

ATTICALL PLAYGROUP

Trustees' Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

The trustees present their report and unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Atticall Playgroup

Charity registration number NIC102470

Registered office
Atticall Community Centre
140 Tullyframe Road
Kilkeel
BT34 4RZ

The trustees
Jenni Trainor – Chairperson
Sinead Quin – Treasurer
Lisa Cunningham – Secretary
Oonagh Fitzpatrick
Laura Sloan

Professional advisors Bankers
First Trust Bank
42 – 44 Hill Street
Newry
Co. Down
BT344AU

Reporting Accountants
Mrs Jennifer Murphy
150 Tullyframe Road
Kilkeel
BT344SA

Objectives and activities

The object of the group as stated in the constitution is 'to promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age (the beneficiaries) of the Atticall and its surrounding environs in County Down (the area of benefit) without the distinction of age, gender, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion, by associating the statutory authorities, community and voluntary organisations and the inhabitants in a common effort to advance education, and in particular:

- A) To advance the education of the beneficiaries by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, with the right of the parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group; and to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries; and
- B) To support the values and principles of the Early Years.

Structure, governance and management

During the process of registration with the Charities Commission Northern Ireland, Atticall Playgroup issued a formal Constitution document which was formally adopted on the 7th November 2013. The Constitution is readapted and revised yearly.

Atticall Playgroup is managed by a committee being the Trustees with the help and support of the employees and parents of the children attending. The day to day running of the charity rests with Mary Sloan the playschool leader.

Election of the committee takes place at the AGM. The committee is made up of parents and Associate members, with their nomination is put forward for approval by the committee. The maximum term of office is three years. Induction and training of trustees is provided in house and via Early Years.

Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statement

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustee report and statement of accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Public Benefit Statement

In setting objective and planning activities for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purpose and provide benefit to the beneficiaries.

Achievements and performance and results for the year

Atticall Playgroup is a long-established care and education provider for children aged 3 years to 5 years for 3 hours per weekday. We have Four Fully Qualified Dedicated Staff with years of Experience working with children.

We have delivered Education through Fun based Play. Learning through Play following a curriculum is fundamental to young children's Personal Social Emotional Development, their Physical, Language Early Maths, Arts and World Around Us Development. We also provide Outdoor Learning in our Fully Enclosed Safe, Stimulating Outdoor Play Area.

The past year has been a successful but challenging year owing to reduced pupil numbers and loss of additional funding streams. We are thankful to the committee, parents, local community, business that helped us by volunteering, purchasing raffle tickets, sponsoring us and attending fundraising events we held.

We held two very successful community events this year, a Santa Sunday and craft fair which was a wonderful social event for the children, parents and wider community that attended. In April we were delighted to host Afternoon Tea and Fashion show supported by Lady T's and Shelly's dress hire, another fantastic event with many different generations attending, enjoying a catch up with neighbours and supporting the Playgroups fundraising.

The children enjoyed visits from Speech and Language, weekly Irish Classes, visits from a local Vet. Aswell as trips to Mourne grange, NearyNogs Chocolate factory and Sticky Fingers. There were lots of celebrations and parties through the year and a wonderful Graduation ceremony to celebrate the children's achievement during their playgroup year.

Funding additional to EA came from the Education Authority Getting Ready to Learn funding of £650, Fees £4,838, fund raisers of £4,101, trip £84 and miscellaneous business book sponsorship £316.

Reserves Policy

The is the policy of Atticall Playgroup to hold bank reserves of £11,400 to sustain the Playgroup through unforeseen circumstances. Atticall Playgroup accounts for the year ending 30th June 2024 show cash at the bank and in hand of £27,640. This was a decrease from 30th June 2023 due to loss of pathway funding.

Risk Review

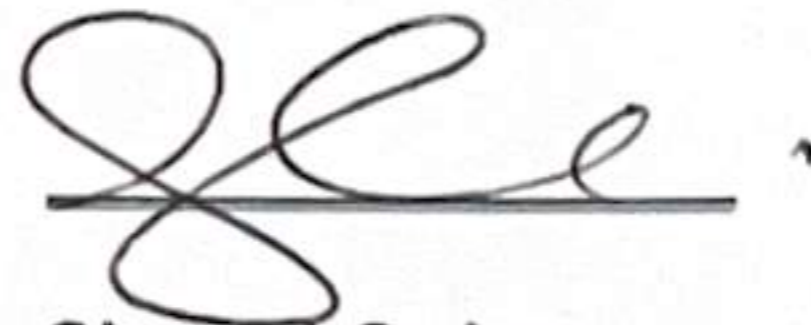
The trustees continue to assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operation and finances of the playgroup including the challenges around the current funding climate and loss of Pathway funding. The trustees are satisfied that the correct systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The trustees consider that an audit is not required under the requirements of the Charities Act (NI) 2008 and Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and that an independent examination is needed.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 28/04/2025 board of trustees by:



Jenni Trainor

Chairperson



Sinead Quinn

Treasurer



Lisa Cunningham

Secretary