

WOODBURN PLAYGROUP

TRUSTEES REPORT

Year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Woodburn Playgroup
Charity registration number	102554
Principal office	Oakfield Community Centre Oakfield Drive Carrickfergus Co Antrim BT38 7SP
The trustees	Mrs Tanya Kirkland (Chairperson) Mrs Catherine Baldwin (Treasurer) – Appointed Sept 2023 Miss Jade Corr – Appointed Sept 2023 Mrs Olivia McComish - Resigned June 2023 Mrs Jenny McMurty - Resigned June 2023 Mrs Janice Logue - Resigned June 2023
Independent examiner	Simon Hopper F.C.A. Hopper & Co 6 Doagh Road Ballyclare BT39 9BG

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Woodburn Playgroup exists to promote play based learning for children under statutory school age.

It is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. It is run by a Board of Trustees and operates under the rules of its constitution.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Woodburn Playgroup provides education and care for children aged 2 years and 10 months to statutory school age in a safe and secure learning environment. Staff are highly trained using NI pre school

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curriculum and have specific training and knowledge working with children who have Special Educational Needs to enable all children to reach their full potential.

We are an Inclusive Playgroup, promoted through our Equal Opportunities Policy for children, parents, carers and volunteers. We employ three part time members of staff as well as providing opportunities for volunteering both with the children as well as the governing body. (We have a safeguarding policy, and all volunteers have Access NI Checks). We provide training e.g. safeguarding, positive parenting and curriculum development to support parents and families and to promote parental participation. The playgroup brings people together in a range of ways, these include; inter-generational activities, education and social. Children are able to bring their parents and families to interact and learn in a safe environment. We encourage a wide range of ages and abilities to learn together and socialise.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Playgroup meets the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland public benefit requirements by promoting a play based learning environment for children under statutory school age. The direct benefits that flow from this purpose include:

Preparation of each child for primary education;

Mastering the basic skills of expression, communication, problem solving, early mathematics, creativity, knowledge of the world around us, experimentation and exploration; Physical development;

The ability to relate to other children and adults.

We have 17 D.E.N.I places in place and the playgroup will have reached its full quota of children by April 2024, subject to their dates of birth.

A total of £705.25 was raised through our 'Christmas Concert'. £701 was raised from our Easter Egg fund raiser and £173.50 was raised through a tea party held for parents and children. The money was spent on equipment to promote further development of curiosity, investigation and problem solving within the world around us. We also purchased outdoor waterproof clothing and two storage sheds for the garden. A unit to be used for a dish washing station was purchased for indoor use. £52 was raised through the sale of previously used sweat and polo shirts which enabled us to purchase a battery charger with the remaining money going towards a portable greenhouse.

We received £4,160 funding from Engage 111 Programme through the Education Board to support children's attention and listening skills and physical emotional development. We also received £400

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from the Getting ready to Learn programme to purchase resources for the themes Education Works, Big Bedtime Read and Happy Healthy Kids.

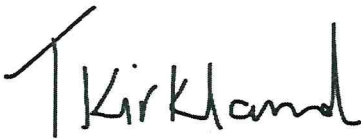
Outings held in the school year 2022/23 were to Streamvale Farm and taking the children on a train trip to Larne. Visitors invited into the playgroup included Jump, Jingle and Jive, Dizzy Kids, Fun with Drums, Kids Yoga, Wee Critters, Performing Stories, Rangers Soccer Academy, Debutots, Rugby, Science Starz, a police officer, and members of the Ambulance Service. Visitors organised to come into the playgroup this year include a representative from the Fire and Ambulance Service, a mother and her baby, Wee Critters, African Drumming, a Liberian, a representative from Inver Garden Centre, A midwife and a nurse. Outings arranged for children this year include a visit to Carrickfergus Castle and the Transport Museum.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The playgroup aims to have retained unrestricted reserves of 3 - 6 months outgoings to allow for income fluctuations. Unrestricted reserves at the year end amounted to £28,104. (2022 - £31,252). These reserves are comfortably within the above limits.

Net income for the year amounted to a deficit of (£3,147).(2022 surplus - £3,933).

The trustees' annual report was approved on 26 June 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by



Mrs Tanya Kirkland
Trustee