

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland · Charity number 104520

Details

Status	Received
Company number	54445
Registered	2016-03-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	The Unit Blackpark Road Toomebridge Antrim Bt41 3sl BT41 3SL
Phone	028 796 59717

Activities

Purposes: The objects of the Company shall be to enhance the development and education of school-age children in Toomebridge and its environs (the "area of benefit) without distinction of gender, disability, ethnic identity, nationality, religion or political affiliation by: (a) providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children aged from 3-11; (b) advancing the education and training of persons involved in the provision of such care, recreation and education; (c) encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of the needs of such children and their families in the area of benefit.

What the charity does: The advancement of education, The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage

How the charity works: Education/training, General charitable purposes, Playgroup/after schools, Relief of poverty

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£74,895	£65,709	£0	4

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amy Diamond		
Miss Justine Teresa Quinn		
Mrs Fiona Mccann		
Niamh Neeson		
Roisin Higgins		
Shania Mcnally		

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Accounts

Laughter Land
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2025

S O'NEILL & COMPANY

Chartered accountants
14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Laughter Land
Charity registration number	NIC104520
Company registration number	NI054445
Principal office and registered office	The Unit Black Park Road Toomebridge Co Antrim BT41 3SL

The trustees

Ms Shania Marie McNally	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Amy Diamond (Treasurer)	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Niamh Neeson	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)	
Mrs Aisling Murphy	(Resigned 22 January 2025)
Mrs Orla Diamond	(Resigned 22 January 2025)
Mrs Fiona McCann	
Ms Justine Teresa Quinn	

Independent examiner	S O'Neill & Company 14 Main Street Toomebridge Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT41 3TQ
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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

Laughter Land was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 24 March 2005.

Laughter Land's charity registration under The Charity Commission for NI was approved on 11 March 2016.

The charitable company is governed by the Board of Directors, and directors are required to attend at each AGM. There is a minimum of five directors on every Board. One third of the directors shall retire from office at the AGM. The directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but between persons who became Directors on the same day as those to retire shall be determined by lot. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

Directors may meet together for dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate meetings as they think fit and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the directors may be fixed by directors and unless so fixed at any other number, shall be five directors.

New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, key internal controls and procedures regarding funding applications, child registers, cash collection, review of wages and staffing, cheque signatories and recent performance of the Trust. They are free to discuss any issue with other directors. There is no remuneration paid to any of the Directors by the Trust in relation to this role.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Directors have reviewed the key risks facing the charity and have established procedures to manage those risks.

Mrs Geraldine McCoy is appointed to supervise the day to day operations of the Company and assumed post in July 2022.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Company is to enhance the development and education of children aged 2 years and 10 months up to the age of 4 years in Toomebridge and its environs without distinction of gender, disability, ethnic identity, nationality, religion or political affiliation by:

- providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children;
- advancing the education and training of persons involved in the provision of such care; and
- encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of the needs of such children and their families in the area of benefit.

The focus of our work

The main focus of our work continued to be the provision of pre-school. Previously after school childcare had been an additional focus of the organisation but due to staffing issues this facility was forced to close in December 2022 and has thus far not been re-established.

How our activities deliver public benefit is to:

1. enable parents of pre-school children to access affordable, safe and secure childcare which provides high quality care and education and contributes to the development and well-being of children in the local community.

The charitable company is registered and inspected by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and are required to follow and implement the Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education. Early years inspectors last follow up inspection was October 2024 which was successful and all recommendations fully implemented.

The Pre-School currently employs three full time staff members and they are supported in their role through our early years advisor, Mrs Ann Dixon, who is employed on behalf of the organisation as an Independent Early Years Advisor. Mrs Dixon visits us up to 5 times per year providing staff training, advice on the curriculum, networking and help with other playgroup matters.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance

Numbers in 2024/2025 have remained steady, however due to low birth rates in the local area there is a predicted dip in child numbers anticipated for the school year 2025/2026. This is inevitably likely to have a financial impact on the pre-school for which the directors are taking measures to mitigate, such as the admission of pre pre-school children earlier in September 2025, and the inclusion of a pre-school and pre pre-school mixed class. This provides much needed economic support for the pre-school and provides an engaging and more varied learning perspective for our children with the sharing of education with a wider mix of age ranges.

Our organisation was delighted to celebrate in the success as nominated finalists for the Local Women Magazine Education Awards in May 2025 in the Europa Hotel, Belfast. Our staff were nominated in the category of "Best Early Years Team of the Year". Unfortunately, they were runners up in this category, however we are proud of our staff in being recognised in this way out of many organisations across Northern Ireland. This is a shining example of the excellent levels of care and education our staff provide to our local children.

Financial review

The surplus for the year was £9,186 (surplus 2024: £3,062) which has increased (2024: increased) the total fund balance carried forward is £26,894 (2024: £17,708). The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is detailed on page 7.

Reserves policy

The management committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks of the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 2 and 3 months of expenditure. Expenditure for 2024-25 was £65,709 (2023-24 £68,731) therefore the target is £10,951 to £16,427 (2023-24 £11,455 to £17,182) in general funds. At the year end the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets are within the target amount range. The management committee are aware of this and have received a number of grants in the 2026 financial year from different granting bodies.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

Plans for future periods

The organisation will be pressing ahead with additional fundraising in the year 2025/2026 to attempt to mitigate any financial strains felt due to reduced child numbers. We are increasing our use of online sources of fundraising via social media and online payment options for both school fees and donations. It is noted that the organisation anticipates the pre-school will return to full capacity in the term 2026/2027.

We also plan to welcome Ms Geraldine Spillane into her role as head of the Pre School, stepping into her new role in July 2025. We wish to extend our sincerest thanks to Mrs Geraldine McCoy who is continuing to support our organisation in the role as deputy leader.

The committee and its directors continued to explore grant options for the organisation in the year ahead to secure the financial stability of the pre-school.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 2 December 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Roisin Higgins
Chairperson



Amy Diamond
Treasurer



Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land

Year ended 31 March 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Laughter Land ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S O'Neill & Company
Independent Examiner

14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

2 December 2025

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds	2025 Restricted funds	Total funds	2024 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	–	63,620	63,620	52,997
Charitable activities	6	8,121	–	8,121	8,696
Other trading activities	7	3,154	–	3,154	3,876
Other income	8	–	–	–	6,224
Total income		<u>11,275</u>	<u>63,620</u>	<u>74,895</u>	<u>71,793</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,10	<u>17,046</u>	<u>48,663</u>	<u>65,709</u>	<u>68,731</u>
Total expenditure		<u>17,046</u>	<u>48,663</u>	<u>65,709</u>	<u>68,731</u>
Net income		<u>(5,771)</u>	<u>14,957</u>	<u>9,186</u>	<u>3,062</u>
Transfers between funds		13,363	(13,363)	–	–
Net movement in funds		<u>7,592</u>	<u>1,594</u>	<u>9,186</u>	<u>3,062</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>17,708</u>	–	<u>17,708</u>	<u>14,646</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>25,300</u>	<u>1,594</u>	<u>26,894</u>	<u>17,708</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	17	1,336	1,431
Current assets			
Debtors	18	2,626	5,827
Cash at bank and in hand		33,135	19,486
		<u>35,761</u>	<u>25,313</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>10,203</u>	<u>9,036</u>
Net current assets		<u>25,558</u>	<u>16,277</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>26,894</u>	<u>17,708</u>
Net assets		<u>26,894</u>	<u>17,708</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		25,300	–
Unrestricted funds		<u>1,594</u>	<u>17,708</u>
Total charity funds	22	<u>26,894</u>	<u>17,708</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

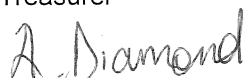
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 2 December 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Roisin Higgins
Chairperson



Amy Diamond
Treasurer



The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income	9,186	3,062
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	295	339
Government grant income	(60,720)	(48,726)
Interest payable and similar charges	166	247
Accrued expenses	1,482	1,908
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	3,201	(4,948)
Trade and other creditors	(313)	452
Cash generated from operations	(46,704)	(47,664)
Interest paid	(166)	(247)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(46,870)</u>	<u>(47,911)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(200)	(200)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(200)</u>	<u>(200)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Government grant income	60,720	48,726
Net cash from financing activities	<u>60,720</u>	<u>48,726</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	13,649	613
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>19,486</u>	<u>18,873</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>33,135</u>	<u>19,486</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is The Unit, Black Park Road, Toomebridge, Co Antrim, BT41 3SL.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue. Additional grant funding has been received during the 2026 financial year.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	33% straight line

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the charity will comply with the conditions attaching to them and the grants will be received.

Where the grant does not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received or receivable. Where the grant does impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income only when the performance-related conditions have been met. Where grants received are prior to satisfying the revenue recognition criteria, they are recognised as a liability.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Laughter Land is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

5. Donations and legacies

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants				
Education Authority - Outdoor Learning Project	2,000	2,000	–	–
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	900	900	575	575
Education Authority - Early Years Classroom Assistant	–	–	3,096	3,096
CCP Grant	–	–	600	600
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	60,720	60,720	48,726	48,726
	<u>63,620</u>	<u>63,620</u>	<u>52,997</u>	<u>52,997</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Other playgroup income	8,121	8,121	8,696	8,696

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
School Trip	138	138	114	114
Fundraising activities	3,016	3,016	3,762	3,762
	<u>3,154</u>	<u>3,154</u>	<u>3,876</u>	<u>3,876</u>

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Statutory Maternity Pay & Compensation	–	–	6,224	6,224

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Playgroup	9,807	48,663	58,470
Support costs	7,239	–	7,239
	<u>17,046</u>	<u>48,663</u>	<u>65,709</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Playgroup	10,359	53,003	63,362
Support costs	5,369	–	5,369
	<u>15,728</u>	<u>53,003</u>	<u>68,731</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Playgroup	58,470	–	58,470	63,362
Governance costs	–	7,239	7,239	5,369
	<u>58,470</u>	<u>7,239</u>	<u>65,709</u>	<u>68,731</u>

11. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance costs	<u>7,239</u>	<u>5,369</u>

12. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>295</u>	<u>339</u>

13. Independent examination fees

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>3,148</u>	<u>2,992</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	47,528	50,535
Employer contributions to pension plans	666	707
	<u>48,194</u>	<u>51,242</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 4 (2024: 5).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

16. Transfers between funds

The following grants were received for restricted purposes and have been utilised against specific costs of the project undertaken by the charity.

However, there are a number of these grants that were to offset the running costs of the Charity.

As a result, these funds have been transferred to Unrestricted Funds from Restricted Funds to offset the running costs.

	2025
	£
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	(1)
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	13,364
Total to be transferred between funds	<u>13,363</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	8,112	1,243	9,355
Additions	200	–	200
At 31 March 2025	<u>8,312</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>9,555</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	7,022	902	7,924
Charge for the year	225	70	295
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,247</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>8,219</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,065</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>1,336</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,090</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>1,431</u>

18. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	60	60
Prepayments and accrued income	583	960
Other debtors	1,983	4,807
	<u>2,626</u>	<u>5,827</u>

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Payments received on account	–	239
Accruals and deferred income	9,316	7,836
Social security and other taxes	887	961
	<u>10,203</u>	<u>9,036</u>

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £666 (2024: £707).

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

21. Government grants

The amounts recognised in the financial statements for government grants are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Recognised in income from donations and legacies:		
Government grants income	<u>63,620</u>	<u>52,997</u>

22. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	<u>17,708</u>	<u>11,275</u>	<u>(17,046)</u>	<u>13,363</u>	<u>25,300</u>

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	<u>14,558</u>	<u>18,796</u>	<u>(15,728)</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>17,708</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted Fund 1 – Playgroup	<u>–</u>	<u>63,620</u>	<u>(48,663)</u>	<u>(13,363)</u>	<u>1,594</u>

	At 1 April 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Fund 1 - Playgroup	<u>88</u>	<u>52,997</u>	<u>(53,003)</u>	<u>(82)</u>	<u>–</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,336	1,336
Current assets	35,761	35,761
Creditors less than 1 year	(10,203)	(10,203)
Net assets	<u>26,894</u>	<u>26,894</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,431	1,431
Current assets	25,313	25,313
Creditors less than 1 year	(9,036)	(9,036)
Net assets	<u>17,708</u>	<u>17,708</u>

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 Mar 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>19,486</u>	<u>13,649</u>	<u>33,135</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 March 2025

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Education Authority - Outdoor Learning Project	2,000	–
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	900	575
Education Authority - Early Years Classroom Assistant	–	3,096
CCP Grant	–	600
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	60,720	48,726
	<u>63,620</u>	<u>52,997</u>
Charitable activities		
Other playgroup income	8,121	8,696
	<u>8,121</u>	<u>8,696</u>
Other trading activities		
School Trip	138	114
Fundraising activities	3,016	3,762
	<u>3,154</u>	<u>3,876</u>
Other income		
Statutory Maternity Pay & Compensation	–	6,224
	<u>–</u>	<u>6,224</u>
Total income	<u>74,895</u>	<u>71,793</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Food Purchases	785	801
Wages - Playschool	47,528	50,535
Pension costs	666	707
Rent	800	767
Light and heat	1,678	1,265
Repairs and maintenance	491	801
Insurance	858	914
Cleaning and hygiene costs	105	139
Transport and trips	90	279
Accountancy	3,812	2,992
Other professional costs	3,261	2,130
Professional fees	1,227	1,713
Telephone	954	957
Other office costs	209	140
Depreciation	295	339
Other interest payable and similar charges	166	247
Play and learning resources	2,376	2,415
Staff training	75	1,140
General expenses	65	200
Fundraising expenses	268	250
	<u>65,709</u>	<u>68,731</u>
Total expenditure	<u>65,709</u>	<u>68,731</u>
Net income	<u>9,186</u>	<u>3,062</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Playgroup		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Food	785	801
Wages - Playschool	47,528	50,535
Pension Costs	666	707
Rent	800	767
Light and heat	1,678	1,265
Property maintenance	491	801
Insurance	858	914
Cleaning and hygiene costs	105	139
Transport and trips	90	279
Professional fees	1,227	1,713
Telephone	954	957
Other office costs	209	140
Depreciation	295	339
Play and Learning Resources	2,376	2,415
Staff training	75	1,140
General expenses	65	200
Fundraising expenses	268	250
	<u>58,470</u>	<u>63,362</u>
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	3,812	2,992
Other professional fees	3,261	2,130
Bank charges	166	247
	<u>7,239</u>	<u>5,369</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>65,709</u>	<u>68,731</u>

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NI054445
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: NIC104520

Laughter Land
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2024

S O'NEILL & COMPANY

Chartered accountants
14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Laughter Land
Charity registration number	NIC104520
Company registration number	NI054445
Principal office and registered office	The Unit Black Park Road Toomebridge Co Antrim BT41 3SL

The trustees

Ms Shania Marie McNally	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Amy Diamond	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Niamh Neeson	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Maria McCloskey	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Ms Amy-Beth Gervin	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Ms Roisin Higgins	
Mrs Aisling Murphy	(Resigned 22 January 2025)
Mrs Orla Diamond	(Resigned 22 January 2025)
Mrs Victoria Young	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Mrs Emma Nugent	(Resigned 1 April 2023)
Miss Aisling Diamond	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Mrs Jessica McGeehan	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Mrs Fiona McCann	(Resigned 22 January 2025)

Independent examiner	S O'Neill & Company 14 Main Street Toomebridge Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT41 3TQ
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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

Laughter Land was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 24 March 2005.

Laughter Land's charity registration under The Charity Commission for NI was approved on 11 March 2016.

The charitable company is governed by the Board of Directors, and directors are required to attend at each AGM. There is a minimum of five directors on every Board. One third of the directors shall retire from office at the AGM. The directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but between persons who became Directors on the same day as those to retire shall be determined by lot. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

Directors may meet together for dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate meetings as they think fit and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the directors may be fixed by directors and unless so fixed at any other number shall be five directors.

New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, key internal controls and procedures regarding funding applications, child registers, cash collection, review of wages and staffing, cheque signatories and recent performance of the Trust. They are free to discuss any issue with other directors. There is no remuneration paid to any of the Directors by the Trust in relation to this role.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Directors have reviewed the key risks facing the charity and have established procedures to manage those risks.

Mrs Geraldine McCoy is appointed to supervise the day to day operations of the Company.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Company is to enhance the development and education of children aged 3-11 in Toomebridge and its environs without distinction of gender, disability, ethnic identity, nationality, religion or political affiliation by:

- providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children aged from 3-11;
- advancing the education and training of persons involved in the provision of such care; and
- encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of the needs of such children and their families in the area of benefit.

The focus of our work

The main focus of our work continued to be the provision of pre-school to children in the local community.

How our activities deliver public benefit is to enable parents of pre-school children to access affordable, safe and secure childcare which provides high quality care and education and contributes to the development and well-being of children in the local community;

Those who use and benefited from our services

	2024	2023
Pre-school funded	26	20
Pre-school non-funded	14	14

The charitable company is registered and inspected by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and are required to follow and implement the Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

As can be seen from the numbers above, the number of children attending Laughter Land has increased during the year. At the same time, management have maintained their DENI funding allocation of 26 children and DENI have made a provisional allocation of 26 funded places for 2024/25.

Staff have completed all relevant training to help the Company to continue to support the children throughout the year. Recent changes in staff has seen the departure of Ms Naomi McFall who has provided many years of support and help to children in the community, all staff and the committee wish Mr McFall all the best in her future endeavours. We have been delighted to welcome Emma Nugent into the Laughter Land team as an invaluable help and support to our pre-school children. We are very pleased to welcome new volunteer member Ms Ciara Martin which helps support the pre-school in its day to day operations and will be a great benefit for staff to support of cover as needed.

Financial review

The surplus for the year was £3,062 (surplus 2023: £600) which has increased (2023: increased) the total fund balance carried forward to £17,708 (2023: £14,646). The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is detailed on page 8.

Reserves policy

The management committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks of the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 2 and 3 months of expenditure. Expenditure for 2023-24 was £68,731 (2022-23 £106,130) therefore the target is £11,455 to £17,182 (2022-23 £17,688 to £26,532) in general funds. At the year end the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets are not within the target amount range. The management committee are aware of this and have received a number of grants in the 2025 financial year from different granting bodies.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Plans for future periods

The Charity planned to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years, subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

The pre-school is in need for maintenance and repair and to this end the board of directors and staff are working hard to promote fundraising and seek additional funding to support, repairs to flooring, increase outdoor covered play area as well as continue to develop and maintain our garden areas.

We hope to continue to track in a positive financial direction in order that the pre-school can continue to thrive.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 14 April 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mrs Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)
Director

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land

Year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Laughter Land ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S O'Neill & Company
Independent Examiner

14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

14 April 2025

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

		2024	2023		
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	–	52,997	52,997	50,743
Charitable activities	6	8,696	–	8,696	43,677
Other trading activities	7	3,876	–	3,876	12,310
Other income	8	6,224	–	6,224	–
Total income		<u>18,796</u>	<u>52,997</u>	<u>71,793</u>	<u>106,730</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,10	15,728	53,003	68,731	106,130
Total expenditure		<u>15,728</u>	<u>53,003</u>	<u>68,731</u>	<u>106,130</u>
Net income		<u>3,068</u>	<u>(6)</u>	<u>3,062</u>	<u>600</u>
Transfers between funds		82	(82)	–	–
Net movement in funds		<u>3,150</u>	<u>(88)</u>	<u>3,062</u>	<u>600</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		14,558	88	14,646	14,046
Total funds carried forward		<u>17,708</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>17,708</u>	<u>14,646</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	17	1,431	1,570
Current assets			
Debtors	18	5,827	879
Cash at bank and in hand		19,486	18,873
		<u>25,313</u>	<u>19,752</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>9,036</u>	<u>6,676</u>
Net current assets		<u>16,277</u>	<u>13,076</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>17,708</u>	<u>14,646</u>
Net assets		<u>17,708</u>	<u>14,646</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		–	88
Unrestricted funds		<u>17,708</u>	<u>14,558</u>
Total charity funds	22	<u>17,708</u>	<u>14,648</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.


Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 14 April 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Mrs Roisin Higgins
Director

Ms Amy Diamond
Director


The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income	3,062	600
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	339	426
Government grant income	(48,726)	(43,991)
Interest payable and similar charges	247	754
Accrued expenses/(income)	1,908	(2,527)
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(4,948)	1,315
Trade and other creditors	452	24
Cash generated from operations	(47,664)	(43,399)
Interest paid	(247)	(754)
Net cash used in operating activities	(47,911)	(44,153)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(200)	–
Net cash used in investing activities	(200)	–
Cash flows from financing activities		
Government grant income	48,726	43,991
Net cash from financing activities	48,726	43,991
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	613	(162)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	18,873	19,035
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	19,486	18,873

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is The Unit, Black Park Road, Toomebridge, Co Antrim, BT41 3SL.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue. Additional grant funding has been received during the 2025 financial year.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	33% straight line

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the charity will comply with the conditions attaching to them and the grants will be received.

Where the grant does not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received or receivable. Where the grant does impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income only when the performance-related conditions have been met. Where grants received are prior to satisfying the revenue recognition criteria, they are recognised as a liability.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Laughter Land is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

5. Donations and legacies

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants				
Education Authority - Engage III	–	–	5,616	5,616
Education Authority - SEB payment	–	–	436	436
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	575	575	700	700
Education Authority - Early Years Classroom Assistant	3,096	3,096	–	–
Childcare Partnership Regional Small Grant	600	600	–	–
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	48,726	48,726	43,991	43,991
	<u>52,997</u>	<u>52,997</u>	<u>50,743</u>	<u>50,743</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Day-care fee income	8,696	8,696	20,519	20,519
Afterschools and Summer Scheme fee income	–	–	23,158	23,158
	<u>8,696</u>	<u>8,696</u>	<u>43,677</u>	<u>43,677</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
School Trip	114	–	114
Fundraising activities	3,762	–	3,762
Bus Money Received	–	–	–
	<u>3,876</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>3,876</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
School Trip	–	–	–
Fundraising activities	6,434	–	6,434
Bus Money Received	–	5,876	5,876
	<u>6,434</u>	<u>5,876</u>	<u>12,310</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Statutory Maternity Pay & Compensation	6,224	6,224	—	—

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Playgroup	10,359	53,003	63,362
Support costs	5,369	—	5,369
	<u>15,728</u>	<u>53,003</u>	<u>68,731</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Playgroup and Afterschool Club	49,465	49,216	98,681
Support costs	7,449	—	7,449
	<u>56,914</u>	<u>49,216</u>	<u>106,130</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Playgroup and Afterschool Club	63,362	—	63,362	99,349
Governance costs	—	5,369	5,369	6,781
	<u>63,362</u>	<u>5,369</u>	<u>68,731</u>	<u>106,130</u>

11. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Communications and IT	—	242
Finance costs	—	426
Governance costs	5,369	6,781
	<u>5,369</u>	<u>7,449</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

12. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	339	426

13. Independent examination fees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	2,992	3,600

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	50,535	75,587
Employer contributions to pension plans	707	816
	<u>51,242</u>	<u>76,403</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 5 (2023: 6). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Group Leader	1	1
Childcare staff	4	5
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

16. Transfers between funds

The following grants were received for restricted purposes and have been utilised against specific costs of the project undertaken by the charity.

However, there are a number of these grants that were to offset the running costs of the Charity.

As a result, these funds have been transferred to Unrestricted Funds from Restricted Funds to offset the running costs.

	2024
	£
Education Authority – Getting Ready to Learn	48
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	34
Total to be transferred between funds	<u>82</u>

17. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	7,912	1,243	9,155
Additions	200	–	200
At 31 March 2024	<u>8,112</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>9,355</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	6,783	802	7,585
Charge for the year	239	100	339
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,022</u>	<u>902</u>	<u>7,924</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,090</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>1,431</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,129</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>1,570</u>

18. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	60	250
Prepayments and accrued income	960	629
Other debtors	4,807	–
	<u>5,827</u>	<u>879</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Payments received on account	239	–
Trade creditors	–	298
Accruals and deferred income	7,836	5,928
Social security and other taxes	961	450
	<u>9,036</u>	<u>6,676</u>

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £707 (2023: £816).

21. Government grants

The amounts recognised in the financial statements for government grants are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Recognised in income from donations and legacies:		
Government grants income	<u>52,997</u>	<u>50,743</u>

22. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At				At
	1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>14,558</u>	<u>18,796</u>	<u>(15,728)</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>17,708</u>

	At				At
	1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>14,046</u>	<u>50,111</u>	<u>(56,914)</u>	<u>7,315</u>	<u>14,558</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

22. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Fund 1 – Playgroup	<u>88</u>	<u>52,997</u>	<u>(53,003)</u>	<u>(82)</u>	<u>–</u>

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted Fund 1 - Playgroup	<u>–</u>	<u>56,619</u>	<u>(49,216)</u>	<u>(7,315)</u>	<u>88</u>

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,431	–	1,431
Current assets	25,313	–	25,313
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(9,036)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(9,036)</u>
Net assets	<u>17,708</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>17,708</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,570	–	1,570
Current assets	19,664	88	19,752
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(6,676)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(6,676)</u>
Net assets	<u>14,558</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>14,646</u>

24. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 Mar 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>18,873</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>19,486</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 March 2024

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Education Authority - Engage III	–	5,616
Education Authority - SEB payment	–	436
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	575	700
Education Authority - Early Years Classroom Assistant	3,096	–
Childcare Partnership Regional Small Grant	600	–
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	48,726	43,991
	<u>52,997</u>	<u>50,743</u>
Charitable activities		
Day-care fee income	8,696	20,519
Afterschools and Summer Scheme fee income	–	23,158
	<u>8,696</u>	<u>43,677</u>
Other trading activities		
School Trip	114	–
Fundraising activities	3,762	6,434
Bus Money Received	–	5,876
	<u>3,876</u>	<u>12,310</u>
Other income		
Statutory Maternity Pay & Compensation	6,224	–
	<u>6,224</u>	<u>–</u>
Total income	<u><u>71,793</u></u>	<u><u>106,730</u></u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Food Purchases	801	3,077
Wages - Playschool	50,535	42,287
Pension costs	707	816
Wages – Afterschool club	–	33,300
Rent	767	1,200
Light and heat	1,265	1,908
Property maintenance	801	1,181
Insurance	914	840
Cleaning and hygiene costs	139	270
Travel expenses	–	93
Transport and trips	279	6,495
Accountancy	2,992	3,600
Other professional costs	2,130	2,415
Professional fees	1,713	1,413
Telephone	957	753
Other office costs	140	252
Depreciation	339	426
Other interest payable and similar charges	247	754
Play and learning resources	2,415	1,600
Staff training	1,140	2,195
General expenses	200	671
Disco expenses	250	584
	<u>68,731</u>	<u>106,130</u>
Total expenditure	<u>68,731</u>	<u>106,130</u>
Net income	<u>3,062</u>	<u>600</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Playgroup and Afterschools Club		
Activities undertaken directly		
Food	801	3,077
Wages – Playschool	50,535	42,287
Pension Costs	707	816
Wages – Afterschools	–	33,300
Rent	767	1,200
Light and heat	1,265	1,908
Property maintenance	801	1,181
Insurance	914	840
Cleaning and hygiene costs	139	270
Travel expenses	–	93
Transport and trips	279	6,495
Professional fees	1,713	1,413
Telephone	957	511
Other office costs	140	252
Depreciation	339	–
Play and Learning Resources	2,415	1,600
Staff training	1,140	2,195
General expenses	200	659
Disco expenses	250	584
	<u>63,362</u>	<u>98,681</u>
Support costs		
Telephone	–	242
Depreciation	–	426
	<u>–</u>	<u>668</u>
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	2,992	3,600
Other professional fees	2,130	2,415
Bank charges	247	754
PAYE interest	–	12
	<u>5,369</u>	<u>6,781</u>
	<u>68,731</u>	<u>106,130</u>

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Annual report

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Laughter Land
Charity registration number	NIC104520
Company registration number	NI054445
Principal office and registered office	The Unit Black Park Road Toomebridge Co Antrim BT41 3SL

The trustees

Ms Shania Marie McNally	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Amy Diamond	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Niamh Neeson	(Appointed 22 January 2025)
Ms Maria McCloskey	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Ms Amy-Beth Gervin	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Ms Roisin Higgins	
Mrs Aisling Murphy	(Resigned 22 January 2025)
Mrs Orla Diamond	(Resigned 22 January 2025)
Mrs Victoria Young	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Mrs Emma Nugent	(Resigned 1 April 2023)
Miss Aisling Diamond	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Mrs Jessica McGeehan	(Resigned 24 October 2023)
Mrs Fiona McCann	(Resigned 22 January 2025)

Independent examiner	S O'Neill & Company 14 Main Street Toomebridge Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT41 3TQ
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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

Laughter Land was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 24 March 2005.

Laughter Land's charity registration under The Charity Commission for NI was approved on 11 March 2016.

The charitable company is governed by the Board of Directors, and directors are required to attend at each AGM. There is a minimum of five directors on every Board. One third of the directors shall retire from office at the AGM. The directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but between persons who became Directors on the same day as those to retire shall be determined by lot. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

Directors may meet together for dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate meetings as they think fit and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the directors may be fixed by directors and unless so fixed at any other number shall be five directors.

New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, key internal controls and procedures regarding funding applications, child registers, cash collection, review of wages and staffing, cheque signatories and recent performance of the Trust. They are free to discuss any issue with other directors. There is no remuneration paid to any of the Directors by the Trust in relation to this role.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Directors have reviewed the key risks facing the charity and have established procedures to manage those risks.

Mrs Geraldine McCoy is appointed to supervise the day to day operations of the Company.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Company is to enhance the development and education of children aged 3-11 in Toomebridge and its environs without distinction of gender, disability, ethnic identity, nationality, religion or political affiliation by:

- providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children aged from 3-11;
- advancing the education and training of persons involved in the provision of such care; and
- encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of the needs of such children and their families in the area of benefit.

The focus of our work

The main focus of our work continued to be the provision of pre-school to children in the local community.

How our activities deliver public benefit is to enable parents of pre-school children to access affordable, safe and secure childcare which provides high quality care and education and contributes to the development and well-being of children in the local community;

Those who use and benefited from our services

	2024	2023
Pre-school funded	26	20
Pre-school non-funded	14	14

The charitable company is registered and inspected by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and are required to follow and implement the Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance

As can be seen from the numbers above, the number of children attending Laughter Land has increased during the year. At the same time, management have maintained their DENI funding allocation of 26 children and DENI have made a provisional allocation of 26 funded places for 2024/25.

Staff have completed all relevant training to help the Company to continue to support the children throughout the year. Recent changes in staff has seen the departure of Ms Naomi McFall who has provided many years of support and help to children in the community, all staff and the committee wish Mr McFall all the best in her future endeavours. We have been delighted to welcome Emma Nugent into the Laughter Land team as an invaluable help and support to our pre-school children. We are very pleased to welcome new volunteer member Ms Ciara Martin which helps support the pre-school in its day to day operations and will be a great benefit for staff to support of cover as needed.

Financial review

The surplus for the year was £3,062 (surplus 2023: £600) which has increased (2023: increased) the total fund balance carried forward to £17,708 (2023: £14,646). The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is detailed on page 8.

Reserves policy

The management committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks of the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 2 and 3 months of expenditure. Expenditure for 2023-24 was £68,731 (2022-23 £106,130) therefore the target is £11,455 to £17,182 (2022-23 £17,688 to £26,532) in general funds. At the year end the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets are not within the target amount range. The management committee are aware of this and have received a number of grants in the 2025 financial year from different granting bodies.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

Plans for future periods

The Charity planned to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years, subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

The pre-school is in need for maintenance and repair and to this end the board of directors and staff are working hard to promote fundraising and seek additional funding to support, repairs to flooring, increase outdoor covered play area as well as continue to develop and maintain our garden areas.

We hope to continue to track in a positive financial direction in order that the pre-school can continue to thrive.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 14 April 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



Mrs Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)
Director

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Annual return

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land

Year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Laughter Land ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2024

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



S O'Neill & Company
Independent Examiner

14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

14 April 2025

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Accounts

Laughter Land
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 March 2023

S O'NEILL & COMPANY

Chartered accountants
14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Laughter Land
Charity registration number	NIC104520
Company registration number	NI054445
Principal office and registered office	The Unit Black Park Road Toomebridge Co Antrim BT41 3SL

The trustees

Mrs Anna Marie McFerran	
Mrs Natasha McCullough	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Ms Maria McCloskey (Vice-Chairperson)	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Ms Amy-Beth Gervin (Secretary)	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Ms Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)	
Ms Fiona Gilmore	
Ms Monica Keenan	
Mrs Aisling Murphy	(Appointed 25/10/2022)
Mrs Orla Diamond (Treasurer)	(Appointed 25/10/2022)
Mrs Victoria Young	(25/10/2022 to 24/10/2023)
Mrs Emma Nugent	(25/10/2022 to 01/04/2023)
Miss Aisling Diamond	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Mrs Jessica McGeehan	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Mrs Fiona O'Kane	(Appointed 24/10/2023)
Miss Justine Quinn	(Appointed 29/01/2024)

Independent examiner	S O'Neill & Company 14 Main Street Toomebridge Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT41 3TQ
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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

Laughter Land was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 24 March 2005.

Laughter Land's charity registration under The Charity Commission for NI was approved on 11 March 2016.

The charitable company is governed by the Board of Directors, and directors are required to attend at each AGM. There is a minimum of five directors on every Board. One third of the directors shall retire from office at the AGM. The directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but between persons who became Directors on the same day as those to retire shall be determined by lot. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

Directors may meet together for dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate meetings as they think fit and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the directors may be fixed by directors and unless so fixed at any other number shall be five directors.

New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, key internal controls and procedures regarding funding applications, child registers, cash collection, review of wages and staffing, cheque signatories and recent performance of the Trust. They are free to discuss any issue with other directors.

Mrs Geraldine McCoy is appointed to supervise the day to day operations of the Company. There is no remuneration paid to any of the directors by the Trust in relation to this role.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Directors have reviewed the key risks facing the charity and have established procedures to manage those risks.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Company is to enhance the development and education of children aged 3-11 in Toomebridge and its environs without distinction of gender, disability, ethnic identity, nationality, religion or political affiliation by:

- providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children aged from 3-11;
- advancing the education and training of persons involved in the provision of such care; and
- encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of the needs of such children and their families in the area of benefit.

The focus of our work

The main focus of our work continued to be the provision of pre-school and after school childcare to children in the local community.

How our activities deliver public benefit is to:

1. enable parents of pre-school children to access affordable, safe and secure childcare which provides high quality care and education and contributes to the development and well-being of children in the local community;
2. provide an after-school service to support working parents and provide an affordable, safe and secure environment after-school.

Those who use and benefited from our services

	2023	2022
Pre-school funded	20	26
Pre-school non-funded	14	14
After-school	–	60

The charitable company is registered and inspected by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and are required to follow and implement the Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education. Early years inspectors last follow up inspection was January 2020 where it was concluded that the quality of education provided by the playgroup was very good.

In addition to our staff we also have an assigned social worker, Grainne O'Kane, who keeps us up to date on childcare issues.

We also employ the services of Ann Dixon an Independent Early Years Advisor who visits us up to 5 times per year providing staff training, advice on the curriculum, networking and help with other playgroup matters.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

Management have DENI funding allocation of 20 children and DENI have made a provisional allocation of 26 funded places for 2023/24.

Fundraising for the year 2022/23 included a Sponsored walk which helped to fund our playgroup annual school trip as well as cover essential costs including training. The children benefited from a sports day event which had funding from the Jubilee payment. Other fund raising during the year included a Halloween disco, a Saint Patrick's Day disco, a table quiz and a bake sale.

All staff have updated safeguarding training. The centre manager, Pat Downey, has worked towards retirement this year making way for the promotion and development of our forthcoming manager, Geraldine McCoy. We wish Pat all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of service to the organisation. We wish Geraldine all the best in her new role. We thank our local community for their continued help in support. We hope to further develop special educational needs areas for our children in the forthcoming year, together with making improvements to our outdoor area.

Financial review

The surplus for the year was £600 (deficit 2022: £9,786) which has increased(2022: decreased) the total fund balance carried forward to £14,646 (2022: £14,046). The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is detailed on page 8.

Reserves policy

The management committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks of the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 2 and 3 months of expenditure. Expenditure for 2022-23 was £106,130 (2021-22 £115,404) therefore the target is £17,688 to £26,532 (2021-22 £19,234 to £28,851) in general funds. At the year end the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets are not within the target amount range. The management committee are aware of this and have received a number of grants in the 2024 financial year from different granting bodies.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Plans for future periods

The Charity planned to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years, subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

At present the Management Committee are seeking a new site within the area to accommodate Laughter Land. In relation to this, it is hoped that this may be facilitated to the grounds of Anahorish Primary School with a submission being made to the Education Board for pre-approval. We are still awaiting a response from them regarding this. Other options are being considered.

We have also been fortunate in recruiting a vast number of new committee members this year with a large variety of skills. With the implementation of new social media platforms and fundraising plans to name but a few, the changes that are due to be implemented this forthcoming year, we are very enthusiastic for the future of Laughter Land.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 28 March 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mrs Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)
Director

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land

Year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Laughter Land ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S O'Neill & Company
Independent Examiner

14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

28 March 2024

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted funds	2023 Restricted funds	Total funds	2022 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	–	50,743	50,743	59,656
Charitable activities	6	43,677	–	43,677	40,791
Other trading activities	7	6,434	5,876	12,310	5,171
Total income		<u>50,111</u>	<u>56,619</u>	<u>106,730</u>	<u>105,618</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	8,9	<u>56,914</u>	<u>49,216</u>	<u>106,130</u>	<u>115,404</u>
Total expenditure		<u>56,914</u>	<u>49,216</u>	<u>106,130</u>	<u>115,404</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>(6,803)</u>	<u>7,403</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>(9,786)</u>
Transfers between funds		7,315	(7,315)	–	–
Net movement in funds		<u>512</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>(9,786)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>14,046</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>14,046</u>	<u>23,832</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>14,558</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>14,646</u>	<u>14,046</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	16	1,570	1,996
Current assets			
Debtors	17	879	2,196
Cash at bank and in hand		18,873	19,033
		<u>19,752</u>	<u>21,229</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>6,676</u>	<u>9,179</u>
Net current assets		<u>13,076</u>	<u>12,050</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>14,646</u>	<u>14,046</u>
Net assets		<u>14,646</u>	<u>14,046</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		88	–
Unrestricted funds		<u>14,558</u>	<u>14,046</u>
Total charity funds	21	<u>14,646</u>	<u>14,046</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 28 March 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs Roisin Higgins
Director

Mrs Orla Diamond
Director

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income/(expenditure)	600	(9,786)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	426	562
Government grant income	(43,991)	(51,066)
Interest payable and similar charges	754	729
Accrued (income)/expenses	(2,527)	3,023
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	1,315	(1,209)
Trade and other creditors	24	(3,598)
Cash generated from operations	(43,399)	(61,345)
Interest paid	(754)	(726)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(44,153)</u>	<u>(62,071)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	—	(186)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>—</u>	<u>(186)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Government grant income	43,991	51,066
Net cash from financing activities	<u>43,991</u>	<u>51,066</u>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(162)	(11,191)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	19,035	30,226
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>18,873</u>	<u>19,035</u>

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland and a registered charity in Northern Ireland. The address of the registered office is The Unit, Black Park Road, Toomebridge, Co Antrim, BT41 3SL.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue. Additional grant funding has been received during the 2024 financial year.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	-	20% straight line
Equipment	-	33% straight line

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the charity will comply with the conditions attaching to them and the grants will be received.

Where the grant does not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income when the grant proceeds are received or receivable. Where the grant does impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient, it is recognised in income only when the performance-related conditions have been met. Where grants received are prior to satisfying the revenue recognition criteria, they are recognised as a liability.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Laughter Land is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants			
Education Authority - Engage III	–	5,616	5,616
Childcare Partnership Regional Small Grants	–	–	–
Education Authority - Outdoor Learning Project	–	–	–
Education Authority - SEB payment	–	436	436
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	–	700	700
HMRC Furlough Scheme	–	–	–
Early Years	–	–	–
HMRC Coronavirus Sick Pay Scheme	–	–	–
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	–	43,991	43,991
	–	<u>50,743</u>	<u>50,743</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Grants			
Education Authority - Engage III	–	–	–
Childcare Partnership Regional Small Grants	–	1,420	1,420
Education Authority - Outdoor Learning Project	–	1,000	1,000
Education Authority - SEB payment	–	–	–
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	–	800	800
HMRC Furlough Scheme	231	–	231
Early Years	4,368	–	4,368
HMRC Coronavirus Sick Pay Scheme	771	–	771
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	–	51,066	51,066
	<u>5,370</u>	<u>54,286</u>	<u>59,656</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Day-care fee income	20,519	20,519	9,230	9,230
Afterschools and Summer Scheme fee income	<u>23,158</u>	<u>23,158</u>	<u>31,561</u>	<u>31,561</u>
	<u>43,677</u>	<u>43,677</u>	<u>40,791</u>	<u>40,791</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising activities	6,434	–	6,434
Bus Money Received	–	5,876	5,876
	<u>6,434</u>	<u>5,876</u>	<u>12,310</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising activities	–	–	–
Bus Money Received	–	5,171	5,171
	<u>–</u>	<u>5,171</u>	<u>5,171</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Playgroup and Afterschool Club	49,465	49,216	98,681
Support costs	7,449	–	7,449
	<u>56,914</u>	<u>49,216</u>	<u>106,130</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Playgroup and Afterschool Club	61,160	46,491	107,651
Support costs	7,753	–	7,753
	<u>68,913</u>	<u>46,491</u>	<u>115,404</u>

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2023 £	Total fund 2022 £
Playgroup and Afterschool Club	98,681	668	99,349	109,146
Governance costs	–	6,781	6,781	6,258
	<u>98,681</u>	<u>7,449</u>	<u>106,130</u>	<u>115,404</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

10. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Staff costs	–	400
Communications and IT	242	321
General office	–	214
Finance costs	426	561
Governance costs	6,781	6,257
	<u>7,449</u>	<u>7,753</u>

11. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>426</u>	<u>562</u>

12. Independent examination fees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>3,600</u>	<u>3,500</u>

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	75,587	80,061
Employer contributions to pension plans	816	1,020
	<u>76,403</u>	<u>81,081</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2022: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Group Leader	1	1
Childcare staff	5	7
	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

15. Transfers between funds

The following grants were received for restricted purposes and have been utilised against specific costs of the project undertaken by the charity.

However, there are a number of these grants that were to offset the running costs of the Charity.

As a result, these funds have been transferred to Unrestricted Funds from Restricted Funds to offset the running costs.

	2023 £
Education Authority – Engage III	2,330
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	4,985
Total to be transferred between funds	<u>7,315</u>

16. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	<u>7,912</u>	<u>1,243</u>	<u>9,155</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	6,501	658	7,159
Charge for the year	282	144	426
At 31 March 2023	<u>6,783</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>7,585</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,129</u>	<u>441</u>	<u>1,570</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,411</u>	<u>585</u>	<u>1,996</u>

17. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	250	1,571
Prepayments and accrued income	629	625
	<u>879</u>	<u>2,196</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	298	373
Accruals and deferred income	5,928	8,455
Social security and other taxes	450	351
	<u>6,676</u>	<u>9,179</u>

19. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £816 (2022: £1,020).

20. Government grants

The amounts recognised in the financial statements for government grants are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Recognised in income from donations and legacies:		
Government grants income	<u>50,743</u>	<u>59,656</u>

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>14,046</u>	<u>50,111</u>	<u>(56,914)</u>	<u>7,315</u>	<u>14,558</u>

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	<u>23,517</u>	<u>46,161</u>	<u>(68,913)</u>	<u>13,281</u>	<u>14,046</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted Fund 1 – Playgroup	<u>–</u>	<u>56,619</u>	<u>(49,216)</u>	<u>(7,315)</u>	<u>88</u>

	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted Fund 1 - Playgroup	<u>315</u>	<u>59,457</u>	<u>(46,491)</u>	<u>(13,281)</u>	<u>–</u>

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,570	–	1,570
Current assets	19,664	88	19,752
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(6,676)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(6,676)</u>
Net assets	<u>14,558</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>14,646</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,996	–	1,996
Current assets	21,229	–	21,229
Creditors less than 1 year	<u>(9,179)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(9,179)</u>
Net assets	<u>14,046</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>14,046</u>

23. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Apr 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 Mar 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>19,035</u>	<u>(162)</u>	<u>18,873</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 March 2023

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Education Authority - Engage III	5,616	–
Childcare Partnership Regional Small Grants	–	1,420
Education Authority - Outdoor Learning Project	–	1,000
Education Authority - SEB payment	436	–
Education Authority - Getting Ready to Learn	700	800
HMRC Furlough Scheme	–	231
Early Years	–	4,368
HMRC Coronavirus Sick Pay Scheme	–	771
Education Authority - Pre-School Funded Places	43,991	51,066
	<u>50,743</u>	<u>59,656</u>
Charitable activities		
Day-care fee income	20,519	9,230
Afterschools and Summer Scheme fee income	23,158	31,561
	<u>43,677</u>	<u>40,791</u>
Other trading activities		
Fundraising activities	6,434	–
Bus Money Received	5,876	5,171
	<u>12,310</u>	<u>5,171</u>
Total income	<u>106,730</u>	<u>105,618</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Food Purchases	3,077	3,998
Wages - Playschool	42,287	38,397
Pension costs	816	1,020
Wages – Afterschool Club	33,300	41,664
Rent	1,200	1,200
Light and heat	1,908	2,509
Property maintenance	1,181	2,821
Insurance	840	772
Cleaning and hygiene costs	270	379
Travel expenses	93	–
Transport and Trips	6,495	5,171
Accountancy	3,600	3,500
Other professional fees	2,415	2,019
Professional fees	1,413	1,797
Telephone	753	530
Other office costs	252	365
Depreciation	426	561
Other interest payable and similar charges	754	739
Play and learning resources	1,600	7,542
Staff training	2,195	400
General expenses	671	20
Saint Patrick's Day Disco expenses	584	–
	<u>106,130</u>	<u>115,404</u>
Total expenditure	<u>106,130</u>	<u>115,404</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>600</u>	<u>(9,786)</u>

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Playgroup and Afterschools Club		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Food	3,077	3,998
Wages – Playschool	42,287	38,397
Pension Costs	816	1,020
Wages - Afterschools	33,300	41,664
Rent	1,200	1,200
Light and heat	1,908	2,509
Property maintenance	1,181	2,821
Insurance	840	772
Cleaning and hygiene costs	270	379
Travel expenses	93	–
Transport and trips	6,495	5,171
Professional fees	1,413	1,797
Telephone	511	210
Other office costs	252	151
Play and Learning Resources	1,600	7,542
Staff training	2,195	–
General expenses	659	20
Saint Patrick's Day Disco expenses	584	–
	<u>98,681</u>	<u>107,651</u>
<i>Support costs</i>		
Telephone	242	320
Office costs	–	214
Depreciation	426	561
Staff training	–	400
	<u>668</u>	<u>1,495</u>
<i>Governance costs</i>		
Accountancy fees	3,600	3,500
Other professional fees	2,415	2,019
Bank charges	754	729
PAYE interest	12	10
	<u>6,781</u>	<u>6,258</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u><u>106,130</u></u>	<u><u>115,404</u></u>

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Annual report

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Laughter Land
Charity registration number	NIC104520
Company registration number	NI054445
Principal office and registered office	The Unit Black Park Road Toomebridge Co Antrim BT41 3SL

The trustees

Mrs Anna Marie McFerran	
Mrs Natasha McCullough	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Ms Maria McCloskey (Vice-Chairperson)	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Ms Amy-Beth Gervin (Secretary)	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Ms Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)	
Ms Fiona Gilmore	
Ms Monica Keenan	
Mrs Aisling Murphy	(Appointed 25/10/2022)
Mrs Orla Diamond (Treasurer)	(Appointed 25/10/2022)
Mrs Victoria Young	(25/10/2022 to 24/10/2023)
Mrs Emma Nugent	(25/10/2022 to 01/04/2023)
Miss Aisling Diamond	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Mrs Jessica McGeehan	(Resigned 24/10/2023)
Mrs Fiona O'Kane	(Appointed 24/10/2023)
Miss Justine Quinn	(Appointed 29/01/2024)

Independent examiner	S O'Neill & Company 14 Main Street Toomebridge Co. Antrim Northern Ireland BT41 3TQ
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Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

Organisational Structure

Laughter Land was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the Company and is governed under its Articles of Association. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee and was incorporated on 24 March 2005.

Laughter Land's charity registration under The Charity Commission for NI was approved on 11 March 2016.

The charitable company is governed by the Board of Directors, and directors are required to attend at each AGM. There is a minimum of five directors on every Board. One third of the directors shall retire from office at the AGM. The directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but between persons who became Directors on the same day as those to retire shall be determined by lot. A retiring Director shall be eligible for re-election.

Directors may meet together for dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate meetings as they think fit and questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the directors may be fixed by directors and unless so fixed at any other number shall be five directors.

New directors are briefed on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision making process, key internal controls and procedures regarding funding applications, child registers, cash collection, review of wages and staffing, cheque signatories and recent performance of the Trust. They are free to discuss any issue with other directors.

Mrs Geraldine McCoy is appointed to supervise the day to day operations of the Company. There is no remuneration paid to any of the directors by the Trust in relation to this role.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Directors have reviewed the key risks facing the charity and have established procedures to manage those risks.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the Company is to enhance the development and education of children aged 3-11 in Toomebridge and its environs without distinction of gender, disability, ethnic identity, nationality, religion or political affiliation by:

- providing the necessary facilities for the daily care, recreation and education of children aged from 3-11;
- advancing the education and training of persons involved in the provision of such care; and
- encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of the needs of such children and their families in the area of benefit.

The focus of our work

The main focus of our work continued to be the provision of pre-school and after school childcare to children in the local community.

How our activities deliver public benefit is to:

1. enable parents of pre-school children to access affordable, safe and secure childcare which provides high quality care and education and contributes to the development and well-being of children in the local community;
2. provide an after-school service to support working parents and provide an affordable, safe and secure environment after-school.

Those who use and benefited from our services

	2023	2022
Pre-school funded	20	26
Pre-school non-funded	14	14
After-school	–	60

The charitable company is registered and inspected by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and are required to follow and implement the Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education. Early years inspectors last follow up inspection was January 2020 where it was concluded that the quality of education provided by the playgroup was very good.

In addition to our staff we also have an assigned social worker, Grainne O'Kane, who keeps us up to date on childcare issues.

We also employ the services of Ann Dixon an Independent Early Years Advisor who visits us up to 5 times per year providing staff training, advice on the curriculum, networking and help with other playgroup matters.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance

Management have DENI funding allocation of 20 children and DENI have made a provisional allocation of 26 funded places for 2023/24.

Fundraising for the year 2022/23 included a Sponsored walk which helped to fund our playgroup annual school trip as well as cover essential costs including training. The children benefited from a sports day event which had funding from the Jubilee payment. Other fund raising during the year included a Halloween disco, a Saint Patrick's Day disco, a table quiz and a bake sale.

All staff have updated safeguarding training. The centre manager, Pat Downey, has worked towards retirement this year making way for the promotion and development of our forthcoming manager, Geraldine McCoy. We wish Pat all the best in her retirement and thank her for her years of service to the organisation. We wish Geraldine all the best in her new role. We thank our local community for their continued help in support. We hope to further develop special educational needs areas for our children in the forthcoming year, together with making improvements to our outdoor area.

Financial review

The surplus for the year was £600 (deficit 2022: £9,786) which has increased(2022: decreased) the total fund balance carried forward to £14,646 (2022: £14,046). The Statement of Financial Activities for the year is detailed on page 8.

Reserves policy

The management committee has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks of the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 2 and 3 months of expenditure. Expenditure for 2022-23 was £106,130 (2021-22 £115,404) therefore the target is £17,688 to £26,532 (2021-22 £19,234 to £28,851) in general funds. At the year end the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets are not within the target amount range. The management committee are aware of this and have received a number of grants in the 2024 financial year from different granting bodies.

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

Plans for future periods

The Charity planned to continue the activities outlined above in the forthcoming years, subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

At present the Management Committee are seeking a new site within the area to accommodate Laughter Land. In relation to this, it is hoped that this may be facilitated to the grounds of Anahorish Primary School with a submission being made to the Education Board for pre-approval. We are still awaiting a response from them regarding this. Other options are being considered.

We have also been fortunate in recruiting a vast number of new committee members this year with a large variety of skills. With the implementation of new social media platforms and fundraising plans to name but a few, the changes that are due to be implemented this forthcoming year, we are very enthusiastic for the future of Laughter Land.

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 28 March 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mrs Roisin Higgins (Chairperson)
Director

Laughter Land

Northern Ireland - Charity number 104520

Annual return

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land

Year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Laughter Land ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the '2008 Act') and the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the company are not required by charity or company law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 65 of the 2008 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the 2008 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Laughter Land

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Laughter Land *(continued)*

Year ended 31 March 2023

I confirm that there are no other matters to which your attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

S O'Neill & Company
Independent Examiner

14 Main Street
Toomebridge
Co. Antrim
Northern Ireland
BT41 3TQ

28 March 2024