

Independent examiner's report on the accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Tatworth Pre-school

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1022464

Set out on pages

2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. [The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [named body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent
examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *)

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Nicola Hooper

Date:

21st October 2023

Name: NICOLA HOOPER

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FMAAT

Address:

21 CHERRY TREE CLOSE

EXETER

DEVON EX4 5AT

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.(E.g. accounting records have not been kept in accordance with s132 of the Charities' Act 2011 and those accounts do not comply with the requirements of the 2008 Regulations setting out the form and content of charity accounts; any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity; any failure to be provided with information and explanations by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and any material consistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report.)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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Tatworth Pre-school 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023			
	Profit and loss report		
	2021-22	2022-23	
INCOME			
NEF	£ 104,374.38	£ 72,557.41	
Fees	£ 11,327.75	£ 14,582.38	
EYE	£ 50.00	£ 949.75	
Uniform	£ 371.00	£ 136.00	
Grants	£ 2,174.40		
Higher Needs	£ 2,379.15	£ 2,576.00	
Vouchers	£ 2,083.00		
Fundraising	£ 493.45	£ 1,166.02	
Interest	£ -		
Other Grants	£ -	£ 820.00	
	£ 123,253.13	£ 92,787.56	
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	£ 91,327.70	£ 95,757.71	
rent	£ 3,380.00	£ 3,380.00	
food	£ 764.74	£ 878.79	
Utilities	£ 3,293.55	£ 3,451.64	
consumables	£ 2,368.73	£ 1,775.66	
equipment	£ 2,942.29	£ 3,480.27	
Office Cost	£ 2,159.29	£ 4,478.86	
Meeting	£ 140.00	£ 186.96	
other	£ 6,954.88	£ 5,431.97	
Total	£ 113,331.18	£ 118,821.86	
		PROFIT/LOSS	-£ 26,034.30

Balance sheet		
BANK		
Current Account	£ 24,866.33	
Savings Account	closed	
Total	£ 24,866.33	
petty cash	£ 50.00	
Accounts		
Opening balance	£ 50,900.64	
Surplus	-£ 26,034.30	
Cash in Hand	£ 24,866.34	

Chairpersons report 2022-2023

Whilst the academic year 2022-23 was a challenging year due to a drop in numbers and rising costs the children have had a very positive year. They have had lots of new resources and a visit from the Axe Valley Wildlife Park along with visits from outside professionals such as dentists. As a setting we have also seen a rise in the number of children needing SEN support at a higher level. I would like to particularly thank the staff for their support and drive to ensure everyone is given the opportunity to grow and thrive. The headcount this year has been smaller, but individuals needs and the lasting impact from Covid has meant that additional staff were required above ratio to ensure everyone's needs were met. Hopefully the next academic year will prove to be less challenging. We have all seen on the news the crisis in funding for early years providers and are very thankful that we are still here serving the community where many other settings have closed.

It has been lovely this year to see so many parents attend our pre-school show and sports day, and both children's party days this year were a success.

We were sorry to see Faye leave us this year after 9 years but are happy to welcome Anna as deputy manager and Kirsty as our new SENCO.

As Trustees we are proud to be part of a voluntary pre-school and have ensured that we support the strategic management of the pre-school ensuring we meet the statutory requirements by:

- holding at least one formal meeting each term
- approving how the pre-school budget is spent and managed.
- ensuring safeguarding practices and health and safety practices are in place.
- approving pre-school policies, these are available on the website

The curriculum offered at Tatworth Pre-School, gives children the opportunity to make decisions and choices in their learning. It is carefully balanced to include adult directed and child-initiated learning. Our recent

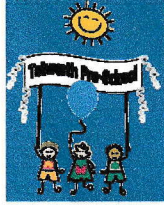
Ofsted success highlights how far we have come, and it is fantastic that our child development is judged as outstanding. We aim to ensure that we continue to achieve these high standards in the future.

It has been a privilege to help support the pre-school these last few years and it is with regret that I am stepping down from my role in the committee as Chairperson. I would however like to thank everyone for their support and wish my successor good luck in the role. It has been a pleasure to support such a fabulous setting and wonderful staff!

Thank you.

Emily Farr

Chairperson.



TATWORTH PRE-SCHOOL

THE MEMORIAL HALL KENTS LANE TATWORTH SOMERSET TA20 2QW Tel: 01460 220797

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1022464 OFSTED URN 142960

Email: tatworth@btconnect.com

Website <https://tatworthpreschool.chessck.co.uk>

Annual General Meeting Monday 29th November 2023.

Present: Sarah Sitton, Chris Doel, Stacey Jose, Edward John, Becky John, Kelly Foote, Vicky Atkin, Bethany Shield, Emily Farr, Katrina Bowditch Taylor, Elsie Stacey, Leanne Lawson, Mike Trott, Cathryn Henson, Kirsty Wood, Melissa Farley, Anna Childs, Jacqui Page.

Apologies: Michelle Long, Lucy Gosden, Daniel Childs, Andrew Shield, Shannon Doel and Samantha Elswood.

Emily Farr opened the AGM and thanked everyone for coming.

The minutes for last year's A.G.M were read and approved.

Emily Farr read the chairpersons report (attached) and thanked staff and committee for their hard work.

Emily Farr presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Lucy Goden and discussed the summary of the audited reports (attached).

Sarah Sitton then presented the Manager's report (attached).
Brief Discussion on the importance of fundraising.

Discussions were held on committee roles and responsibilities, Confidentiality, DBS checks and EYA constitution.

Appointment of officers: All committee resigned on block and new officers elected. Rebecca John was elected to Chairperson position (proposed by Emily Farr and seconded by Elsie Stacey) Lucy Gosden sent letter requesting to step down as treasurer. New treasurer Mike Trott was elected, (proposed by Vicky Atkin and seconded by Emily Farr). Michelle Long is to continue on the committee but stepped down as secretary. The secretary role is being filled by Leanne Lawson (proposed by Elsie Stacey and seconded by Edward John). Additionally, Daniel Childs, Claire Parris and Sam Elswood resigned from the committee. Andrew Shield, Shannon Doel and Elsie Stacey were also elected on block to the committee. Rebecca John is to become the committee Safeguarding Officer.

Approval of constitution: The committee decided to continue to adopt the Early Years Alliance model constitution and that they should continue to provide the settings insurance.

Any other Business: Brief discussions on the upcoming Bingo night were held.

Next meeting 05/02/2024 @ 7.30pm

Treasurer's report year 2022-2023

Tatworth Pre-School runs its accounts on the academic year September 1st to August 31st. This year has been a particularly financially challenging one for the pre-school. As everybody is aware we are currently in a cost-of-living crisis, and this has now also affected the pre-school. There has been a large drop in numbers attending the setting and the local primary school. Parents are also waiting until their child is funded before starting pre-school, this has meant a drop in the number of our 2-year-olds attending the setting and therefore a drop in revenue. Our bank balance is still fairly healthy with a balance on 30th August of £24866.33. Unfortunately, this year has been a bit of a perfect storm with wage rises, costs increasing and a drop in child numbers. Fortunately, due to previous years surpluses we are able to weather the storm where other providers have not. Moving forward there are steps which the setting is taking to redress the balance as outlined in the managers' report. It is likely that this year we will make a loss, but this is not uncommon as birth rates rise and fall, and the setting has experienced this in previous years, although not for a long time. We have made some changes to our fees policy to help address the imbalance in expenditure and income. We have agreed to put up our suggested fee payments to £20.00 from £10.00. We are also introducing a £20.00 registration fee to join the setting but will gift a book bag to each child as they start. We don't feel that we can currently increase the fee charges to parents. We have also taken the difficult decision not to replace the 2 staff members who have left us at the end of this academic year. These measures should address the immediate shortfall, but we will need to keep a very close eye on finances during the next year.

We have also had some additional expenses this year that are also unusual, new computer, printer, shed, lighting, Hoover, carpet cleaner, tree felling works all are items that we would normally require but are needed. I would also like to thank the staff and committee for all their continued hard work.

Lucy Gosden

Treasurer

Manager's report

As explained by the treasurer we have made a substantial loss this year. Anna and I have been looking through the accounts and see some potential for savings. We have reviewed our supply chain, and our supplies are the best we can get. We still need to review our utility bills which are our next project.

We have also made the decision not to replace the 2 staff members who have left at the end of the term. This has meant that the staff have absorbed any additional tasks such as building cleaning, etc. This has meant that we have almost absorbed all the loss with these measures.

The number of children attending the setting this year was lower due to the lower birth rate across the country. Figures from the office for national statistics show birth rates for 2019 were the lowest since 2004. A drop to 1.65 from 2.9 in 2018. 2021 also had a low birth of 1.58 the lowest since Covid.

The good news is that numbers are picking with an additional 5 children set to start in September, with another 9 on our waiting list within the next 12 months. From April the government are also introducing 15 hours of funding for 2-year-old children of eligible working parents which should also help to increase numbers. The government has also started to recognise the shortfall in funding and is increasing our funding from April next year.

Whilst financially it has been a difficult year for the pre-school, for the setting and children it has been a very busy and successful one. We started the year with 21 children and finished the year with 30 children, 16 of which we sent off to primary school. I have spoken to the children's reception teacher and can confirm that they have all settled in well.

We started the new academic year with a completely new curriculum and learning programme, based on our aims and aspirations for the children. This went well and the children seemed to thrive with the new weekly topics and activities. We finished the term with a lovely Christmas show and party.

From January we started to split the children further into age and stage development groups, to support the older children's school readiness and for the younger and SEN children's to concentrate on their three prime areas of development.

Then in February we received our Ofsted visit. All the changes we had made were validated with the results of our Ofsted inspection, maintaining our overall good grading, but for the first time ever with a grading of outstanding for our children's personal development. This is really something to celebrate and is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staffing team.

Following on from covid we have noticed that there had been a decline in some children's physical development. To help support all our children with their physical development we worked with an organisation called SASP (Somerset Activity & Sports Partnership). We looked to increase the range and number of physical activities we offer to the children. We aimed to embed positive healthy habits and

- Develop skills that will help them to be a successful learner

- Put a smile on your child's face to support their emotional health
- Build social skills that help relationship building
- Contribute to brain development and learning
- Support natural sleep patterns
- Help to maintain a healthy weight

Following on from this work we were able to gain our SASP certification in February, with a big thanks for the amount of work Anna did as SASP co-ordinator to achieve this.

The children had several visits in the second half of the year. We booked in a visit from Axe Valley Wildlife Park to link in with our Dear Zoo topic, and they brought with them a few friends! We also had a visit from the police and the local dentists, who spoke about the importance of oral hygiene. We then had a lovely sports day, before saying goodbye to Faye. Anna was appointed the new deputy manager with Kirsty taking on the role of SENCO and Cathryn offering support of room lead when Anna or Sarah are unavailable. We then finished the year with a lovely leaver's ceremony and party.

We have continued to work on all staff members professional development with several training courses being done, such as: behaviours that challenge, equality and inclusion, send code of practice, children's mental health, child protection, paediatric first aid, to name but a few. Moving forward into next year we are continuing to support further training with several staff members already signed up on various courses.

We have had a very busy fun packed year, and I would like to thank the staff, committee, children and parents who all help to make this such a successful pre-school.

Sarah Sitton

Manager