

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 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1022464

Set out on pages

2

**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:

20/10/2024

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.)

Date: 20/10/2024

Signed: Nicola Hooper

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

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Chairpersons report 2023-2024

Hello and welcome to everyone that is here for the 2023-2024 AGM.

The children have had some brilliant experiences this last year including a trip to the primary school to visit the space dome. We have also had support from parents coming in to visit, telling the children about their work as police officers, firemen and nurses.

Sports day was a great success which the children enjoyed and again a good parental turn out.

We are getting through the list of jobs - a few still outstanding. Some fencing has been replaced and we would like to thank the committee members for making a start on painting this and cleaning the gutters in their own time.

This year is the first full year without Faye and the cleaner but otherwise staffing has remained constant with Kirsty taking on the cleaners' responsibilities and Faye even returning as bank staff when needed.

All phone lines have now gone digital with the number remaining unchanged, however, the email address had to be changed.

There was minimal overspend last year with the accounts still looking to be in a good place. *(The overspend can be seen in the overcharge from BT)*

Fundraising events have been going well, we had the autumn scavenger hunt and the Christmas bingo. We also sold tea towels with the children's self-portraits on. On going fundraising events are in full swing with future events planned including a quiz night and Christmas coasters and soon Christmas bingo and another scavenger hunt.)

As always, a big thank you to all the committee members, parents and staff for their continued support.

Thank you

Rebecca John,
Chairperson.

Treasurer's report year 2023-2024

Tatworth Pre-School runs its accounts on the academic year September 1st to August 31st. Following on from last year's particularly financially difficult year we are now in a much safer financial position. The measures we took including reducing staffing numbers, increasing suggested fees, re-negotiating phone contracts and changing suppliers have helped us to now, all but break even, rather than the substantial loss of the previous year. The profit and loss account this year show a very small loss of £33.55. Our bank balance is still fairly healthy with a balance on 30th August 2024 of £24832.78.

Our income this year is up by £24749 on last year thanks to an increase in funding rates from Somerset Council and an increase of £879 on last year through our fundraising efforts. We continue to have maintenance costs for the building and land, this year having to replace and improve our fencing.

Expenditure- despite the measures taken we only saw a reduction of £1251. This is because salaries stayed roughly the same due to an increase in the minimum wage rate and more staffing due to the increased number of 2 yr olds attending and SEN support needed. Despite renegotiating contracts, as across the country, utility bills have increased by £710. Our insurance costs also increased sharply this year. This will be something that we will look at more closely next year. We continue to have maintenance costs for the building and land. As the building ages some of the items need replacing as they come to the end of their lifespan.

Moving forward we will continue to closely monitor spending, improvements and fundraising. We are also aware that next year will bring a substantial increase in salary costs due to the increase to minimum wage rates and the change to employer national insurance rates and thresholds. We are hoping that government funding rates increase in March to reflect this, but we will watch this space.

Thank you once again for everyone's hard work in continuing to keep the Pre-School the success it is.

Mike Trott

Treasurer

Manager's report

As explained by the treasurer we have taken huge steps towards balancing the books. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work this year, as without a floating staff member everyone has worked above and beyond.

Anna and I have continued to monitor expenditure closely and have managed to get our BT bills down by switching to a digital service. This was not without its difficulties as we lost phonelines for a bit and had a new email address.

Staffing has remained constant this year with no changes. Kirsty, Cathryn, Mel and Bethany have all now completed the Early Years Development Programme, so congratulations to them. We have continued to work on all staff members professional development with several training courses being done, such as: Dingley's Promise child development and support programme, SEND, child protection, paediatric first aid, Prevent, 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 started the academic year with 19 children in September and finished the year with 33 children, sending 17 off to start their reception year at various schools. The good news is we will be starting back to school with 26 children on our books.

The new working families funding expansion started this year and with it came a rise in the number of 2-year-olds attending the setting, doing an increased number of hours. This caused a great disruption to the daily operations of the pre-school and following several staff meetings we have developed a new strategy for the children, with the introduction of the Bees and Butterfly groups. This has meant that we are better able to target support to where it is most needed. The Butterflies are able to have targeted resources and activities in a smaller area allowing them to feel more secure and supported, whilst the Bees are able to extend their development with more challenging activities. This has been a big success, and we are very pleased with the effect this has had on all the children's progress.

We are continuing to follow the same curriculum and learning programme, based on our aims and aspirations for the children with our weekly topics and activities. We continue to amend and evaluate them managing changes where necessary. To support this, we have had visits from a nurse, policeman, and fireman. We had visits from some ducklings and cows, and also went to visit the space dome planetarium, which were all very well received. We would like to thank those involved for making it happen.

We continue working on improving and upgrading our facilities and had some new fencing and gates put in place to make us self-contained.

We have also had some good fundraising events with our Bingo, Nativity show and scavenger hunt. Thank you to all those who helped make these events a success.

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