

Saul Community Preschool
Trustee Report Year Ending 31-August 2024

Registered Charity Name: Saul Community Preschool
Charity Number: 103026
Charity Address:
38 St Patricks Road
Saul
Downpatrick
Co Down
BT30 7JQ

Committee Members:

Colin McDaid – Chair Person
Laura Gilmore – Treasurer
Delia McLaughlin – Preschool Leader
Clare Reaney- Secretary
Shaun Magorrian-Spence – Fundraising

Committee Members are appointed at the AGM. Fit Person Assessments carried out on the Chair person by Social Services.

Objectives:

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 Sau/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.

Public Benefit:

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:

- 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.
- 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.

Achievements:

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 highlight the excellent work and the professional characteristics the staff employ

For the academic year ending 31 August 2024, 24 children attended the morning session 09.00am to 11:30am. This session is funded by the Education Authority. 16 children attended the afternoon play based session, funded by private fees. 12.30 to 3.00pm (Mon to Thursday).

This year, we planned a lunch club which has been positively received by the Children and the parents. It has also proved be good revenue stream, which has enable us to provide for the school , particularly given costs associated with increased cost of living (increased utilities costs in particular).

Many fundraising activities happen through the year and we are grateful to everyone for their kind support. Particularly we would like to thank the local community for the gracious donation of funds raised from a large tractor-run.

Future plans:

In the next year we plan to raise funds to develop our outdoor space. It is large, and particularly under-developed. We would like to enhance the ability to enjoy the space more and to increase the outdoor learning opportunities.

We plan to launch a breakfast club to allow Children to attend 30 minutes earlier in the morning session. We hope that this will provide increased opportunities for the Children to start the day well, and to support parents.

_____ Signed (Chair person)

_____ Date

I confirm, in signing this engagement letter that I have authority of all charity trustees to sign on their behalf