

**GREYSTEEL PLAYGROUP**

**Charity Registration No: NI101604**

**Trustees' Annual Report: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

Greysteel Playgroup is a community-based, committee-run playgroup situated in the rural village of Greysteel, Co. Derry and serving the local area of Greysteel and surrounding areas.

For the period 2018/2019, the **Trustees** were:

Gabriel McGuinness

Gary Quinn

Joan Downall

Elizabeth Feeney

The **Management Committee**, elected at the AGM on 18 June 2018 were:-

Chairperson:	Louisa McGuinness
Treasurer:	Dawn O'Neill
Secretary:	Gillian Kelly
Committee Members:	Catherine McLaughlin
	Emma McKeever
	Aisling Armstrong
	Claire Kirk
	Kerry McLaughlin

Our aim is to enhance the development and education of children, aged three to four years old, in a community based playgroup with parental involvement. We aim to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment for the children to learn through play and to develop self-positive attitudes to learning, self-confidence, curiosity, co-operation, perseverance and respect for others.

We, at Greysteel Playgroup, have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the young children in our care and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration and we offer a safe & welcoming environment to children from all backgrounds.

We use a play based curriculum and children's own interests to inform our weekly and monthly plans. These planners then assist the staff in providing the appropriate activities and resources to develop the children's learning.

We focus on the six areas of learning within the curriculum:-

*Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Language Development; Early Maths Experience; Physical Development and Movement ; The World Around Us; The Arts.*

Throughout the year, the Management Committee and parents continue to supplement our EA funding by raising funds for the playgroup to assist in our running costs. In the current financial year, we have 15 children.

In November 2018, Bernie McKinney resigned her post as Playgroup Leader and Ciara Hyndman was appointed to the role, starting in January 2019. At that time, Vonnie Robson was also appointed as Playgroup Assistant as it was felt by the committee and staff alike that a third member of staff was essential for the running of the playgroup. At the end of June 2019, Ciara left the role and Geraldine McGuinness was appointed as the new Playgroup Leader. Geraldine was the previous leader of the setting and we are delighted that she has decided to rejoin us. The EA awarded the playgroup 24 funded places for September 2019 and for the first time in three years, we were oversubscribed. All places have been filled.

In addition to the weekly voluntary fee provided by parents, the Management Committee has organised fundraising events throughout the year for the Playgroup:-

Halloween Sponsored Walk - £445

Christmas Hamper - £315

Smarties Tubes - £198

Easter Hamper - £283

Throughout the year, we were successful in securing funding from The Halifax Foundation NI for salaries, totalling £3,500. We received £1,566.40 from the Childcare Partnership to cover the clean-up costs associated with a rodent which managed to get into the playgroup over the festive period. Finally, we were awarded £1,070 from the EA for the Big Bedtime Read. Staff arranged an information evening for parents in March followed by a pyjama evening for the children & their siblings which was a huge success.

In December, the children were invited to Faughanvale Primary School to enjoy the P1s, P2s & P3s performing in the Christmas Nativity. At Easter, the children were again invited to the local primary school for the annual Easter Bonnet Parade. In May, the children joined the classes of Faughanvale Primary School for their Sports Day at the GAA pitch. In June, we enjoyed our own trip to The Playtrail in Derry.

From November 2018, the Playgroup were in discussion with Faughanvale Primary School with regards to temporarily relocating to the P1 classroom (effective September 2019 and subject to satisfactory registration with Social Services) until such time as the proposed new build was ready however due to

various logistical issues, both parties agreed that it would be better for the playgroup to move directly into the new build once it is complete. Discussions are ongoing in terms of the funding options in respect of this and the sub-committee continues to work towards this goal. Planning for the new build was approved in March 2019 in the grounds of Faughanvale PS.

During the summer months, some essential DIY and repairs were carried out by members of the committee and staff members and the local youth club were on hand to repaint the fences, wooden structures and to tidy up the garden. All assistance was greatly received.

The AGM took place on Thursday, 6<sup>h</sup> June 2019 and the new Management Committee was elected:-

Chairperson:	AnneMarie Doherty
Treasurer:	Leona Craig
Secretary:	Aideen Gill Feeney
Committee Members:	Mary Keys
	Janine McLaughlin
	Leanne McLaughlin
	Emer Magee
	Erin Proctor
	Sharlene O'Hara
	Danielle McGurk

The Trustees wish to thank the staff and Management Committee for their hard work throughout the year and to the parents and local community for their ongoing support.

On behalf of the Management Committee:

Louisa McGuinness

(Chairperson)



4<sup>th</sup> September 2019