

Saul Preschool Trustees Report – Year ending 31 August 2023

38 St Patricks Road

Saul

Downpatrick

BT30 7JQ

Purpose of the Preschool

Saul Preschool delivers the Northern Ireland Preschool curriculum, through play based activities encompassing the six key areas of learning:

Early Maths

Language and Literature Development

Personal Social and emotional Development

Physical Development

The Arts

The World Around Us

Saul Preschool provides a safe and secure environment and offers opportunities for all children in Saul/Bailee and 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 policies and are inspected by Social Services and the Education Training Inspectorate in line with National Policy. Our most recent inspections have had successful outcomes, and our Food Hygiene rating is 5.

Charity Trustees.

The Preschool is in a transition phase with the old management committee and trustees having submitted their resignations. Currently we have 2 trustees and a management

committee consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary and a treasurer. Procedures are in place to recruit more volunteers.

Staffing

The Preschool has a team of highly enthusiastic staff who are committed to create a happy and safe learning environment for the children. The staff keep current their knowledge and awareness of ever-changing policies, regulations and educational trends through ongoing training and assessment. Feedback from parents and carers would highlight the excellent work and the professional characteristics the staff employ.

Children

For the academic year ending 31 August 2023, 24 children attended the morning session 09.00am to 11:30am. This session is funded by the Education Authority.

18 children attended the afternoon play based session, funded by private fees.

12.30 to 3.00pm (Mon to Thursday).

Fundraising.

Many fundraising activities happen through the year and we are grateful to everyone for their kind support.

Recent developments and Future plans

We were delighted to welcome 2 pupils with additional complex needs to our school. An additional member of staff was appointed to provide one to one care and supervision. This has been an extremely positive experience for our school, and we aim to welcome more children with complex needs or disabilities in the future.

During our next school year, we plan to start a lunch club which we anticipate will raise more funds.

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.

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.

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.

The beneficiaries are the children aged from 2 years 10 months to four years old in the local community.

There is no harm flowing from this purpose.

There is no private benefit flowing from this purpose.

- b) to support the values and principles of Early Years.

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



Chairman

Reported Date 10/6/2024