

Naíscoil Charn Tóchair
Trustees' Report
For the year ended 31st August 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report alongside financial statements of the organisation for financial year ending 31st August 2023. The trustees confirm that their annual report and financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Naíscoil's governing documents and provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practices applicable to charities.

Background

Founded in 1990, Naíscoil Charn Tóchair has a long-established pedigree of providing early years care, aiming to enhance the development of the Irish language and Irish medium education of children under statutory school age in preparation for transition to primary school. High quality childcare and early education has been shown to give children a head start in primary school, as research shows that it improves their educational, emotional and social development. Children who attend a good quality setting are more likely to be more independent, better able to concentrate and more sociable at the start of primary school. We actively encourage the use of Irish language both within the setting and beyond, helping strengthen the growth of the Irish language community in Carn Tóchair. We offer appropriate play facilities and engage with parents/carers to become involved in the activities of the Naíscoil, constantly striving to extend our operations to provide appropriate support for our children, their families and the wider Irish language community to enable the continued growth of Irish medium education in the locality.

Structure, Governance & Trustees

Naíscoil Charn Tóchair is registered with the Charity Commission NI 108927. Its registered office is at 131 Tirkane Road, Maghera, BT46 5NH. It is controlled by its governing document, a constitution.

The trustees who served during the year and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

- Claire Mulholland
- Caoimhe Mhic Thaidhg
- Fiona McGill

Its committee meets once a month during term time and is well attended and supported by all members.

Risk Management

The trustees have reviewed the risks to which the charity is exposed and have implemented systems and procedures to mitigate this risk.

Charitable Purposes & Objectives

The aims of the Naíscoil are:

- a) Enhance the development of the Irish language and Irish-medium education of children under statutory school age, in Carntogher and surrounding areas, in preparation for education in an Irish-medium primary school. Encouraging use of the Irish language both within the setting and beyond.

- b) To strengthen the growth of the Irish language community in Carn Tóchair. Introducing children and their families to local facilities that support the learning and use of the Irish language.
- c) To offer appropriate play facilities, and to assist parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the Naíscoil, ensuring that the Naíscoil offers opportunities for all children, regardless of religion, culture, race or means.
- d) Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs of such children and their families in the local areas.
- e) Supporting the values and principles of all relevant associated bodies.

Achievements and performance

The 2022/2023 academic year has witnessed continued success for the naíscoil community with another years successful delivery of the Department of Education's Pre-school Education Programme. Enrolment numbers remain buoyant with a significant increase in admissions for 2023/2024 confirmed, demonstrating the growth in demand for Irish medium education and the quality provision delivered by the setting. The annual inspection by the Early Years Team from the Northern Health & Social Services Trust reported findings of high-quality service and excellent learning outcomes, a report which perfectly illustrates the high calibre service delivered by the experienced and dedicated staff. Children reported as being content and engaged and parental feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The naíscoil has recently completed registration with Northern Health & Social Services Trust to commence with a school aged wraparound child care service for children engaged in Irish medium education to help further support children and their families within our community.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees of Naíscoil Charn Tóchair confirm that they have had regard to the NI Charity Commission's public benefit requirement statutory guidelines.

Financial Review

The organisation prepares an annual budget and financial plan, which helps in allocating resources effectively. This ensures that funds are directed to priority areas and that the organisation's financial goals are aligned with its objectives. Naíscoil Charn Tóchair has been able to effectively manage its resources and finances, allowing the organisation to operate sustainably and begin to expand its services, to meet the needs of its beneficiaries. It maintains transparency in its financial reporting. It prepares periodic financial statements and reports, which are shared with stakeholders to build trust and confidence, encouraging continued financial support.

A summary of the financial results of the charity is set out below:

Overall Summary

	£
Incoming Resources	52,733
Total Resources Expended	57,581

Excess of payments over receipts	(4,848)

The bank and cash balance at 31st August 2023 was £1,206.

Operating Reserves Policy

Principle

Building reserves within Naíscoil Charn Tóchair supports the overall development of the organisation and is an integral part of our financial planning. Naíscoil Charn Tóchair needs reserves in order to

- Meet contractual liabilities should the organisation have to close. This includes redundancy pay, amounts due to creditors and commitments under leases.
- To meet unexpected costs like break down of essential office machinery, staff cover re illness, maternity leave, parental leave, and legal costs defending the charities interest.
- To replace equipment as it wears out.
- Ensure that the charity can continue to provide a stable and quality service to those who need them. Within this context to minimise recruitment, staff training, staff induction and marketing costs by avoiding the need for redundancies caused by financial crisis.
- From time-to-time funding has certain restrictions which means that by law it must be held in a restricted reserves until it is spent in line with the funding agreement.

Policy

A policy on reserves for Naíscoil Charn Tóchair was agreed at the Annual General Meeting of the trustees.

Naíscoil Charn Tóchair have set a reserves policy which they would like to work towards achieving within the coming 3 years:

Reserves be maintained at a level of between 12-18 months operating costs, which ensures that:

- the core activity of Naíscoil Charn Tóchair could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty.
- the setting could meet its liabilities in the event that it had to close or reduce its services, for example to meet redundancy costs.
- A proportion of these reserves have to be maintained in a readily realisable form eg cash at bank.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the planning, budget, and forecast cycle of our organisation. The organisation does not currently have the level of reserve that it identifies as required and will work towards meeting it and make this a priority in its financial planning.

Future Plans

We have a range of objectives to achieve in the coming years aimed at supporting children and their families who wish to engage with our naíscoil community:

Identify the individual needs of the children and families within our community and develop and expand our services where possible to support these needs.

To invest in the professional development of our staff and members to ensure continuous high-quality provision for the children in our care.

We remain dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families by providing them with the tools and support they need to thrive and fully engage with our Irish language community.

Tax Liabilities

As a charity, the company is not liable for tax on its income or on capital gains to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objectives.

Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. The examiner having satisfied himself that the charity is eligible for independent examination has responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9) (b) of the Charities Act and
- state whether particular matters have come to his attention

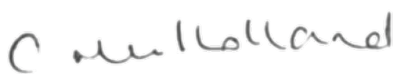
Independent examiners statement

The independent examiner (Paul McKillop of EM Accountants) has completed his examination of the accounts and has no concerns on the matters on which he is required to report and in connection with following the directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, he has found no matters that require drawing to the charity's attention. (Report dated 28th June 2024)

Expression of Gratitude

The trustees wish to extend their sincerest thanks to all stakeholders and funders who have supported their endeavours. With continued support, we are confident that Naíscoil Charn Tóchair will expand its vital role and more fully support the families within their reach.

This report was approved by the trustees on 28th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Claire Mulholland
Trustee






N40 NCT Trustees report 31.08.2023 final

Final Audit Report

2024-06-28

Created:	2024-06-28
By:	EM Accountants (office@emaccountants.co.uk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAbWDEEF76tO-0Jvoo6U1yDMCKlo6NI8KI

"N40 NCT Trustees report 31.08.2023 final" History

-  Document created by EM Accountants (office@emaccountants.co.uk)
2024-06-28 - 1:08:26 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Claire Mulholland (claire@naiscoil.org) for signature
2024-06-28 - 1:08:30 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Claire Mulholland (claire@naiscoil.org)
2024-06-28 - 1:11:21 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Claire Mulholland (claire@naiscoil.org)
Signature Date: 2024-06-28 - 1:11:30 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2024-06-28 - 1:11:30 PM GMT