Preschool CIO
Lyme Road, Axminster EX13 5BE
OFSTED EY496057
Charity no. 1160739
Tel: 01297 639329
Email: dragonflies@stmarysaxminster.devon.sch.uk
Website:www.preschoolaxminster.co.uk

Trustees' Annual Report 2025

Trustees 2025-6:

Kayleigh Beer (Chair)
Natalie Shaw
Jessica Ellis
Sarah Fawcett
Grace Herbert

Dragonflies Preschool is a small preschool which takes children from age 2 to 4, until they begin their Reception year at school. It operates within a school building (St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Axminster) and pays rent for one classroom and an outside area, plus cleaning and utilities, to the multi-academy trust which runs the school (Plymouth Cast). The preschool operates within the school day and term times only, and looks after a maximum of 24 children at one time, up to 5 2-year-olds and the rest 3 and 4-year-olds. Most children do not attend full time but their parents choose the hours and days they attend according to what works best for them.

Trustees are usually recruited from parents of children who attend the preschool, although other interested parties (such as grandparents or other members of the community) would be welcomed if they wished to join.

Our activities and objectives are to provide an excellent preschool - the aim of our preschool is to begin the education process for young children, providing this in a caring but structured way so that the transition to school is a smooth process. We aim to make the children feel happy and confident in our care and to help parents feel involved with this process.

We promote equal opportunities and encourage children to think of others but also of themselves. We encourage self-confidence, good health and a responsible attitude in all our children. We aim to provide a safe, secure, fun place for children to learn whilst also providing more challenging activities. Families can always talk to us in the strictest confidence and be assured that everything we learn about the children remains confidential. Our staff and Trustees recognise that the wellbeing of the children is paramount; we are continually looking for ways to improve our knowledge and practices to the benefit of the children. Our ultimate goal is for our children to leave us and go on to Primary School as happy, healthy individuals who mix well with others, consider the feelings of others but are also able to stand up for what they believe in.

In 2023 we were inspected by Ofsted and were given a rating of “Good”. We also regularly receive positive feedback from parents and were almost full to capacity in summer term 2026, though we have fewer bookings from Autumn 2026 onwards. Bookings tend to increase throughout the year as families become eligible for working entitlements, two-year-old funding and also when children turn 3 and become eligible for 15-hour universal childcare.

We are funded mostly by Early Years government funding which we claim via Devon County Council, with whom we have a providers agreement, and claim hours for eligible children both through Universal funding for 3 and 4-year-olds, targeted funding for 2-year-olds and working entitlements for all early years children.

We also charge directly for children who attend more hours than they are entitled to claim under funding, and hours outside of our funding period.

We make a termly charge to all children for snacks and consumable items such as wipes and suncream, which allows us to use more of our budget for resources for the children’s activities and environment, such as music, PE sessions and new play equipment. New government rules mean that these charges are voluntary, so parents do not have to pay them. We keep them as low as possible (£15 for each charge, so £30 per term per child).

We carry out some fundraising locally e.g. at school fetes and through local supermarket fundraising schemes, as well as selling branded uniform items for children at a small profit - these are not compulsory for parents to buy.

Most of our costs are for staff salaries. We employ a team of highly motivated and qualified Early Years practitioners, including an EY Room Manager/SENCo and Deputy, as well as a Finance and Business Manager. We also take on apprentices and work experience students, and have external providers to lead PE, music and outdoor/woodland activity sessions.

We have also started running an occasional outreach programme in partnership with a local secondary academy, providing early years childcare for children whose families are in receipt of Pupil Premium, looking after the younger siblings of pupils whose parents struggle to attend and engage with parents’ evenings without childcare. This is part of a project being carried out by the school to try to remove barriers to parental engagement with education as part of a social mobility study run by the University of Exeter. Many of the children who attend Dragonflies, as well as their older siblings, attend this school and it therefore benefits the children and families involved with our setting as well as the wider community.

We have no debts but keep a reserve both for redundancy/emergency funds of £9k and £7k respectively to cover us in the short term in the case of unforeseen emergencies. These are deposited in an interest-bearing instant access savings account.

Our accounts are checked annually by a local chartered accountancy firm.

October 2026

DRAGONFLIES PRESCHOOL CIO

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF DRAGONFLIES PRESCHOOL CIO

I report on the accounts of the Dragonflies, for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 3.

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 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is required.

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 Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS 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 any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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 any 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 to 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.

TCAS Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Victoria Hall
Coombe Lane
Axminster
Devon EX13 5AX

DRAGONFLIES PRESCHOOL CIO

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2024			2025	
£	£		£	£
		INCOME		
92025		DCC EYFS		109436
22016		Fees		16078
2351		Fundraising		347
-		Grants		1000
84		Interest Received		57
126		Uniform Sales		65
116602				126983
		EXPENDITURE		
	89236	Wages	98705	
	5348	Pensions	5216	
	5087	Rent	5167	
	715	Equipment & Toys	829	
	4671	Consumables & Resources	5523	
	641	T-Shirts/Uniform	504	
	1302	Insurance	1434	
	370	Training Expenses	568	
	572	Professional Costs	577	
	-	Repair Costs	375	
	301	Telephone	329	
	-	Sundry Expenses	428	
	144	Cleaning	150	
	2290	Website/Software Costs	2236	
	33	Stationery & Postage	46	
	993	Depreciation	864	
	421	Subscription & Memberships	132	
	-	Stock Decrease	-	
112124				123083
4478		**SURPLUS/(DEFECIT) FOR THE YEAR**		3900

Approved by the committee and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman: R. Beer

Treasurer: Natalie Shea

DRAGONFLIES PRESCHOOL CIO

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2024 £	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS	5169	4305
CURRENT ASSETS		
Closing Stock	204	204
Bank Current Account	88208	93895
Redundancy Account	9000	9000
Deposit Account	7150	7207
Cash in Hand	47	47
	104609	110353
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	1340	2320
NET CURRENT ASSETS	103269	108033
TOTAL NET ASSETS	108438	112338
REPRESENTED BY:		
Capital Account @ 1 January 2025	103960	108438
(Loss)/Profit for the Year	4478	3900
	108438	112338

DRAGONFLIES PRESCHOOL CIO

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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