

Saul Preschool Trustees Report year ending 31st August 2018
38 St Patricks Road, Saul, Downpatrick, BT30 7JQ
Charity no NIC103026

Purpose of the Preschool

The Preschools purpose is to deliver the Northern Ireland Preschool curriculum through play based activities which include the six areas of learning:

- Early Maths
- Language & Literature Development
- Personal Social & Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- The Arts
- The World Around Us

We provide a safer and secure environment and offer opportunities for all children, located in Saul / Bailee and the surrounding areas, regardless of race, religion, gender or disability, and support the Values and Principles of the Education Authority.

We adhere to the required standards and are inspected by Social Services and the Education Training Inspectorate (ETI) in line with National Policy.

Charity Trustees

Saul Community Preschool is a voluntary organisation managed by a group of volunteers who meet to discuss issues concerning the group.

- Emma Magowan - Chairperson
- Tracy & Domhnall McQuoid - Secretary
- Scarlett Groves - Treasurer

Staffing

The Committee are delighted with the work carried out by all the staff and are continuously impressed by the caring, nurturing atmosphere developed in the Preschool. Parents have expressed their delight that their children are being nurtured in a happy, fulfilling environment and that the children are so prepared to start life in Primary School. The Preschool staff are committed and professional in all aspects of their jobs and this is very evident in the continuous development of the children.

Children

For the academic year ending 30 August 2018 we had 24 Preschool children in the morning educational based session, funded by the Education Authority.

26 children in the afternoon play based session (Monday – Thursday) for younger children the year before Preschool eligibility, funded by private fees.

The Preschool is delighted to be able to continue to run two separate sessions as this works well for both staff and children. With numbers and finances permitting we hope to continue this arrangement. Session times remain as before:

Morning Session - Monday to Friday - 9am -11.30am

Afternoon Session - Monday to Thursday - 12.45pm - 3.15pm

Fundraising

The playgroup has continued to raise funds through a variety of means. At the beginning of the school year the committee decided to focus on fundraising for:

- A new activity / climbing frame & playhouse (£4,735)
- Mud-kitchen (£236)
- Cycle track road markings (£240)

The fundraising events for this included,

- Copper Jar,
- Asda Bag Pack,
- Bonus ball
- Halloween Dress up Day,
- Smartie Tubes,
- Christmas Raffle,
- Nativity (Entrance Charge),
- Christmas Jumper Day,
- Grant application (Big Lottery Fund)

We were delighted with the generous response from the public, along with successful grant applications and were able to purchase all of the above, which has enhanced the children's outdoor playing and learning activities.

Recent Works and Future Plans

Our activities are planned to incorporate the six areas of learning, Early Maths, Language & Literature Development, Personal Social & Emotional Development, Physical Development, the Arts and The World Around Us.

Some of the activities delivered this year included visits from a joiner, parents with a variety of animals and a farmer. For the first time the Preschool organised and carried out its own sports day, which was a resounding success. We continued our shared snack scheme with St Patricks Primary School in the final term to introduce the children to primary school life.

We also have regular visits from the P3 class during the year to complete a shared craft activity. Others events include a trip to W5 and Funhouse in Newry. We encouraged music time on a Friday and we also encouraged 5 minutes free play at

the end of our morning sessions for parents/carers to participate in the learning with their children.

Parents are afforded opportunities to attend and/or participate in Christmas concerts. Sports Day and Graduation Day. We also provide regular Parent/Teacher sessions throughout the year and operate a welcome system at morning arrival where the staff are readily available at the door to answer any questions parents may have.

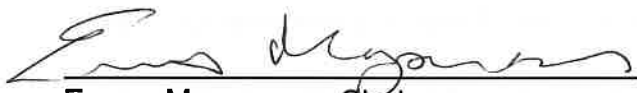
Public Benefit Statement

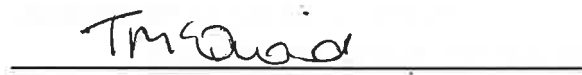
Our Public Benefit statement is as documented on the charity Commission register. The Group is established to promote play-based learning environments for all children under statutory school age, (hereinafter referred to as the beneficiaries) of Saul and Bailee and the surrounding areas, (hereinafter called the 'area of benefit') without distinction of 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

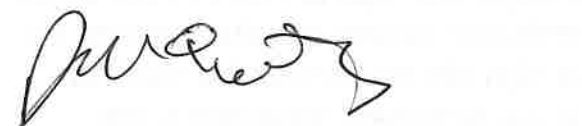
- a) to advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, with the right of parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group; and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries
 - o The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include the educational progression of Preschool children in all six developmental areas. The group aims to make children strong, capable and independent in their communities by building their resilience thus enabling them to cope with adversity and disappointment, primarily aiming to prepare them for life.
 - o These benefits can be demonstrated by the feedback the group receives from the parents and former pupils of the Preschool. Feedback also comes from the inspection reports from ETI and social services. Our Early Years Accreditation Awards and the feedback we receive from our feeder schools highlight the benefits the students gain. All the above contribute to our successful reputation in the community.
 - o The beneficiaries are the children aged from 2 years 10 months to four years old in the local community.
 - o There is no harm flowing from this purpose.
 - o There is no private benefit flowing from this purpose.
- b) to support the values and principles of Early Years.
 - o The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include teacher access to up-to-date, relevant training opportunities through cluster, organised and conference attendance. This training enables both the teachers and children to be strong, competent and visible, through the teaching of the children to show respect for difference and making them eager to learn.

- These benefits can be demonstrated by the teachers' ability to implement learning into practice. The benefits are also observed from the feedback received from the parents and the children themselves. The Early Years Specialists, through Accreditation Awards and
- Certificates of Achievement highlight these benefits.
- The beneficiaries are children under statutory school age.
- There is no harm flowing from this purpose
- There is no private benefit flowing from this purpose.

Approved by:


Emma Magowan – Chairperson


Tracy McQuoid
Secretary


Domhnall McQuoid - Secretary


Scarlett Groves - Treasurer

Reported Date: 4th June 2019