

EGLINTON COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL CENTRE

CHARITY NO. NIC 106314

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2024

Constitution and purpose

Eglinton Community Pre-School is a charity governed by a Constitution adopted on the 8th May 2008. It is managed by a Committee consisting of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than 2 members of the Group elected by and from amongst the members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.

The aim of the Group is to enhance the development and education of children (0-4) age by encouraging parents/guardians to understand and provide for the needs of their children by:-

- a) Offering appropriate play facilities, with the right of parents/carers to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the Group, ensuring that the Group offers opportunities for all children, regardless of religion, culture, race or means
- b) Encouraging the study of the needs of such children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs of such children and their families in the local area.
- c) Support the values and principles of Early Years, the organisation for young children.

We offer a Pre-School education for 3-4 year olds, 5 days a week, with each session lasting 2.5 hours. Staff plan activities around the Northern Ireland Pre-school Curriculum and are inspected on a yearly bases by social services and every 6-7 year by ETI. We are cross community supporting families with Pre-School education and offering advice and guidance for those children who may have additional needs.

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Public Benefit

The direct benefits that flow from our purposes are improved outcomes from pre-school children, through the development of their capabilities, life skills, independence, social skills, play skills, physical development and language and communication.

The families of the children also benefit through the education and care of the children, with staff formally meeting with parents three times per year to feed back and report on children's development. There are also opportunities on a daily basis for parents to talk with staff.

The benefit for the wider community is that parents are involved in the governance of the Pre-School, and through this can access relevant training on roles of responsibility of the committee, Child Protection training, and designated officer training.

Our Pre-School is cross community and promotes respect and understanding with the children and the parents and this has had a significant impact on families and community as friendships are formed and continued when the children move to primary school.

A further benefit of our Pre-School is we work with and have close contact with other relevant professionals who may be involved with the children. Through fundraising that the committee organise, links with businesses in the village have been established and the Pre-school also has close links with day care and those who work in our community e.g. nurses. These benefits are evidenced through children's records e.g. observations, photographs and staff planning and evaluation. Parents are asked for their comments on a yearly basis through a parent questionnaire.

We are registered with the Western Health and Social Care Trust and are inspected annually. We were also inspected by ETI in 2018, with a very good grade. There is no harm arising from the purposes. The beneficiaries are the children attending the Pre-school centre and their families.

There is no private benefit flowing from the purposes of Eglinton Community Pre-School Centre.

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Review of Public Benefit Activities 2024

During the school year 2023/24, there were 24 children enrolled with 4 members of staff.

The group continues to run at a deficit and relies on additional efforts of fundraising to ensure the sustainability of the pre-school provision. There has been a small increase in EA funding per child but with increases in the cost-of-living following Covid-19 and parental contributions being down there is a reliance on outside funders to minimise potential deficits in running costs.

Salaries will remain fixed with possible review in the future if any changes in EA funding or an extension of the pre-school day with the introduction of standardisation in 2025.

Financial Position

At the year end the Charity held £30,103 in reserves. Although funding is tight we aim to keep £16,000 in reserve in order to fund future plans / cover any unforeseen funding shortages etc.