

## **Trustees report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

### **Purpose of the Pre-school**

St Oliver Plunkett Preschool delivers the Northern Ireland Preschool curriculum, through planned, play based activities encompassing the six key areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Language Development
- The Arts (creative, aesthetic development)
- Early Mathematical Development
- The World Around Us

The preschool provides a safe and secure environment and offers opportunities for all children in Lenadoon and surrounding areas, regardless of race, religion, gender or disability. The Preschool aims to provide a high quality preschool experience for every child, to enable them to reach their full potential in a place of security and warmth.

We are registered with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and inspected annually by BHSCCT to ensure we provide a quality service and maintain high standards.

### **Charity Trustees**

St Oliver Plunkett Preschool is a voluntary organisation managed by a group of volunteers consisting of members of the local community and parents (past and present) who meet to discuss issues concerning the group.

The Charity Trustees are;

- Lorraine Doherty – Chairperson
- Winnifred Dougherty – Secretary
- Roisin Connolly – Treasurer
- Fr Aidan Brankin
- Kieran McCormick
- Janine Donnelly

### **Staffing**

We have three members of staff supporting 24 children.

The staff have developed a caring, nurturing atmosphere in the preschool, they are committed and professional in all aspects of their job and this is evident in the progression we see in the children's learning and development.

Parents have expressed their satisfaction that their children are experiencing a happy, fulfilling start to their education and are well prepared to move to the next stage in their education.

## **Children**

In the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, 24 children attended with three members of staff. All 24 children were eligible to receive a preschool place funded by the Preschool Education Programme (PSEP).

## **Fundraising**

The preschool held a number of successful fundraising events throughout the year and were very well supported by the parents and local community.

## **Recent work and future plans**

All the children attending the preschool are provided with a variety of learning opportunities designed to meet the children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs at their particular stage of development. In order to do this we provide a wide variety of progressive play situations in a stimulating and challenging environment. The play situations and experiences are carefully planned and evaluated by the staff on a regular basis.

Future plans include facilitating and providing a range of events, outings and visitors to the group to enhance and support the children's learning on a range of topics.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The preschool is established to promote play based learning environments for all children in their preschool year in Lenadoon and surrounding areas without distinction of race, religion, gender or disability by associating with statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and in particular;

- a) to advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, with the right of parents/ carers to take responsible for and to become involved in the activities of the group; and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries.**

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include the educational and developmental progression of Pre-school children in all six areas of learning. The programme of learning and the experiences they have in preschool aims to prepare children for life by helping to make children strong, capable and independent in their communities more by building their resilience thus enabling them to cope with adversity and disappointment, primarily aiming to prepare them for life.

These benefits can be demonstrated by feedback received from EYS, parents, children, staff, the primary schools our children move on to, our inspection reports from BHSCT and ETI, all of which contribute to our successful reputation in the community.

The beneficiaries are children in their immediate pre-school year in the local community.

There is no harm flowing from this purpose.

There is no private benefit flowing from this purpose.

**b) To support the values and principles of Early Years.**

The direct benefits which flow from this purpose include staff access to relevant training opportunities through cluster meetings, staff development days and conference attendance. This training enables staff to enrich or develop skills to assist them in their role which enables both staff and children to become strong, competent, visible in their community, respectful of difference and eager and able to learn.

These benefits can be demonstrated by the staff's ability to implement their learning in everyday practice, improved outcomes for the children's learning, social integration, language and communication skills and the emotional well-being of the children as well as the positive feedback from the Early Years Specialist, parents, staff, children and positive BHSC and ETI inspection reports.

The beneficiaries are children aged three and four years old in the local community

There is no harm flowing from this purpose.

There is no private benefit flowing from this purpose.

**AGM Date: 30/11/22**

Signed:  Chairperson

Date: 21/6/24