

Strawberry Tree Playgroup
Trustees' Annual Report
For the period ended 30th June 2023

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 30th June 2023.

Purpose of Strawberry Tree Playgroup

To promote play based learning environments for all children under statutory school age from the area of Saval and its surrounding environs in County Down.

Summary

Strawberry Tree Playgroup is a community managed pre-school playgroup and is registered to accept a maximum of 26 children each session, five mornings per week from 9.00am to 12.00 noon. The playgroup is managed by a committee. Members of the playgroup (parents or guardians of children attending Strawberry Tree Playgroup) elect trustees of the playgroup annually at its AGM by means of a public vote.

The vast majority of Strawberry Tree Playgroups income is provided by the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB). Additional funding is provided by way of registration fees, donations and fundraising events.

The playgroup is registered by The Charity Commission. Inspections are carried out yearly by a Social Worker from Early Years. The report is displayed on the Parent's Notice Board.

Strawberry Tree Playgroup has been inspected by Social Services and ETI (Education Training Inspectorate). The full report is available to read from Strawberry Tree Playgroup.

Notable events that took place during the period reported on include:

1. *Table quiz and raffle Sep 22*
2. *Two Bonus Ball raffles Oct/Dec 23*
3. *Santa Letters Dec 22*
4. *Table quiz and raffle Jun 23*

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

The objective of the playgroup is to prepare the children for entering into the school environment. The playgroup has a common effort to advance education and in particular the education of the children by the provision of safe and satisfying group play, to promote the preservation of health of the beneficiaries and to support the values and principles of the pre-school curriculum.

Financial Summary

26 children attended Strawberry Tree Playgroup during the period of this report and the SELB provided funding totalling £54,515 and funding received for a 1 to 1 workers from Short Breaks team and also from Education Authority of £2,105. Money was received from Education Authority for additional costs in relation to Engage II totalling £2,912. Families of children attending the playgroup are asked to make a voluntary financial contribution towards some of the running costs, and during the year, registration fees and weekly donations totalling £6,832 and also were received giving a total of £66,365 of income directly related to the children.

Strawberry Tree Playgroup was awarded a grant from Early Years for heating oil totalling £800. We also received maternity pay from HMRC of £5,431 during the year.

During the year we were successful with our application to the Pathway Fund and we were granted funds of £7,299 for period 1st July 2022 to 31st March 2023 and £2,609 for period 1st April 2023 to 30th June 2023.

The following fundraising events were organised during the year:

Quiz and Raffle September 2022	£1,057
Bonus ball draw October 2022	£590
Bonus ball draw December 2022	£440
Santa letters December 2022	£99
Quiz and Raffle June 2023	£920
	£3,336

Total income received for the financial year was £85,840.

The total running costs for the financial year were £81,776 which included staff wages, rent, heating, insurance, telephone and internet, premises costs, general playgroup expenses, uniforms and subscriptions. Costs were closely managed during these period.

The Trustees of Strawberry Tree Playgroup throughout the period of this report were:

Registered Person: Emma McConville

Chairperson: Catherine Digney

Vice Chairperson: Treasurer: Annette O'Sullivan

Treasurer: Fionnuala McCarthy

Vice Treasurer: Lisa Kearney

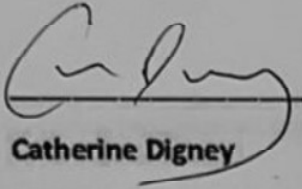
Secretary: Lisa Rocks

Vice Secretary: Sara Bogues

Staff Liaison Office: Gearldine Doran

Trustee Members: Gavin Walsh, Amanda Kearns, Natalie Collins, Anne McNally, Teresa Quinn, Riona Canavan

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Catherine Digney

Chairperson

Dated: 26/09/2023

Strawberry Tree Playgroup

41a Sheeptown Road, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 2LA

Registered Charity Number: NIC106117