Growing and Learning Together

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period
01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025

Charity Name: Little Jesters Pre School

Registered Charity Number: 1161375

Charities principle address: Faldingworth School, High Street, Faldingworth, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3SF

Trustee Name	Office (if any)
Michelle Foster	Treasurer
Katie Hetherington	Chairperson
June Griffiths	
Rosina Turner	
Rachael Bryden – resigned 06-2025	
Alice Ginnelly – appointed 08-02-2025 (Lyall)	Secretary
Mica Mealing – Appointed 08-02-2025	
Katherine Cameron – appointed 08-02-2025	
Elizabeth Everton – resigned 08-02-2025	
Alex Lawrence – resigned 08-02-2025	
Emma Sawyer	
Chloe Flatman	

Type of governing document: Constitution

How the charity is constituted: Charity Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods: Appointed by committee

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document: The charity works for the public benefit, having as its objects the development and education of children and young people in particular by:
(1) Promoting their care and safety;
(2) Promoting their education and promoting parental involvement;
(3) Promoting their health and wellbeing;
(4) Providing services to support them and their families and carers;
(5) Providing services to individuals holding membership of the CIO

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

As a preschool, we achieve our objectives on a daily basis, primarily by providing a safe, welcoming, stimulating and engaging provision for the children, aged 2 to 5 years, of the local community and surrounding areas. We do this by following educational guidelines (EYFS) to further the children's development, education, health and wellbeing. We have a good relationship with parents and carers, providing them with opportunities to participate in their child's education via open mornings and events; our open-door policy ensures parents are welcome to visit the setting and contact staff as required. We work closely with parents and carers to involve them in the running of the setting and to keep them informed of their children's progress and development, as well as promoting local services and information which would be of benefit to families. We offer training and professional development to staff and volunteers through a variety of courses, benefitting the entire preschool community.

In setting our objectives, planning and activities, our committee has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year:

From January to July 2025 we steadily increased our numbers which helped us to remain viable and sustainable, meaning that we have been able to continue to offer 30 hours to all parents requiring these hours and ensuring that we can still offer local families access to good quality childcare and education for their preschool-age children. In September 2025 our numbers were reduced from the previous 6 months due to 8 children leaving the setting for primary school. We also lost a further 2 children during the autumn term due to them moving out of the area.
From January 2025 we had 3 qualified members of staff on our books. We were also able to take on a staff member for 8 hours to enable the manager time to get paperwork completed within working hours.
In April 2025 we received the resignation from our long-standing Manager, who was retiring. We advertised for a new manager and a current qualified member of staff applied. They were interviewed by our committee and offered the position, which they then accepted. However, in July 2025 and 1 week before the end of the summer term, they handed in their resignation stating that they had accepted a manager's position at another setting, but would stay at Little Jesters until October 2025. This meant that we would only have one full time member of staff and one part time from October 2025, which added a lot of pressure to an already difficult situation, as re advertising the manager's position was proving difficult due to applicants not having the experience or skills for this position. We were able to recruit a qualified level 2 practitioner who would work on a temporary basis to ensure that we had the right amount of staff to open, but this was not a long term position at their request. The committee spoke with the then current Deputy Manager, who agreed to take on the role for an interim period as long as we could appoint 2 further qualified staff members. The committee looked at the finances and agreed that this was possible and a necessity, to ensure that the correct ratios could be maintained and the setting could remain open and sustainable, giving the parents reassurance. After advertising, we successfully appointed 2 new staff members, plus another staff member to support a child on a 1 to 1 basis. These staff members started after the October half term, which meant that from November 2025 we had 4 qualified staff plus a support assistant, working various hours each week, as the temporary member of staff left at this time also.

We continue to have a strong and involved committee, who have supported the setting during the year with fundraising events and the general running of the setting. Our committee is a mix of long-standing and newer members, which ensures a blend of fresh new ideas to complement tried and tested practices

Our fundraising has been successful again this year which has enabled the group to renew some of the older resources.

Financial Review and Brief statement of the charities policy on reserves:

During the year, our income has increased from £67,196 to £86,755; our expenditure has also seen an increase from £58,892 to £71,713. As a result, the total amount held by the charity at the year-end 2025, increased to £42,001 from £27,189 at the end of 2024. Little Jesters is dependent upon Early Years Funding from local government, as well as some private fees from parents, to be able to sustain its activities. Our fundraising activities are also an important source of income for us, enabling us to continue improving our setting.

Our viability is dependent upon the number of children attending our setting – low numbers could mean having to implement either a reduction in our opening hours, or a full closure. To avoid closure in case of funding difficulties, a plan has been made and Little Jesters' committee agrees to maintain financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue for a period of 3 months. The main concerns of the board are to ensure:

- Staff can continue working with the children within the setting, while the committee would promote the preschool to attempt to increase the numbers of children on roll at the setting.
- We remain mindful of the regular increases in the living wage and our obligations to staff, with regard to pension payments, as well as redundancy payments, should the setting be forced to close.

We are currently able to secure sufficient funding each month, but it has been calculated that if difficulties were to arise, reserves of approximately £18,000 would be needed to continue operations for at least 3 months. The reserve should be built up from unrestricted income. The levels of reserves are monitored each year by the Little Jesters Pre School committee. We have increased the level of reserves needed this year due to rises in inflation, minimum wage, utility increases etc.

We have in recent years, had to implement the plan due to the reduction in the number of children attending and children moving into school. By having this plan in place, we have managed to ensure the sustainability of the setting and its security for the community for, hopefully, many years to come.

We continue to review our finances and staffing costs termly, which is something we will keep doing as we are able to predict that 2026 will bring further challenges with the numbers of children registered. We are due to lose another 6 children to primary school in July 2026, so we will focus our attention towards advertising the setting and hopefully welcoming more children.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature __K.Hetherington__ Full Name__Katie Hetherington___

Position ___Chairperson & Contact Date _16/09/2026

Little Jesters Pre-School

Income **&** Expenditure **report**

Year ended **31/12/25**

Little Jesters Pre-School

Income & Expenditure Report

For year ended **31/12/25**

	2025	2024
Income		
Fees	**13666.20**	**16212.27**
LCC Funding	**70739.25**	**50571.37**
Fundraising	**2349.22**	**412.00**
Total Income	**86754.67**	**67195.64**
Expenditure		
Wages	**61852.42**	
Ofsted	**64.18**	
Meals etc	**1057.65**	

Admin			
	2067.16		
General			
	4925.99		
Insurance			
	638.80		
Rent			
	1106.52		
			50793.43
			51.20
			758.08
			766.64
			4283.37
			606.94
			1631.71

Total Expenditure

Surplus for year

Surplus brought **forward**

Surplus carried **forward**

Surplus funded by

Bank Account			
Bank Account			
Bank Account			
Petty Cash **balance**			
Prepayments & accruals			
		71712.72	
			58891.37
		15041.95	
			8374.27
		27188.97	
			25086.65
		42230.92	
			33460.92
		27673.88	
			13863.67
		12941.32	
			12798.44
		1485.46	
			651.24

50.54	
	25.62
-150.00	
	-150.00
42001.20	
	27188.97

We have examined the books and records **of the above organisation** and confirm **that** the above **account is a true and** fair **record** of the **transactions** undertaken **by** the **organisation in** the period.

CASSELLS LIMITED

20/04/2026

Cassells Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants

Eastfield Low *Church Road*

Middle *Rasen*

Market *Rasen*

Little Jesters Pre-School
Faldingworth CP School
High Street Faldingworth
Market Rasen
Lincs
LN8 3SF

23/4/26

Dear Little Jesters

Lincs

LN8 3TY

07572540945

perry@cassellsaccountants.co.uk

We have completed the requested check of the accounts **of** Little Jesters and confirm that the works have raised no concerns.

We have enclosed the finalised income and expenditure account for your records.

Yours sincerely

Perry

P A Yarnell

Registered in England **& Wales Company number 4769063 VAT number 801404778**