

Little Friends Playgroup TRUSTEES' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Report and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 August 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Little Friends Playgroup present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 August 2023.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Objectives

Little Friends Playgroup operates 5 days a week for 4 hours a day. We work closely with parents and carers in helping them to become involved within the playgroup and planned activities. We are an open and inclusive playgroup where children, parents and families are at the centre of our agenda. We comply with DOE learning curriculum applying the 6 areas of learning in our daily/weekly planning and observations so that through play and a wide range of activities the children are given every chance to freely explore, experiment and investigate learning experiences and opportunities.

The aim of the group is to enhance the development and education of children under statutory school age by encouraging parents/guardians to understand and provide 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 and 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.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

The trustees who served during the year are as follows:

Clara Maybin	Karen Green
Mariesa Kerlin	Majella McClean
Kara Harkin	Toni McElhatton
Mary Quinn	Siobhan Nugent
Helen O'Neill	Philippa Fielding

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

During the year, the trustees meet monthly to organise, plan and review activities. All cheques are signed by two trustees for accountability.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

During the year, the Playgroup organised various activities and trips as follow:

- Christmas family fun day
- Trips to Aladdin's Kingdom and Glenpark Forest Park.

Throughout the year we did some fund-raising

- Christmas bonus ball
- Easter draw
- Craft fair

Financial Review

The financial results for the year are set out on page 7.

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Results and Dividends

At the end of the financial year the charity has assets of £42,095 (2022 - £46,729) and liabilities of £0.00 (2022 - £0.00). The net assets of the charity have decreased by £(4,634).

Reference and Administrative details

The reference and administration information of the charity can be found on page 3.

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Little Friends Playgroup subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Public Benefit Statement

Through purpose (A) we benefit the public through provision of pre-school education for children to develop a range of life skills, self-improvement, self-esteem, self confidence and independent skills by providing a play based learning environment in which children of all race, ability, culture, gender and religion can access the pre-school curriculum and have the opportunities to reach their full potential.

Through purpose (B) we increase knowledge of local services, and reduced isolation for parents, carers, grandparents and child-minders who attend the group with their children.

Through purpose (C) Staff benefit from training opportunities that enable them to develop individual capabilities and understanding to support the children's learning & development. Students benefit from training placements enabling them to develop practical skills in Childcare. These benefits are evident through continual assessment of children by staff, assessment of staff by management, parent feedback, Early Years advisor and regular evaluation of the service by Social Services and the Education and Training Inspectorate No harm arises from these purposes. The beneficiaries are the children and families connected to playgroup living in Strathroy and surrounding areas.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 9 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Philippa Fielding
Trustee



Helen O'Neill
Trustee