



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01 September 2021 Period start date To 31 August 2022 Period end date

Charity name: Dodleston Pre-school

Charity registration number: 1035994

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To provide a safe and inclusive environment for all children aged between 2 – 5 years, with a emphasis on “Risky play” with a free flow indoors and outdoors choice for the children, not only meeting the requirements of EYFS but also instilling self-belief, self-confidence and independence within each individual.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>Dodleston Pre-school's purpose always has been and remains, to provide an affordable, flexible safe childcare environment with some managed risks and planning in the moment at the core of our practice. The children make their own choices about how they spend their time with us, which allows the children to develop independence and confidence in their own thinking and decision making. We follow local term times to allow parents with sibling children at local primaries to enjoy whole family holidays rather than attending different times at multiple settings. We try to operate as flexibly as possible, with no minimum sessions required, early collection if requested and although normally a morning or full day attendance, we do have some children who attend afternoons only to accommodate family needs. Being sited next to the border of England and Wales, we are ideally situated to accommodate families from both regions. In a continually difficult time for the Childcare sector, Dodleston Pre-school has been resilient and adapted and changed routines where and when necessary to maintain the setting and it's ethos for or families. We have had to increase fees marginally, but managed to keep them reasonably priced compared to similar local groups, as well as continuing to accept Early Years funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, as well as Childcare vouchers and Tax Free Childcare payments, allowing parents as much flexibility as possible in their financial management. We feel that we have succeeded in our purpose to provide a safe, flexible, affordable service for families living in both the local area and from further afield,</p>

		<p>giving our families the reassurance that the children and their safety are our most important consideration, regardless of personal circumstances or requirements.</p> <p>We hold regular meetings of various types – full committee, with and without staff present, parents only and staff supervision – all of which aid in keeping clear and open communication between all parties. In working this way, the Trustees are able to better understand the challenges faced by the pre-school and manage the needs of such, including considering our objectives, our public benefit requirement, our families, the local community and wider areas.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees are aware of the guidance on public benefit and have maintained regard to it in their steering of the Preschool. This has been another challenging year, especially in terms of staffing and staff welfare, but the Trustees have ensured that the right services were available to those who needed it and balanced this with the needs of the staff and their families also, simultaneously ensuring welfare and safety in the setting and preserving affordability for families.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38
Other	

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference
<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p> <p>Due to the ongoing difficulties within the sector and the financial legacy of Covid, we again faced a challenging year, both practically and financially, but tried to act in the best interests of families who rely on us, both as a provider and an employer.</p> <p>Our attendance remained steady; we started the year with 15 children on role – 7 x 2YO, 3 of whom were in receipt of 2 year old funding, 6 x 3YO, all with at least some funding, and 2 x 4YO, both with funding. As the year progressed this increased to 30 children on the register – 8x 2YO, 11x 3YO, 10x 4YO and 1 x</p>

	<p>5YO - the family decided to defer school entry as Dodleston Pre-school was deemed as the best place to meet the child's needs at that time; at this time we had 66% of the families claiming at least some Early Years Funding.</p> <p>Our total income dropped by £6000 with expenses also decreasing by almost £5,000 and overall we made a loss yet again, this year of £1,900 for the year, which appears to be becoming a worrying trend, which we need to reverse if we are to remain as a group within the community.</p> <p>With a couple of staff changes, training and learning have been an area we have been keen to keep abreast of, utilising technology to learn virtually, so that we can continue to stay fully aware of requirements and best practice; in this way we can pursue our objective of delivering the best service possible for our families.</p> <p>As parents were allowed to return inside the setting, we worked hard to re-establish relationships with both the children and their families, providing reassurance of our ongoing commitment to our families both in the village of Dodleston and in the wider area.</p> <p>With some cases of Covid still occurring occasionally, we have been fortunate in not having to close the setting, whilst remaining sympathetic to families and staff who may have had to care for dependants who have tested positive.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41
Other	

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Having made a loss for 3 consecutive years now, we really need to look at how we can address this, without adding a financial burden onto our families, whilst maintaining pay levels for our staff moving forwards. Our year end holdings stand at £23,269, slightly down on last
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		year and still include the ringfenced £12,000.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The pre-school retain a ring-fenced amount in the savings account, the purpose of which is to maintain a fund for redundancy in the event that pre-school should ever become impracticable. We are also still aiming to fund new premises in the future which would allow us to extend the services we offer.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£12,028
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Our principal source of income is Early Years funding, followed by fee income; moving forward we are going to have to include lots more fundraising in our practice, which has been lacking in the last few years because of Covid, but we must resume these now.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Early Years Alliance Constitution (unincorporated constitution).
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated, incorporated)	Para 1.25	A committee of Trustees
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Election by committee

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>Safeguarding is a vital part of our operational procedures, all staff, committee and volunteers having an Enhanced DBS with DBS Children's barred list check.</p> <p>We endeavour to have a detailed handover from outgoing to incoming Trustees so that everyone has an awareness of policies and procedures and the changeover is as smooth and seamless as possible. The current Chair has been a trustee since 2015, so has a very good understanding of the preschool and how all the elements function cohesively.</p>
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The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Dodleston Pre-school is a community based charity pre-school providing care for children between the ages of 2 – 5 years and following the EYFS structure. We are governed and inspected by Ofsted and our structure aims to accommodate the physical and mental wellbeing of the children who attend, as well as the wider family members.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Dodleston Pre-school is a fundamental part of village life, being involved with many village events. This, in part, helps us to build relationships with our key schools, making the transition to primary school easier for our children and families.
Other		Our Trustees, committee members and volunteers give of their time free of charge to the benefit of the pre-school; this is at both meetings and more socially at village events, which help to continue and strengthen our presence with the village of Dodleston and the surrounding areas.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Dodleston Pre-school
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1035994
Charity's principal address	Village Hall, Pulford Lane Dodleston, Chester Cheshire CH4 9NN

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Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity				
	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Barnett	Chair	Oct 2015 - Present	Pre-school Committee
2	Rhian Wayte	Secretary	Oct 2021 - Present	
3	Ella Batley-Moss		Oct 2019 - Oct 2022	
4	Yang Ling Leung		Oct 2019 - Oct 2022	
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name			

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)		
Type of adviser	Name	Address
Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		

DODLESTON PRE-SCHOOL**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

Year end 31 August 2022

RECEIPTS	2022	2021
CWAC Funding	39468	42501
Flintshire funding	2238	2121
On line fees	11920	12025
Cash fees	1010	1000
Childcare vouchers	1300	
Fundraising	616	191
Donations	354	185
Uniform	82	120
HMRC grants	120	3494
Miscellaneous / Refunds	232	1723
Savings acc interest	2	3

Total Receipts	57342	63363
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PAYMENTS

Wages	48044	53322
Pension Nest	1093	888
PAYE	1148	712
Gross wages	50285	54922
Catering costs (Fruit)	165	357
Premises (Rent)	3671	3519
Administration	664	262
Training Costs	834	348
Insurance	733	720
Accountancy	435	
Equipment	686	538
PPE /Santising	177	365
Consumables	276	486
Subscriptions	348	328
Donations	0	70
Uniform	144	979
Phone	794	683
Stationery		18
Trips	108	0
Event Expenses	186	115
Miscellaneous expenses	212	183

TOTAL PAYMENTS	59718	63893
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Excess of payments over receipts	2376	530
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BALANCE SHEET

31 August 2022

Bank current account	10454	12835
Bank savings account	12028	12026
Petty cash	787	349
Creditor	-435	
	22834	25210

Capital account	22834	25210
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Signed
CHAIRMAN**TREASURER**


15/5/23

16/5/23

DODLESTON PRE-SCHOOL

Financial Statements

31 August 2022

Charity number 1035994

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Balance Sheet

DODLESTON PRE-SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

I report on the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 3 to 9

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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 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 report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 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 examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Craig Wynne FCA
AC Accountants

24th April 2023

DODLESTON PRE-SCHOOL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
Year end 31 August 2022

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Signed
CHAIRMAN

TREASURER