

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100499

Details

Status Received

Registered 2015-09-18

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

Contact

Address Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery
St Gerard's Community Centre
722 Antrim Road
Newtownabbey
County Antrim
BT36 7pg
BT36 7PG

Phone 028 9029 1837

Activities

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 area served being Greater Belfast and its surrounding environs (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.

What the charity does: The advancement of education

How the charity works: Education/training, Playgroup/after schools, Volunteer development, Youth development

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£58,802	£57,596	£0	3

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Peter Mcclean Fca		
Mrs Edwina Weiniger		
Mrs Jessica Mccaffrey		
Mrs Maeve Smith		
Mrs Ursula Quinn		

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499

Accounts

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

CHARITY COMMISSION NI NO. 100499

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024
CHARITY COMMISSION NI NO 100499**

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	2023/24	2023/24	2022/23
Income			
Fees	£4,255		£4,150
PEGS money - ongoing	£45,525		£40,339
PEGS money - addit			
DE Early Years extended services /GRTL grant	£500		£2,312
Getting Ready to Learn grant			
Contribution re moving	£5,460		£16,500
COVID grants			
Flax Trust grant			
Milk refund			£231
Night @ Races			
Sundry other fundraising	£3,053		£1,403
Sales of sweatshirts (net income)	£9		(£22)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£58,802	£64,913
Building works project			
Net surplus/(deficit)			
Expenditure			
Salaries (inc PAYE/NIC)	£47,384		£45,715
Staff training			
Building costs (repairs etc)			
Rent			
Gas			£528
Milk			£232
Equipment (net)	£2,421		£4,174
Fees & insurance	£2,768		£2,131
Moving costs	£3,226		£9,088
Phone/IT costs	£351		£956
Books & journals			£589
Day trips	£88		£35
Sundries	£385		£596
Pet costs			
Bank charges/interest	£391		£259
Food (net cost)	£35		£94
Printing/postage/stationery	£547		£191
Transferred to reserves			
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		£57,596	£64,587
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>£1,206</u>	<u>£326</u>

Peter McClean

Peter McClean, Treasurer

28/03/25

E. Weiniger

Edwina Weiniger, Chairperson

28-03-25

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 - contd
CHARITY COMMISSION NI NO 100499**

Sundry other fundraising split thus:

	2023/24	2022/23
Christmas ballot	£354	£235
Table Quiz	£1,294	
Easter ballot		£52
Non-uniform day	£35	
Corporate donations	£710	£1,000
Sports day sponsorship	£556	
Net income re photographer	£104	£116
	<u>£3,053</u>	<u>£1,403</u>

Peter McClean

Peter McClean, Treasurer

28/03/25

E. Weiniger

Edwina Weiniger, Chairperson

28-03-25

STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024
CHARITY COMMISSION NI NO 100499

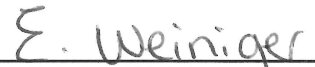
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

BANK & CASH		£24,361
PREPAYMENTS/ACCRUED INCOME		
SUNDRY DEBTORS	£3,070	
PREPAYMENTS	£0	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£3,070
LESS CREDITORS/ACCRUALS		
PAYE/PENSION LIABILITY	£0	
MISC ACCRUALS	£14,775	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		-£14,775
		<hr/>
		£12,656
		<hr/> <hr/>
FINANCED BY:		
ACCUMULATED RESERVES		
AS AT 31/08/23	£11,450	
SURPLUS YE 31/08/24	£1,206	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£12,656
		<hr/> <hr/>



Peter McClean, Treasurer

28/03/25



Edwina Weiniger, Chairperson

28-03-25

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499


Accounts


**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

CHARITY COMMISSION NI NO 100499

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	2022/23	2021/22
Income		
Fees	£4,150	£4,090
PEGS money - ongoing	£40,339	£42,611
PEGS money - addit		£5,368
Additional support	£16,500	
DE Early Years extended services /GRTL grant	£2,312	£0
Getting Ready to Learn grant		£0
COVID grants		£0
Flax Trust grant		£0
Milk refund	£231	£490
Night @ Races		£0
Sundry other fundraising	£1,403	£1,367
Sales of sweatshirts (net income)	(£22)	(£296)
	£64,913	£53,630
 Building works project		
Net surplus/(deficit)		
 Expenditure		
Salaries (inc PAYE/NIC)	£45,715	£41,404
Staff training		£0
Building costs (repairs etc)		£419
Rent		£1,700
Gas	£528	£1,223
Milk	£232	£624
Equipment (net)	£4,174	£6,028
Fees & insurance	£2,131	£1,993
Moving costs	£9,088	
Phone/IT costs	£956	£1,291
Books & journals	£589	£71
Day trips	£35	£25
Sundries	£596	£389
Pet costs		£0
Bank charges/interest	£259	£265
Food (net cost)	£94	£62
Printing/postage/stationery	£191	£767
Transferred to reserves		£0
	£64,587	£56,261
 Surplus/(deficit) for the year	 £326	 (£2,631)


Peter McClean, Treasurer
14/03/24


David McKee, Chairperson
14-3-24

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

Sundry other fundraising split thus:	2022/23	2021/2022
Christmas ballot	£235	
Easter ballot	£52	
Corporate donations	£1,000	£1,000
Sports day sponsorship		£252
Net income re photographer	£116	£60
Bun sales		£55
	<u>£1,403</u>	<u>£1,367</u>



Peter McClean, Treasurer

14/03/24




David McKee, Chairperson

14 - 3 - 24

STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/08/23

BANK & CASH			£18,516
PREPAYMENTS/ACCRUED INCOME			
SUNDRY DEBTORS	£1,759		
PREPAYMENTS	£0		
		<hr/>	£1,759
LESS CREDITORS/ACCRUALS			
PAYE/PENSION LIABILITY	£0		
MISC ACCRUALS	£8,825		
		<hr/>	-£8,825
			<hr/>
			£11,450
			<hr/> <hr/>
FINANCED BY:			
ACCUMULATED RESERVES			
	AS AT 31/08/22	£11,123	
	SURPLUS YE 31/08/23	£326	
		<hr/>	£11,450
			<hr/> <hr/>



Peter McClean, Treasurer

14/03/24



David McKee, Chairperson

14-3-24

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499

Annual report

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their Annual Report for Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery (also called Stepping Stones Playgroup).

Stepping Stones operates a pre-school nursery in North Belfast. It normally operates from St Gerard's Community Centre, 722 Antrim Road, Belfast, but for the year ended 31 August 2023 (and subsequent year) it has operated from the adjacent Park Lodge PS site, whilst building work is carried out close to the Community Centre. The Nursery caters annually for 24 local children of pre-primary school age, reduced in the year ended 31 August 2023 to 22 to reflect the space restrictions of the temporary space being used. The Nursery' stated benefits are:

the advancement of education: enhanced positive early learning experiences for children in the "area of benefit", which develops both their learning and social skills; improvement in healthy living in the area through ongoing health and hygiene initiatives in the Playgroup; empowerment of parents to participate in the Playgroup which provides them with experience that they can use in other areas of community development.

The public element of the benefits have been stated as:

provided to the children (from the "area of benefit") attending the Playgroup, and their families. As the Playgroup serves different children/families over time, the wider local community benefits from having a local pre-school educational resource available to them. As parents are empowered through their participation in the Playgroups' management committee, the local community benefits from those parents using these skills/experiences in other fields/organisations.

The Trustees are confident that the stated/intended public benefit has continued during the year ended 31 August 2023: all available places (22 in this case) were filled, with the Management Committee overseeing the Nursery through periodic management meetings and ongoing communication. During the year the Nursery generated a modest surplus of £326 (the previous year a deficit of £2,631): additional financial support received during the year was used to tackle the financial implications of the temporary move (additional costs directly due to the move, further additional staffing costs and the reduction in income arising from the restriction on our capacity from 24 to 22 children for the year). Otherwise, the Management Committee continued to tightly control costs, contributing to the current year's modest surplus.

These accounts, prepared using the accruals basis, have been filed with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. In addition to income from Government funding for pre-school places the Management Committee undertook a number of fundraising activities during the year, the proceeds of which were used to buy new equipment for the Nursery.

The Trustees during the year were as follows:

David McKee (Chairperson)
Edwina Weiniger (Secretary)
Peter McClean (Treasurer)
Ursula Quinn
Maeve Smith

Staff are encouraged to continue their development with appropriate training, supported by the Nursery.

The new financial/school year, starting on 01 September 2023 saw the Nursery achieve full local attendance once again (increased from 22 to 23 to reflect a move to a larger temporary space in Park Lodge PS). The Management Committee have continued to monitor cost control, and engage with our long term tenant about a likely return date to our permanent space. Based on the how the year is developing, the Management Committee is confident that the 23/24 year will once again see the Nursery generate a modest surplus

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McClean', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter McClean, Treasurer, 14 March 2024

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery (also called Stepping Stones Playgroup)

I report on the accounts of Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 3.

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. That 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.

Name: *Jh Cf (JOHN COLGAN)*

Relevant professional qualification or body: *FCA (CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IRELAND)*

Address: *55 BALMORAL AVENUE, BELFAST, BT9 6NX.*

Date: *21/3/24*

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery


Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499


Accounts

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018**

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2017/18		2016/17
	Income	Expenditure	Net
Income			
PEGS money	£43,684		£42,864
DE Early Years grant	£1,560		£1,680
Getting Ready to Learn grant	£2,015		
Milk refund	£891		£988
Sundry other fundraising	£1,319		£1,577
Sales of sweatshirts	£638	(£702)	(£42)
		(£64)	
		£49,405	£47,066
Building works project			
Net surplus/(deficit)			
Expenditure			
Salaries (inc PAYE/NIC)	£36,612		£35,104
Staff training	£0		£0
Building costs (repairs etc)	£0		£0
Rent	£1,400		£1,400
Gas	£476		£256
Milk	£891		£988
Equipment (net)	£5,561		£3,700
Fees & insurance	£1,816		£1,880
Phone/IT costs	£648		£605
Books & journals	£720		£352
Day trips	£34		£71
Sundries	£762		£917
Bank charges/interest	£141		£118
Food (net cost)	£36		£97
Printing/postage/stationery	£249		£202
		£49,345	£45,689
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>£60</u>	<u>£1,378</u>


 Peter McClean, Treasurer
 10/06/19


 Catherine Beatty, Chairperson
 10 June 2019

STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31/08/18

BANK		£22,529
PETTY CASH FLOAT		£145
PREPAYMENTS/ACCRUED INCOME		
SUNDRY DEBTORS	£1,078	
PREPAYMENTS	£0	
		<u>£1,078</u>
LESS ACCRUALS		
PAYE/PENSION LIABILITY	£946	
MISC ACCRUALS	£1,847	
		<u>-£2,793</u>
		<u><u>£20,959</u></u>
FINANCED BY:		
ACCUMULATED RESERVES		
	AS AT 31/08/17	£20,899
	SURPLUS YE 31/08/18	£60
		<u>£20,959</u>



Peter McClean, Treasurer

10/06/19



Catherine Beatty, Chairperson

10 June 2019

STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018 - contd

Sundry other fundraising split thus:

	2017/18	2016/17
Table Quiz	£799	£878
Picture/CD/DVD sales		
Donations/grants		
Sports day sponsorship		
Net income re photographer	£0	£67
Smarties collection - building blocks	£129	£223
Bun sales/ballots/picture sales	£391	£409
	<u>£1,319</u>	<u>£1,577</u>



Peter McClean, Treasurer

10/06/19



Catherine Beatty, Chairperson

10 June 2019

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499

Annual report

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2018

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the advancement of education: enhanced positive early learning experiences for children in the "area of benefit", which develops both their learning and social skills; improvement in healthy living in the area through ongoing health and hygiene initiatives in the Playgroup; empowerment of parents to participate in the Playgroup which provides them with experience that they can use in other areas of community development.

The public element of the benefits have been stated as:

provided to the children (from the" area of benefit") attending the Playgroup, and their families. As the Playgroup serves different children/families over time, the wider local community benefits from having a local pre-school educational resource available to them. As parents are empowered through their participation in the Playgroups' management committee, the local community benefits from those parents using these skills/experiences in other fields/organisations.

The Trustees are confident that the stated/intended public benefit has continued during the year ended 31 August 2018: all 24 places were filled, with the Management Committee overseeing the Nursery through periodic management meetings. During the year the Nursery generated a modest surplus of £60 (previous year £1,378), contributing towards its ongoing financial stability: these accounts, prepared using the accruals basis, have been filed with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. In addition to income from Government funding for pre-school places the Management Committee undertook a number of fundraising activities during the year, the proceeds of which were used to buy new equipment for the Nursery.

The Trustees during the year were as follows:

Catherine Beatty (Chairperson)
Kelly Hurson (Secretary)
Peter McClean (Treasurer)
Ursula Quinn
Edwina Weiniger
Eamonn Witson

Staff are encouraged to continue their development with appropriate training, supported by the Nursery.

The period after the year ended 31 August 2018 saw the Nursery achieve full local attendance once again.



Peter McClean, Treasurer, 27 June 2018

Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100499

Annual return

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Stepping Stones Pre-School Nursery (also called Stepping Stones Playgroup)

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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. That 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.

Name: *JOHN COLGAN FCA*

Relevant professional qualification or body: *INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS*

Address: *55 BALMORAL AVENUE, BELFAST, BT9 6NX*

Date: *27TH JUNE 2019*