

**Stepping Stones Pre School Clipston**

**Year Ended 31 July 2024**

**Treasurer's Report  
and  
Financial Statements**

## **STEPPING STONES PRE SCHOOL CLIPSTON LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK**

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER** 1023443

**DATE OF REGISTRATION** 12 July 1993

### **TRUSTEES**

Hannah Osborne  
Katie Usher  
Rosie O'Connor  
Louise Gowling  
Katelyn Williams  
Emma Davies  
Charlotte Horn  
Melissa Hill

### **GOVERNING DOCUMENT AND CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES**

The charity acts in accordance with its constitution date 29 October 2014.

The objects of the charity are to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and by:

Offering appropriate play, educations and care facilities, family learning and extend hours groups together with the rights of parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of such groups, enduring that such groups offer opportunities for all children whatever their race, culture, religion, means or ability.

Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local areas.

Instigating and adhering to and furthering the aims and objectives of the pre-school learning alliance.

### **MAIN ACTIVITY**

The charity provides pre-school education to children.

### **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The charity notes that it has a responsibility under the Charity Regulations which govern it to ensure that the public benefit from the activities of the charity.

Stepping Stones Pre School Clipston ensures that it meets these requirements but ensuring that applications for places at the school are made available to all families in the local community.

### **CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS**

Stepping Stones Pre School Clipston  
High Street  
Clipston  
Market Harborough  
LE16 9RU

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**TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

Stepping Stones Pre School has had a very busy year, children numbers have been higher than seen for several years and record income. The setting made a surplus for the year of £2,116 (FY2023:£1,150).

The setting has continued to benefit significantly this year from the steps taken in the previous years to maximise income for the setting and proactively manage the cost base to ensure that the staffing levels are appropriate and sustainable for the number of children attending the setting and the cost base challenged and discretionary spend minimised.

The following specific receipts and payments are of note:

- Fee and funding income in total for the year was £74,840, £15,615 lower than in the previous year (FY2023:£90,455)
- Fundraising and donations generated £8,942 (FY2023:£8,899), a successful Christmas window event, Summer Raffle and fundraising at the clipston festival in the financial period has helped with keeping the fundraising similar over the last two years. Donations have decreased slightly due to the economic climate.
- In 2023 we received a grant from Market Harborough Building Society Charitable Foundation of £1,320 for the Mud Kitchen purchased during the 2023 year (FY2024:£NIL).
- We now receive bank interest on our High Interest account which has raised £1,599 this year (FY2023:£NIL)
- Staff costs have decreased compared to the prior year at £70,379 (FY2023:£79,520). The decreased session numbers resulted in decreased staffing requirements for the setting decreasing the staff costs. There was a significant increase in minimum wage from April 2024, we elected to give the staff a payrise to show our appreciation of their continued support.
- Staff training costs were £303 (FY2023:£2,517) which is considerably lower than previous years.

The cash balance at 31 July 2024 was £66,727.92 (FY2023:£64,675.26). This is approximately £22,200 higher than the cash we are required to hold under our Reserves Policy.

The petty cash balance at 31 July 2024 was £105.00 (FY2023:£42.00).

The forecast for next year anticipates a lower number of children attending the setting to the current year. To ensure the ongoing financial viability of Stepping Stones, the challenge remains to optimise attendance levels at the setting, proactively manage staff and overhead costs and maximise the opportunities for fundraising. The Primary School where we are based have also significantly increased our rent from 1 September 2024, therefore we will need to be increasing our income and managing our costs to ensure the future viability of Stepping Stones Pre School.

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STEPPING STONES PRE-SCHOOL CLIPSTON**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stepping Stones Pre-School Clipston for the year ended 31 July 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of the report**

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

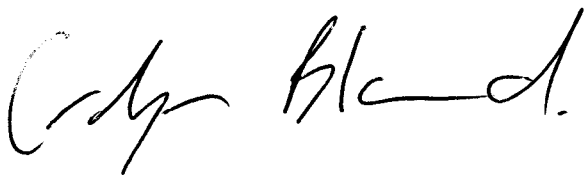
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the act.

### **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.

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.



Carolyn Bland  
3 Chestnut Grove  
Clipston  
Market Harborough  
Leics  
LE16 9RH

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**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Fees and funding:					
Northants County Council		61,606		62,261	
Fees re unfunded children		13,234		28,194	
			74,840		90,455
Fundraising		3,966		3,264	
Donations, matched giving and gift aid		4,926		5,363	
Bank interest		1,599		-	
Other income		352		272	
			10,843		8,899
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED RECEIPTS</b>			<b>85,683</b>		<b>99,354</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Grants received		-		1,320	
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED RECEIPTS</b>			<b>-</b>		<b>1,320</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>85,683</b>		<b>100,674</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Wages, bonuses and national insurance		70,379		79,520	
Staff training and course fees		303		2,517	
Telephone		964		785	
Rent		1,650		1,730	
Fees, subscriptions and memberships		859		848	
Insurance		645		624	
Resources and equipment		2,158		4,619	
Printing, postage and stationery		32		488	
Marketing and advertising		440		1,117	
Accountancy fees - payroll		694		552	
Furniture, housekeeping and maintenance		4,472		3,951	
Snacks		878		824	
Miscellaneous purchases		590		629	
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS</b>			<b>84,064</b>		<b>98,204</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Outdoor equipment/covid grant		-		1,320	
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED PAYMENTS</b>			<b>-</b>		<b>1,320</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>84,064</b>		<b>99,524</b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>1,619</b>		<b>1,150</b>
<b>Funding Split:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			<b>1,619</b>		<b>1150</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>
			<b>1,619</b>		<b>1150</b>

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**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2024**

	Note	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>					
Bank current account			24,632		24,675
High interest account			41,599		40,000
Petty cash			105		42
			<u>66,336</u>		<u>64,717</u>
<b>DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN FUNDS</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Opening balance		64,215		63,065	
Excess receipts over payments for the year		1,619		1150	
Transfer from restricted funds					
Closing balance			<u>65,834</u>		<u>64,215</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Opening balance		502		502	
Excess receipts over payments for the year		-		-	
Transfer to unrestricted funds					
Closing balance			<u>502</u>		<u>502</u>
			<u>66,336</u>		<u>64,717</u>