



Rodborough Playgroup Trustees' Annual Report

1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024

**Rodborough Playgroup Tabernacle Walk,
Rodborough,
Stroud,
Gloucestershire
GL5 3UJ
Phone: 01453 756141
Ofsted Reg: 101719 | Charity Reg: 1001432**

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the group, as outlined in our Governing Document, is to enhance the development, care, and education of children primarily under statutory school age and of school-aged children by encouraging parents to understand and provide for their needs through community-managed groups. This includes:

- Offering appropriate play facilities and training courses, with parental involvement.
- Ensuring inclusivity for all children regardless of race, culture, religion, means, or ability.
- Promoting the study of children's needs and raising public interest and recognition of these needs locally.

Overview

Rodborough Playgroup provides early years childcare for children aged 2 years and 6 months until school age, operating from 8:45 to 15:00 on weekdays during term time. For over sixty years, this parent-run, community-based charity has served the local area. Situated near Rodborough Common, the playgroup offers children the chance to explore the outdoors, enhancing their learning experiences.

Our committee of volunteer parents employs professional staff who work with children using the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS). We offer a safe and stimulating environment with various play-based activities. Facilities include a large playroom, a fully equipped kitchen, and two enclosed outdoor spaces with a sand pit, mud kitchen, and areas for digging and planting.

The playgroup serves 30 to 50 families at any given time, fostering strong relationships among children, parents, and staff. Parents participate in fundraising, session assistance, and various tasks to keep the playgroup running. We are registered with and inspected by Ofsted, receiving a 'Good' rating in November 2022. We are also affiliated with PATA, which provides training and guidance.

Structure, Governance, and Management

Our Governing Document is a Group Constitution affiliated with PATA (UK). Rodborough Playgroup is managed by a committee elected at the AGM, consisting of trustees, including 3 Officers (Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer).

The Chair is the Playleader's line manager while the Playleader manages the staff team. Playgroup also pays a part-time freelance administrator to help with the day-to-day running of the charity. Trustees must be voted on to the committee by the committee. The committee meets 6 times a year, with additional meetings for the fundraising team as needed.

Trustees for the Period:

- Alan McDowell (Chair from summer 2023)
- Ishen Paran (Treasurer to June 2024)
- Emma Miladowska (Treasurer from June 2024)
- Freya Beard (Secretary from November 2023)
- Verity Jane Pearce
- Catherine Forrester
- Sarah Kate Burley
- Jay Swindell

Activities During the Year

In 2023-2024, Rodborough Playgroup focussed on consolidating the recovery and adaptation from the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic and rising inflation. It was a year where playgroup was able to thrive, with a busy cohort of children, an engaged parent group and prospects for future growth and change.

During October 2023 OFSTED undertook an inspection of Playgroup. This was the first routine inspection the playgroup has had since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Playgroup was rated 'Good' across all areas of the inspection, with the overall effectiveness rated as 'good'.

Due to the continued financial impacts of Covid, rises in inflation and staffing costs, we increased fundraising efforts and organised several events such as a Spring Trail and treasure hunt open to the whole community. We are grateful to all volunteers who contribute to making these events a success.

Rodborough Playgroup Financial Report for 2023/24

The accounts have been independently examined by Dan Tarr of SLS Accountants Ltd., whose report is attached below.

For the fiscal year 2023/24, Rodborough Playgroup (RPG) saw a significant increase in total income (up by 38%) compared to the previous year, reaching £147,967 from £107,460. Although total outgoing expenses also increased by 8%, from £114,144 to £122,988, the income growth rate outpaced the rise in expenses. Prior year we were in a critical position, so this gives us some breathing space however due to increased challenges we face with the cost of running of playgroup, new changes to tax we expect the financials to be challenging and the support from staff, parents, volunteers and the council has been instrumental for the continued high levels of care at RPG. We thank everyone involved.

Income Summary

Total Income:

- Increased by **38%**, from **£107,460** in 2022/23 to **£147,967** in 2023/24.

Key Contributors to Growth:

- Glos CC Grant:** Increased by 56% due to higher awareness and capacity, adding significant financial support.
- Other Grants:** Rose by 67%, reflecting success in securing additional funding sources.
- Miscellaneous Income:** Increased by 700%, although the actual amount remains small (£20).

Declines:

- Donations:** Decreased by 13%, which may suggest a need to revitalize donor engagement strategies

INCOME	2023/24	2022/23	% DIFF
Glos CC Grant	£95,365	£60,987	56%
Glos CC Gran pupil premium	£237	£0	
Fees	£30,507	£30,389	0%
Fundraising	£4,194	£4,156	1%
Donations	£1,997	£2,285	-13%
Gift Aid	£0	£280	-100%
Bank interest	£5	£0	
Other grants	£15,641	£9,360	67%
Miscellaneous	£20	£3	700%
TOTAL	£147,967	£107,460	38%

Outgoings Summary

Total Outgoings

- Increased by **8%**, from **£114,144** in 2022/23 to **£122,988** in 2023/24.

Key Increases:

- Staff Wages:** Up by 13%, likely reflecting higher personnel costs or added staff to support growth.
- Resources:** Increased by 29%, indicating greater investment in supplies.
- IT Support:** More than doubled, with a 101% increase, possibly due to enhanced digital requirements.
- Subscriptions:** Up by 78%, suggesting new tools or services supporting operations.

Significant Decreases:

- Repairs/Maintenance:** Decreased by 56%, indicating fewer repair needs or successful cost-cutting.
- Training:** Reduced by 88%, potentially reflecting fewer training initiatives.
- OFSTED:** Expenses fell by 93%, which might be due to changes in inspection requirements or timing.
- Fundraising Expenditure:** Decreased by 72%, signaling cost efficiency in fundraising activities.

OUTGOING	2023/24	2022/23	% DIFF
Rent	£12,085	£10,993	10%
Insurance	£1,145	£858	33%
Repairs/maintenance	£530	£1,212	-56%
Staff Wages (In Pension and HMRC)	£95,662	£84,525	13%
Repaying holiday pay	£0	£3,738	-100%
Training	£159	£1,304	-88%
PATA payroll	£603	£500	21%
OFSTED	£50	£707	-93%
PATA membership	£121	£0	
Pupil premium purchases	£382	£0	
Resources	£4,018	£3,126	29%
Consumables	£1,213	£1,260	-4%
Covid supplies	£92	£0	
Telephone	£431	£582	-26%
Subscriptions	£403	£227	78%
Playgroup events	£644	£756	-15%
Staff mileage	£96	£53	82%
IT Support	£2,172	£1,081	101%
Loan interest/repayment	£2,130	£2,130	0%
Miscellaneous	£999	£905	10%
Fundraising expenditure	£53	£190	-72%

TOTAL	£122,988	£114,144	8%
--------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------

Overall, RPG has managed to control expenses, with increased investments in areas that support growth (like IT, resources, and subscriptions), while also finding savings in categories like training and repairs. This balance between increased income and spend has resulted in a healthier financial position for the year.

Bank Balance, Reserves, and Cash Flow

The overall financial position in 2023/24 was a gain of £24,987 vs a loss of £6648 LY. Reserves at the end of the 2023/24 financial year were £42,045 (after deposits paid) which does meet our reserves target. (Please see the full reserves report for more details.)

The management team and committee are working on an action plan to ensure financial sustainability for the future whilst ensuring we continue offer great care and development of children within their early years

- Balance at Start of Year: £18,207
- Balance at End of Year: £44,277
- Lowest Bank Balance During Year: £15,776 (January)

Conclusion

The officers and committee members are committed to building on this year's successes and addressing ongoing financial challenges to secure a sustainable future for the playgroup. Thank you to all contributors and community members who have supported us throughout this year.

**Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of
Rodborough Playgroup**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Rodborough Playgroup for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 145 of the Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Dan Tarr
SLS Accountants Ltd
78 Draycott
Cam
Dursley
Glos
GL11 5DH

Date: 6 January 2025