

Governing Document & Constitution

Ballymacash Playgroup is run by a Voluntary Management and operate a Constitution adopted by the Committee and under the guidelines & criteria of the Early Years Organisation for young children.

Trustee Section & Management

Ballymacash Playgroup is run by a Voluntary Management Committee who receive training under Early Years Organisation in Governance & Management which they can then implement in managing the Playgroup. The Playgroup currently has 38 policies which are reviewed annually. Policies & Procedures, and childcare services are inspected annually by a Social Worker from the Health & Social Care Trust.

The Management Committee is made up of Parents of Children who have attended Ballymacash Playgroup and consists of a Chairperson (Mr Stephen Gray), Secretary (Mrs Bernie Reid), Treasurer (Mr Martin McPoland), Committee Member (Mr Aidan McCartney) and Playgroup Leader and non-voting member (Arlene McMurray).

Policies are made available to all parents in the main Playgroup Reception & copies available on request. Parents are informed of any newly amended policies. Parents are given core policies before their child starts Playgroup and sign an agreement form to say they have received, read & understood them.

The Committee meet at least 5 times a year and will hold an AGM each year in November/December. The meetings provide members and the Playgroup staff with an update on continuing progress and events happening within the Playgroup.

Safeguarding is always a standing Agenda item. Important happenings and any other issues are discussed & agreed upon. The Financial Accounts are independently examined and along with the Annual Report are approved by the Committee/Trustees and presented to the members at the AGM each year.

Objectives & Activities

Ballymacash Playgroup is funded solely by the fees of parents whose children currently attend the academic year in review (August - July) to provide pre-preschool education to children ranging 2years 10months to statutory primary school age.

We provide learning based on CEA guidance of pre-preschool education in a warm, inviting, safe and stimulating environment, where children can play have fun and at the same time be encouraged and helped by trained staff.

The 6 areas of learning are Personal, Social & Emotional Development. Physical Development & Movement. Language Development. Early Mathematical Experiences. The Arts and The World Around Us.

We provide a full range of play activities appropriate for the age range, stage and child's ability to ensure that each child reaches their full potential while catering for each child's needs regardless of sex, race, culture, religious or financial background. Children that may need

additional support get extra help through the Playgroup working with external agencies such as Speech & Language, Occupational Therapists etc.

We ensure parents are informed of the application process to Nursery/P1 & children are prepared for this throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to join the Committee and take an active role in their child's development and activities. We take part in Help Kids Talk & Talk Boost Programme, Healthy Snacks & Teeth Brushing, Media Initiative in Respecting Differences and Rufus Handwashing Programme.

Achievements & Performance

Ballymacash Playgroup believe in Childhood in its own right and offers a place to as many as 60 children each year. The annual inspection process from the HSC Trust ensures we are meeting the standards required, with the quality of service exceeding many areas and the inspection report is made available to parents.

The Sensory Room, fully enclosed garden and very well-resourced setting provides a full curriculum of learning opportunities delivered by consistent staff who continually seek to improve their professional development in attending courses & training offered by Early Years Organisations. The staff maintain and update their core training in Designated Safeguarding Children Officer/Child Protection, Paediatric First Aid, Fire Safety & Manual Handling, Food Safety Hygiene Level 2 and Data Protection.

The fundraising efforts were well supported through the assistance of the Primary School partnership with the PTA in purchasing replacement tables. Other funding was raised through The Teddy Bear Sponsored Walk, Christmas & Easter Crafts, Photo Session Commission, Pre-loved Uniform sales and in lieu of presents donations.

The Playgroup is now set up for Gift Aid donations.

We were able to secure a grant of £5927.00 from the Halifax in April 24, this enabled us to continue with the costs of the accountant, new tables and extra costs involved with salaries and insurance.

Financial Review

The Committee received status to be registered as a Charity in May 2022 and have been reviewing the financial situation, they are continuing to apply for funding applications when criteria are met.

The Government launched a new scheme NICSS (Northern Ireland Childcare Subsidy Scheme) to assist parents in receipt of Tax Free Childcare Vouchers through the Early Years this will assist the new intake and run from September 24 to March 25.

Public Benefit

The beneficiaries are the children and their families who avail of the excellent services provided in the widely diverse demographic area. This has been evidenced by the positive feedback from parents both new & returning. The children benefit by being better prepared for their transition on their educational journey and interacting with their Peers and Staff in a respectful manner with good social skills, resilience building and self-confidence, they learn to interact and have fun taking part and be creative with problem solving through different opportunities, also learning to be independent and be happy and content in the setting, to develop and achieve to their own individual potential.

The setting is well established as a community Playgroup and while following the curriculum, understand that child led play for the age group benefits the advance of education through the safe, happy and stimulating environment with the right of Parent/Carers to take responsibility for, become involved and promote the preservation of the health of the beneficiaries and support the principles & values of the Early Years.

Signed _____

Date _____

Chairperson Ballymacash Playgroup



5th December 2024