

**Stepping Stones Pre School Clipston**

**Year Ended 31 July 2025**

**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**

Andy Blake (Chairperson)  
Ellis Wheeler (Secretary)  
Louise Gowling (Treasurer)  
Danielle Nutley  
Katelyn Williams  
Lily Faulkner  
Sean Faulkner  
Sorrel Gray

### **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 2025**

Stepping Stones Pre School has had another busy year, and although children numbers have remained the same as last year the setting made a deficit for the year of £9,768 (FY2024: surplus £1,612).

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 £81,931, £7,091 higher than in the previous year (FY2024:£74,840)
- Fundraising and donations generated £8,067 (FY2024:£8,892), a successful Christmas wreath making 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. Voluntary contributions have decreased significantly due to the economic climate.
- In 2025 we received a grant from Kelmarsh Windfarm Community Benefit Grant of £3,726, this has been used to purchase new Forest School Equipment and new Equipment for the setting (FY2024:£NIL).
- We received bank interest on our High Interest account which has raised £1,943 this year (FY2024: £1,599).
- Staff costs have increased compared to the prior year at £74,361 (FY2024:£70,379). There was a significant increase in minimum wage from April 2025, we elected to give the staff a payrise to show our appreciation of their continued support.
- From 1 September 2024 the revised rent from the Primary School came in to effect, therefore the rent costs for the year (2025:£14,538) were significantly higher than that of the previous year (£,1650). This is the main contribution to the deficit during the year.

The cash balance at 31 July 2025 was £56,342 (FY2024:£66,231). This is approximately £14,098 higher than the cash we are required to hold under our Reserves Policy.

The petty cash balance at 31 July 2025 was £226 (FY2024:£105).

The forecast for next year anticipates a higher number of children attending the setting to the current year as we start with nearly the same number of children as to when we closed for the Summer. 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.

Stepping Stones Pre School is a break even organisation and we do heavily rely on all voluntary contributions, fundraising and donations to keep Stepping Stones Pre School to continue to be run as successfully as it can and provide a much needed provision in our wonderful community.

## **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 2025.

### **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').

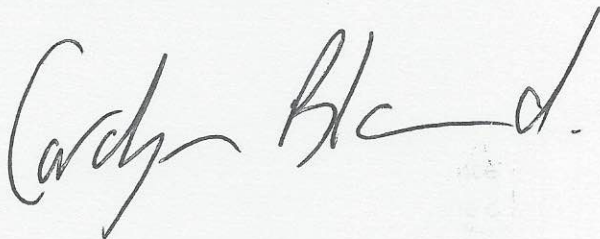
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the act.

### **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 2025**

	Note	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Fees and funding:					
Northants County Council		70,151		61,606	
Fees re unfunded children		11,780		13,234	
			81,931		74,840
Fundraising		3,973		3,966	
Donations, matched giving and gift aid		4,094		4,926	
Bank interest		1,943		1,599	
Other income		-		352	
			10,010		10,843
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED RECEIPTS</b>			<b>91,941</b>		<b>85,683</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Grants received		3,826		-	
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED RECEIPTS</b>			<b>3,826</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>95,767</b>		<b>85,683</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Wages, bonuses and national insurance		74,361		70,379	
Staff training and course fees		1,249		303	
Telephone		1,113		964	
Rent		14,528		1,650	
Fees, subscriptions and memberships		959		859	
Insurance		806		645	
Resources and equipment		2,213		2,158	
Printing, postage and stationery		221		32	
Marketing and advertising		347		440	
Accountancy fees - payroll		380		694	
Furniture, housekeeping and maintenance		5,085		4,472	
Snacks		656		878	
Miscellaneous purchases		149		590	
<b>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED PAYMENTS</b>			<b>102,067</b>		<b>84,064</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Grant expenditure		3,468		-	
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED PAYMENTS</b>			<b>3,468</b>		<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>105,535</b>		<b>84,064</b>
<b>EXCESS OF PAYMENTS OVER RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR</b>			<b>- 9,768</b>		<b>1,619</b>
<b>Funding Split:</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			<b>- 10,126</b>		<b>1,619</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			<b>358</b>		<b>-</b>
			<b>- 9,768</b>		<b>1,619</b>

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**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 JULY 2025**

		2025		2024	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH FUNDS</b>					
Bank current account			12,800		24,632
High Interest account			43,542		41,599
Petty cash			226		105
			<u>56,568</u>		<u>66,336</u>
<b>DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN FUNDS</b>					
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Opening balance		65,834		64,215	
Excess receipts over payments for the year	-	10,126		1,619	
Transfer from restricted funds		502			
Closing balance			56,210		65,834
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Opening balance		502		502	
Excess receipts over payments for the year		358		-	
Transfer to unrestricted funds	-	502			
Closing balance			358		502
			<u>56,568</u>		<u>66,336</u>