

# Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup (Ballymoney)

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100322

## Details

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**Status** Received

**Registered** 2014-07-17

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Stepping Stones Playgroup  
Castle Street  
Ballymoney  
County Antrim.  
BT53 6jt  
BT53 6JT

**Phone** 028 276 67948

**Email** [steppingstones.playgroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:steppingstones.playgroup@yahoo.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The group is established to promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiaries), of the Ballymoney and District and its surrounding environments in County Antrim (hereinafter called “the area of benefit”) without distinction of age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and in particular: a) To advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, with the right of parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group; and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries; and b) To support the values and principles of Early Years The Organisation for Young Children.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives

**How the charity works:** Playgroup/after schools

**Who the charity helps:** Carers, Parents, Preschool (0-5 year olds)

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£46,318	£43,656	£0	2

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Marian Mclaughlin Phd		
Miss Terri Hendrie		
Mrs Amanda Stanley		
Sami-Jo		

**Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup (Ballymoney)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100322

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# Accounts

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**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP  
CASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CASTLE STREET, BALLYMONEY**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024**

2023		2024
£		£
	<b>Income</b>	
34,428	Education Authority Grants	31,170
800	Health & Social Care Board Grant	300
4,000	Halifax Foundation Grant	-
-	The National Lottery Community Fund	7,700
-	The Foyle Foundation	4,000
2,625	Other Grants	2,000
739	Sundry income	1,148
42,592		46,318
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
32,926	Wages and national insurance	27,502
1,267	Staff pensions	1,169
3,600	Rent	3,600
4,196	Heat and light	1,664
1,631	Cleaning and repairs	1,984
3,240	Materials and consumables	1,217
518	Insurance	513
661	Telephone	620
2,143	Outings and entertainment	2,105
-	Training expenses	1,069
604	Uniforms	425
-	Equipment, furniture and fittings	1,591
124	Bank fees	156
564	Sundry expenses	41
51,474		43,656
(8,882)	<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	2,662
6,578	<b>Surplus brought forward</b>	(2,304)
(2,304)	<b>Surplus / (deficit) carried forward</b>	358
(2,304)	<b>Represented by Bank and cash</b>	360

**Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup (Ballymoney)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100322

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# Accounts

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**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP  
CASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CASTLE STREET, BALLYMONEY**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2023**

2022 £		2023 £
	<b>Income</b>	
34,957	Education Authority Grants	34,428
-	Health & Social Care Board Grant	800
4,000	Halifax Foundation Grant	4,000
3,030	Early Years Grant	-
7,783	Other Grants	2,625
1,881	Sundry income	739
51,651		42,592
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
30,371	Wages and national insurance	32,926
573	Staff pensions	1,267
3,000	Rent	3,600
3,712	Heat and light	4,196
2,803	Cleaning and repairs	1,631
2,494	Materials and consumables	3,240
487	Insurance	518
1,059	Telephone	661
-	Postage and stationery	-
861	Outings and entertainment	2,143
1,047	Training expenses	-
335	Uniforms	604
-	Equipment, furniture and fittings	-
189	Bank fees	124
729	Sundry expenses	564
47,660		51,474
3,991	<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	(8,882)
2,587	<b>Surplus brought forward</b>	6,578
6,578	<b>Surplus / (deficit) carried forward</b>	(2,304)
6,578	<b>Represented by Bank and cash</b>	(2,304)

**Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup (Ballymoney)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100322

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# Annual report

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## Stepping Stones Playgroup's Annual Report for the Year 2022-2023.

### The aims of Stepping Stones Playgroup

As all children are different and develop at different rates, Stepping Stones Playgroup aims to develop the whole child by: -

- Promoting emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development;
- Developing self-esteem, self-control and positive attitudes towards others;
- Developing language and communication skills to encourage sharing of thoughts and feelings; and
- Creating confident, eager, enthusiastic, independent, curious learners with a positive and problem-solving attitude to learning.

Most young children come to Stepping Stones Playgroup as active, experienced and enthusiastic learners. To build on the learning that has taken place in the home and its immediate environment, pre-school staff should provide children with a rich variety of challenging play activities and other experiences in a stimulating environment. The focus should be on enabling children to learn at their own pace, to have a breadth of learning experiences and gain a positive image of themselves as resilient learners able to cope with uncertainty, and to learn through trial and error.

Young children learn best when: -

- They feel happy and secure in a safe and stimulating environment that supports their well-being;
- Adults are sensitive and understanding in their interactions with the children while extending their learning and development;
- The pre-school curriculum is broad and balanced, builds on their needs, and provides time for sustained involvement in play;
- They have opportunities to investigate and engage in a wide range of activities that are enjoyable, motivating and challenging;
- The activities are based on previous learning and are carefully planned, with some flexibility;
- They have the opportunity to develop concentration and skills such as observing, making decisions and problem-solving; and
- Parents/guardians/carers and other professionals work together in partnership.

### Public Benefit statement

To promote play-based learning environments for all children under statutory school age in Ballymoney and District without distinction by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and in particular: to advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play.

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include improved learning outcomes, development, language skills, social integration and emotional well being for all children involved in the play school. Other benefits include improved relationships/partnerships with parents/carers of the children involved with the playgroup.

Our main source of income comes from the Department of Education.

At Stepping Stones Playgroup our objectives and planning our activities for the year the Management Committee have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purpose and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

**Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup (Ballymoney)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100322

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# Annual return

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## STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE CHARITY TRUSTEES OF STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023.

#### Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Commission under Section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

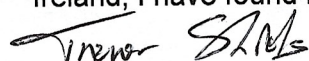
I have examined your charity accounts as required under Section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under Section 65 (9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. The accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records.
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

#### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Mr Trevor Shiels  
D T Carson & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditor  
51-53 Thomas Street  
Ballymena  
BT43 6AZ

8 February 2024

**Stepping Stones Cross Community Playgroup (Ballymoney)**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100322

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# Accounts

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CASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE, CASTLE STREET, BALLYMONEY**

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2022**

2021 £		2022 £
	<b>Income</b>	
38,334	Education Authority Grants	34,957
9,925	Early Years Grant	3,030
1,000	Health & Social Care Board Grant	-
-	Halifax Foundation Grant	4,000
-	National Lottery Grant	7,783
4,518	Sundry income	1,881
53,777		51,651
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
30,906	Wages and national insurance	30,371
545	Staff pensions	573
-	Rent	3,000
1,906	Heat and light	3,712
2,775	Cleaning and repairs	2,803
3,877	Materials and consumables	2,494
405	Insurance	487
987	Telephone	1,059
181	Postage and stationery	-
534	Outings and entertainment	861
1,300	Training expenses	1,047
630	Uniforms	335
8,591	Equipment, furniture and fittings	-
125	Bank fees	189
696	Sundry expenses	729
53,458		47,660
319	<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>	3,991
2,268	<b>Surplus brought forward</b>	2,587
2,587	<b>Surplus carried forward</b>	6,578
2,587	<b>Represented by Bank and cash</b>	6,578

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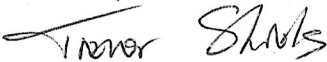
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 A. Stanley (Chairperson)

Mr Trevor Shiels  
D T Carson & Co  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditor  
51-53 Thomas Street  
Ballymena  
BT43 6AZ

24 November 2022