythe

Chair

Signed:



on behalf of the Trustees

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting Policies

a Basis of accounting

The Trustees have taken advantage of section 42 (3) of the Charities Act 1993 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

b Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

c Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted general funds

These are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds

These are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds

These are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 August 2025

2 Grants and Donations	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Halton MBC	138,848	-	138,848	122,650
Grants Other	2,394	-	2,394	2,642
EHCP	2,085	-	2,085	-
DAF Funding	1,848	-	1,848	-
Donations	-	-	-	-
	<u>145,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>145,175</u>	<u>125,292</u>

3 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the accounting period.

4 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 702025

Accounts

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Non-Company Charity Accounts

31 August 2024

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Charity Name

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Registered Charity Number

702025

Custodian Trustees

J Owen
D McDermott
H Brownbill

Trustees

A Edwardson
L Lawless
L Walker (resigned as chair 15.05.2024)
L Randles
A Blythe **Chair** (elected as Chair 15.05.2024)
A Blythe

Independent Examiner

S Walsh
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Address

1a Highlands Road
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4PS

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

We are a committee managed preschool with a combination of parents and members of the local community totaling 5 on the committee. We have 7 paid members of staff and one volunteer.

Objectives and activities

We aim to inspire curiosity, supporting all children in developing their potential, at their own pace, by means of appropriate play, activities and a high level of adult input, within a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

Achievements and performance

- Our preschool continues to offer high quality care and early years education for children aged 2 - 4 years, employing 7 staff and supporting 1 volunteer.
- Demand remains high and all places were filled for the academic year 2023-2024.
- A new manager was appointed in December 2023 who has continued to lead the team forward. Staffing levels remain consistent, and all statutory training is up to date.
- We continue to promote staff training to maintain and strengthen professional development.
- We have raised funds through a variety of events to further advance the activities and opportunities for the children. These have included events such as a Bug Hunt, Pyjama Party, Valentine Disco, sponsored Bunny Hop and Easter raffle. We are very grateful to staff and volunteers involved in our fundraising.

Financial review

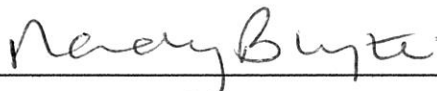
General running costs including utilities and wages continue to rise however our financial position remains stable, we will carry on with fundraising activities and prudent financial management to ensure any future increases can be met.

The charity's policy on reserves:

As an educational setting we must ensure we have reserves to cover one terms running costs. The reserves are held to meet unforeseen expenditure, losses and to cover legal obligations if the preschool were to close permanently. At the end of August 2024, the funds in the reserve account were £33,081

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-



Name AMANDA BLITHE

Position Chairperson

Independent examiner's report on the accounts Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Accountant

Date: 18/1/25

Mr S Walsh ACMA, CGMA
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Receipts & Payments Accounts
Year ended 31st August 2024

Unrestricted Funds

	2024 £	2023 £
Direct Receipts		
Fees received	15,286	12,155
Grants received	122,650	115,481
Fundraising received	1,960	1,560
Refreshment sales	2,692	2,062
Lunch Club	886	1,405
Grants Other	2,642	828
Other including interest	2,621	1,212
	<u>148,737</u>	<u>134,703</u>
Direct Payments		
Playgroup equipment and furniture	3,874	3,094
Wages	107,415	102,264
	<u>111,289</u>	<u>105,358</u>
	<u>37,448</u>	<u>29,345</u>
Indirect Payments		
Trips/Excursions	-	680
Light and Heat	6,720	5,203
Rent	1,124	1,124
Rates	2,095	2,298
Repairs and development costs	2,511	7,255
Telephone	1,769	1,389
Photocopier hire	1,176	1,712
Alarm and security expense	246	216
Insurance costs	3,372	2,624
Training	826	20
Waste Collection	255	246
Sundry expenses/Credit card payments	4,589	3,893
	<u>24,683</u>	<u>26,660</u>
Surplus Funds In The Year	<u>12,765</u>	<u>2,685</u>

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31st August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Current Assets		
Natwest current account	11,983	8,059
Natwest reserve account	33,081	24,240
Alliance & Leicester current account	75	75
Alliance & Leicester deposit account	91	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	45,230	32,465
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Reserves		
Brought forward	32,465	29,780
Funds in year	12,765	2,685
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus Funds Carried Forward	45,230	32,465
	<hr/>	<hr/>

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 702025

Accounts

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Non-Company Charity Accounts

31 August 2023

Charity Name

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Registered Charity Number

702025

Custodian Trustees

J Owen
D McDermott
H Brownbill

Trustees

A Edwardson
P Edwardson (resigned 26.02.2024)
L Lawless
L Walker **Chair**
L Randles
A Blythe (appointed 11.01.2024)
A Blythe (appointed 11.01.2024)

Independent Examiner

S Walsh
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Address

1a Highlands Road
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4PS

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Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

We are a committee managed preschool with a combination of parents and members of the local community totaling 5 on the committee. We have 7 paid members of staff and one volunteer.

Objectives and activities

We aim to inspire curiosity, supporting all children in developing their potential, at their own pace, by means of appropriate play, activities and a high level of adult input, within a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

Achievements and performance

- Preschool continues to flourish, with the majority of sessions being full.
- Parental involvement has been key this year, with a variety of events such as coffee mornings, stay and play sessions, parents evenings and a host of new home learning activities on offer.
- The children have enjoyed numerous learning activities including learning about food and growth as they worked hard in the veg patch, which is stocked with plants donated by parents and local businesses. They learnt to care for living things when looking after our new pet tortoise, Shelley, by observing the life cycle of caterpillars and were fascinated with the workings of our ant farm, all of which were part funded by numerous fundraising events through out the year.
- Supporting mental health has also been a focus this year, resources have been purchased to encourage the children to discuss feelings and to learn how to manage them, a new Zen Den has proved popular in providing a peaceful zone for quiet moments.
- Fundraising was once again strong, with income raised from several events including an Easter Bonnet Competition, Easter and Christmas Raffles, a tea party and a Sponsored Dance. In addition to funding various new resources, this also subsidized our annual trip to the theatre.

Financial review

The preschool remains in high demand and reserves held have enabled the preschool to meet any unexpected outgoing payments. The preschool had a surplus in the year, mainly due to increased funding levels which were offset by increased staff wages. General running costs, including utilities and rates continue to rise, however there is still a healthy surplus and we will continue to fundraise and apply for grants to maintain preschool funds.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

Mandy Blythe

17.4.24

Name HANDY BLYTHE

Position CHAIRPERSON

Independent examiner's report on the accounts Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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Independent examiner's statement

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1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
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 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Accountant

Date: 17/4/24

Mr S Walsh ACMA, CGMA
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Receipts & Payments Accounts
Year ended 31st August 2023

Unrestricted Funds

	2023 £	2022 £
Direct Receipts		
Fees received	12,155	11,703
Grants received	115,481	76,069
Fundraising received	1,560	804
Refreshment sales	2,062	1,178
Lunch Club	1,405	2,280
Grants Other	828	1,136
Other including interest	1,212	2,114
	<u>134,703</u>	<u>95,284</u>
Direct Payments		
Playgroup equipment and furniture	3,094	4,837
Wages	102,264	81,736
	<u>105,358</u>	<u>86,573</u>
	<u>29,345</u>	<u>8,711</u>
Indirect Payments		
Trips/Excursions	680	-
Light and Heat	5,203	4,354
Rent	1,124	1,074
Rates	2,298	1,634
Repairs and development costs	7,255	1,521
Telephone	1,389	881
Photocopier hire	1,712	1,400
Alarm and security expense	216	216
Insurance costs	2,624	2,304
Training	20	-
Waste Collection	246	345
Sundry expenses/Credit card payments	3,893	4,602
	<u>26,660</u>	<u>18,331</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)/ Funds In The Year	<u>2,685</u>	<u>(9,620)</u>

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31st August 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Current Assets		
Natwest current account	8,059	5,599
Natwest reserve account	24,240	24,015
Alliance & Leicester current account	75	75
Alliance & Leicester deposit account	91	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	32,465	29,780
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Fund Reserves		
Brought forward	29,780	39,400
Funds in year	2,685	(9,620)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus Funds Carried Forward	32,465	29,780
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 702025

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Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Non-Company Charity Accounts

31 August 2021

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Charity Name

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Registered Charity Number

702025

Custodian Trustees

J Owen
D McDermott
H Brownbill

Trustees

A Elythe Chair (appointed 10.3.2022)
A Edwardson
P Edwardson
L Lawless
M Naylor
L Walker
A Kelly

Independent Examiner

S Walsh
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Address

1a Highlands Road
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4PS

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

We are a committee managed Pre-school with a combination of parents and members of the local community totalling 7 on the committee. We have 7 paid staff, and one volunteer.

Objectives and activities

We aim to inspire curiosity, supporting all children in developing their potential, at their own pace, by means of appropriate play, activities and high level of adult input, within a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

Achievements and performance

- During 2020/21 the preschool continued to operate under Covid 19 restrictions, however despite the pressures and concerns of the pandemic, the care and education of the children was successfully maintained.
- Home Learning continued, with Zoom Storytime becoming a firm favourite for those children unable to attend preschool.
- The focus on outdoor learning remained, this was enhanced with the provision of new bikes and an outdoor easel, all purchased from donations made by parents. A grandparent kindly built a new Mud Kitchen which the children thoroughly enjoyed.
- Fundraising was reinstated for Project Playground Stage 2, which aims to provide preschool with high quality outdoor wooden blocks and an outdoor water area, several events were held for this including a Sponsored Dance-a-thon, Leaf Hunt and Sponsored Bounce.
- In keeping with the intent of upgrading the outdoor area, parents and local businesses donated a wide variety of bedding plants which the children enjoyed planting in the front garden and a volunteer gardening week was supported by parents and committee members.
- Preschool continued to thrive and although numbers of children on role dipped slightly due to the pandemic, they had increased again by the end of the academic year.

Financial review

The Trustees recognise the challenge created by the Coronavirus Pandemic and the financial pressures that continue however the preschool remains in high demand and reserves held have enabled the preschool to meet any funding shortfalls, ensuring that funds are adequate for the preschool to maintain its current activities. The Trustees have continued to consider ways that additional funding can be raised as well as maintaining careful budgeting and forward planning.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

Name _____

Position _____

Independent examiner's report on the accounts Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: _____ Accountant

Date: _____

Mr S Walsh ACMA, CGMA
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Receipts & Payments Accounts
Year ended 31st August 2021

Unrestricted Funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Direct Receipts		
Fees received	6,418	9,023
Grants received	90,458	97,101
Fundraising received	1,243	2,065
Refreshment sales	1,269	1,503
Lunch Club	988	966
Grants Other	7,923	8,509
Other including interest	974	1,119
	<u>109,273</u>	<u>120,086</u>
Direct Payments		
Playgroup equipment and furniture	2,668	1,300
Sweatshirt/T Shirt purchases	943	764
Wages	82,829	85,974
	<u>86,440</u>	<u>88,038</u>
	<u>22,833</u>	<u>31,988</u>
Indirect Payments		
Trips/Excursions	*	767
Light and Heat	2,057	3,007
Rent	975	975
Rates	1,940	1,261
Repairs and development costs	502	381
Telephone	1,274	998
Photocopier hire	1,239	659
Alarm and security expense	216	216
Insurance costs	2,416	2,404
Training	507	815
Waste Collection	260	443
Sundry expenses/Credit card payments	5,436	7,150
	<u>16,842</u>	<u>19,076</u>
Surplus Funds In The Year	<u>5,991</u>	<u>12,912</u>

Statement of Assets & Liabilities*As at 31st August 2021*

	2021 £	2020 £
Unrestricted Funds		
Current Assets		
Natwest current account	12,231	8,243
Natwest reserve account	27,003	25,000
Alliance & Leicester current account	75	75
Alliance & Leicester deposit account	91	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	39,400	33,409
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Reserves		
Brought forward	33,409	20,497
Funds in year	5,991	12,912
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus Funds Carried Forward	39,400	33,409
	<hr/>	<hr/>

VICARAGE LODGE PRESCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 702025

Accounts

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Non-Company Charity Accounts

31 August 2020

Contents

Charity information	1
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Charity Name

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Registered Charity Number

702025

Custodian Trustees

J Owen
D McDermott
H Brownbill

Trustees

P Edwardson **Chair** (resigned as Chair 11.3.2021, appointed as committee member 11.3.2021)
A Edwardson
S Edwards (resigned 11.3.2021)
A Blythe (resigned 30.6.2020)
L Lawless
M Naylor (appointed 28.8.2020)
L Walker (appointed 22.2.2021)
A Kelly (appointed 7.6.2021)

Independent Examiner

S Walsh
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Address

1a Highlands Road
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4PS

Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, governance and management

We are a committee managed Pre-school with a combination of parents and members of the local community totalling 6 on the committee. We have 7 paid staff, and one volunteer.

Objectives and activities

We aim to inspire curiosity, supporting all children in developing their potential, at their own pace, by means of appropriate play, activities and high level of adult input, within a safe, secure and stimulating environment.

Achievements and performance

- During the Autumn term 2019 the preschool was continuing to thrive, several family activities took place, including a Lantern Walk around Runcorn Hill, an Autumn Walk in the local park, a coffee morning for parents that included a talk from Halton's Road Safety Team, a Christmas Festival, Nativity, parties and a whole preschool trip to the Brindley Theatre. The children were also given the opportunity to be involved in music workshops and yoga sessions.
- The preschool supported the local St Michaels and All Angels Church by becoming involved in their Christmas Tree Festival, with all the children making decorations for display.
- In the Spring term 2020, due to the Covid Pandemic, a number of planned activities had to be delayed or cancelled. The AGM had to be postponed and all committee meetings were held virtually.
- Preschool remained open throughout the pandemic, supporting vulnerable children and those of key workers.
- Fundraising for Project Playground Stage 2 was put on hold and funding raised from this was redirected for the sustainability of the preschool.
- We recognised the need to fully utilise our outdoor area in line with our Covid Risk Assessment so a crowdfunding At Home Garden Sports Day raised funds to purchase a large gazebo to accommodate the children in the garden during inclement weather.
- Tesco donated £500 to enable us to set up individual messy play stations, again in line with our Covid Risk Assessment, minimising shared use of play tools and resources.
- Home learning was a challenge that we successfully overcame with a combined effort from parents, staff and committee.
- During the summer term 2020 we had 39 children on role and successfully supported the transition of 25 of these children to primary school.

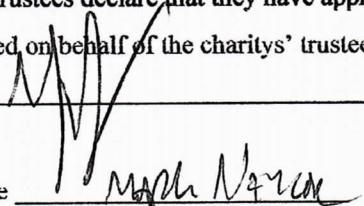
Financial review

The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused financial pressure on the preschool due to the loss of income from privately funded places during school closures and through limitations on fundraising activity during government restrictions. The receipt of Small Business Rate Relief and the continuation of FEYE government funding for the summer 2020 term gave us some financial support however careful budgeting has been crucial. Fortunately, we had reserves in place to cover the loss of income in the short term. We will continue to apply for grants, hold fundraising events and be careful with expenditure in order to maintain an adequate reserve fund.

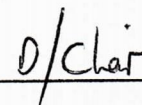
The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:-

Name



Position



Independent examiner's report on the accounts Vicarage Lodge Preschool Playgroup

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

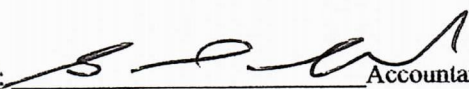
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Accountant

Date: 22/6/21

Mr S Walsh ACMA, CGMA
1 Leyton Close
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4YG

Receipts & Payments Accounts
Year ended 31st August 2020

Unrestricted Funds

	2020 £	2019 £
Direct Receipts		
Fees received	9,023	7,914
Grants received	97,101	95,310
Fundraising received	2,065	2,769
Refreshment sales	1,303	1,281
Lunch Club	966	1,134
Grants Other	8,509	1,793
Other including interest	1,119	341
	<u>120,086</u>	<u>110,542</u>
Direct Payments		
Playgroup equipment and furniture	1,360	3,278
Sweatshirt/T Shirt purchases	764	168
Wages	85,974	86,756
	<u>88,098</u>	<u>90,202</u>
	<u>31,988</u>	<u>20,340</u>
Indirect Payments		
Trips/Excursions	767	560
Light and Heat	3,007	2,644
Rent	975	975
Rates	1,261	1,146
Repairs and development costs	381	9,740
Telephone	998	935
Photocopier hire	659	889
Alarm and security expense	216	216
Insurance costs	2,404	2,421
Training	815	691
Waste Collection	443	444
Sundry expenses/Credit card payments	7,150	9,895
	<u>19,076</u>	<u>30,556</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) Funds In The Year	<u>12,912</u>	<u>(10,216)</u>

Statement of Assets & Liabilities
As at 31st August 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Current Assets		
Natwest current account	8,243	1,283
Natwest reserve account	25,000	19,048
Alliance & Leicester current account	75	75
Alliance & Leicester deposit account	91	91
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets	33,409	20,497
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Fund Reserves		
Brought forward	20,497	30,713
Funds in year	12,912	(10,216)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus Funds Carried Forward	33,409	20,497
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>