

Glenarm Community Preschool

Orange Hall, Mark Street, Glenarm, Ballymena, Co Antrim, BT44 0AU

Charity number: 106752

Trustees annual report for period 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Glenarm Community Preschool is established to provide play based learning environments for children aged 2 years and 10 months to statutory school age from the Glenarm and wider community, without distinction of age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education. Particular a) to advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe satisfying group play with the right of parent/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries; and b) to encourage parents, carers and staff to avail of training, to gain a wider knowledge of the developmental, social needs and behaviours of children so that they can tailor their care and educational programme according to the unique needs of every child.

The direct benefits which flow from the welcoming and safe environment provided by the preschool include preparation of each child for primary education through the development of their social skills, communication with other children and adults, problem solving and learning the key skills needed for primary education. During the year both indoor and outdoor activities were provided through which the children can learn through play. Parents and carers were also welcomed and provided with opportunities to learn about their children's education and new skills with regard to furthering their educational and social needs, both in and out of the preschool setting. We continued to provide blended learning opportunities for children during Covid closures and periods of illness for individual children.

The trustees are confident that these aims and objectives have been met throughout the course of the year by our experienced leader Lynn and her great team Michelle, Catherine and Ruth. The staffing team completed various training courses throughout the year to maintain and improve the level of teaching and care we can offer the beneficiaries of the charity. These include

updating the Food and Hygiene qualifications of staff preparing food. This year the staff team chose to focus their training on upskilling their knowledge of Speech and language development and training in supporting young children with Speech, language and communication difficulties. The staff have been able to put this training into good effect supporting the children in pre school this year.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under section 4(b) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to have regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on the public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed regarding the activities of the charitable organisation in the year ending 31st August 2021.

We have continued to build on the strong relationships the charity has with the local primary schools in the hope that this makes the transition to primary school easier for the beneficiaries. We attended the Christmas plays of local primary schools and invited them to attend our Easter show. We invited local teachers to visit and lead story time sessions with the children thus familiarizing them with the staff of the schools they will be going on to attend. We took part in our local schools sports day.

Our parents and carers have been very supportive this year as always, and have engaged with us through our facebook page. Our parents were very glad to be able to get together again for our welcome Wednesday walk and our end of year family walk.

The children were, again, very kindly treated to a visit to the Santa experience in Glenarm Castle, which was a lovely gesture and was very much enjoyed by all that attended, this was also open for parents/carers to enjoy alongside their child.

The charity makes the best use of the local surrounding and the children had numerous visits and walks around the village, the forest, the castle grounds, the beach and harbour. They also made great use of the local playpark and the MUGA.

The charity's funds for the year ending 31st August 2021 amounted to £31,215. The charity remains financially sound.

Reserves are held in case of staff redundancy due to fluctuations in the number of children attending the preschool from year to year. The trustees believe they have sufficient funds to meet its requirements.

The charity is governed by a constitution, with regular meeting held throughout the year attended by the committee members of the preschool and trustees of the charity. The committee members and trustees are elected to posts during our AGM, where they are proposed and seconded by members of the existing committee or parents/carers in attendance.

Names of trustees during this year.

Mrs Heather McCormick

Mrs Louise Johnston

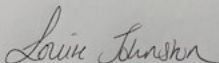
Mrs Laura Sherry

Mrs Samantha McMullan

Mrs Laura McAllister

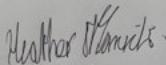
Mrs Katie McKeegan

The Trustees' annual report was approved on 19th June 2024 and signed on behalf of the trustees by:



Louise Johnston

27/6/22



Heather McCormick

27/6/22