

Annual Report for St. Michael's Family Centre September 2023– August 2024

Core aim and ethos of St Michael's Family Centre:

We aim to offer a safe and secure environment for all children, in which they will be offered a wide range of opportunities to learn through play. Enthusiastic staff will give the children opportunities to be creative, imaginative and to develop physical skills. We have a wide range of activities and equipment to suit all ages and interests.

The children will be empowered to extend and develop their skills and confidence in a caring supportive framework.

‘Playing and learning together’

Major achievements and developments:

During this academic year we have seen more confidence in children attending the family centre however still experienced a reduction in children attending particularly in our Church Lane and the newly opened St Clements site. We are proud to be able to celebrate that the Terrington St Clements site had their first OFSTED inspection in July 2024 resulting in a Good Outcome.

Child attendance has many implications for revenue and spending with less revenue being generated spending has needed to be reviewed to ensure that we are able to provide a sustainable future. The committee have continued to be pro-active with many decisions needing to be made to ensure the sustainability of the charity, other sources of funding are being explored for example one off grants to ensure that development of quality early years and education is maintained. Well-being of both staff and children has been at the fore-front of thinking and positive actions have been taken to ensure that everyone has felt safe and valued.

Major achievements in childcare:

- We have continued with the use of Tapestry to document and record the children's learning in all areas of the early years provision and this well received by parents as it allows ease of access to children learning and development.
- All staff have had the opportunity to participate in INSET training – plus making use of the government recovery programs.
- Staff have updated relevant mandatory qualifications – including risk assessment, first aid, moving and handling, and safeguarding with sessions on the latest requirements and legislation.
- Continued to embed a unified approach and ethos across the three sites to promote the core ethos of the Charity as St Michael's Family Centre.

St. Michael's Family Centre
(Registered as a Charity),
Saddlebow Road
King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5BN
Telephone: 01553 770439



Church Lane:

Supporting children's communication and language skills has been the focus at all of our centres including Church Lane. Research has found that the numbers of young children in the East of England failing to meet their milestones in this area has increased. As such, we have sourced and facilitated additional staff training that focus on the prime areas of learning but in particularly promoting children's communication and language development. This includes sourcing and implementing new methods of assessing all children communication and language levels. We have also increased our 'lending library' to assist parents in supporting their children's communication and language development at home. In addition, we have been providing activities for parents to share with their children during the holiday periods to help children to receive consistency in their learning.

Saddlebow Road:

Staff at Saddlebow Road has continued to develop and support the children's speech and language development as well as reflect and develop practice with staff attending training and other events to further this aim. Grants have been used effectively to support and enable enhanced learning activities to take place for some of our most vulnerable children including take home learning packs to focus on health, well-being and dental care. Staff recruitment has taken place as some staff have moved onto pastures new and others gone onto Mat leave.

St Clements:

As stated above OfSTED completed their first inspection in July 2024 which resulted in a Good Outcome which was a brilliant achievement and reflects the efforts the staff have made with embedding good practice into the day to day running of the centre.

Staff report and update:

Childcare Staff team St Michael's Family Centre confirmed for the period September 2023- 2024:

Registered Person

Jeanette Nowrung and setting SENCO/SLP

Administrator:

Lynn Glencross (part time - term time only)

Saddlebow Road

Early Years Professionals: (Saddlebow Road)

- Paula Reed (full time Early Years Lead Barn Owls) setting ENCO/DSLSP
- Jackie Smith (full time Early Years Lead for the Snowy and Wise Owls) DSLP

Hannah Palmer

Tiny Owls (Full Time)

Imogen Luker

Tiny Owls (Full Time/Term Time - left July 2024)

Mia Dickerson

Tiny Owls (Full Time/Term Time)

Alana Brearley

Barn Owls (Full Time/Term Time - left July 2024)

Lauren Dearsley

Barn Owls (Full Time)

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Amy Elton	Snowy Owls (Full Time)
Nicole Alder	Snowy Owls (Part Time/Term Time - returned from Mat leave Sept 23)
Senior Play-worker	Jill Watson (Part Time)
Thrive coordinator	Tracey Rudd (Full Time)

Church Lane

Early Years Professional: (Church Lane)

- Louise Harris (Early Years Lead term time only) SENCO/SLP

Amy Ellwood:	Tiny/Baby Owls lead (Full Time/Term Time)
Jade Jones	Tiny Owls (Part Time/Term Time)

Hanna Yate:	Little Owls Lead (Part Time/Term Time)
Leanne Brassett	Little Owls (Part Time/Term Time)
Leanne Pledger	Little Owls (Part Time/Term Time)

Catherine Ward	Tawny Owls (Part Time/Term Time)
Becky Mills	Tawny Owls (Part Time/Term Time)

St Clements:

Early Years Professional: (St Clements)

- Holly Melton Forest Owls Early Years Lead – SLP (Full Time/Term Time)

Jessica Simpson	Forest Owls (Full Time)
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Support Staff	Jon Wells (ICT support)
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Charity Funding raising for the year 2023-2024:

The staff and children have been busy yet again raising funds for those less fortunate in the local and wider community and have supported the following national and local events:

BBC Children in Need	NSPCC Christmas Jumper day
Christmas Raffle (to support a child in hospital)	The Food bank

Partnership working:

Local nurseries and community organisations:

The family Centre has continued to work in partnership with other local nurseries in the community to ensure that services are available for those most in need. This includes but not limited to signposting children and families to other providers to meet the needs and demands of the child and family.

Local health team:

The childcare staff also have regular dialog with the local health team to plan and implement learning activities for those most in need as well as plan integrated reviews for the children (EYFS 2 year reviews/checks).

Financial report:

The accounts have been finalised for the year and independently examined by Aston Shaw, copy attached to this report.

We have continued to claim funds for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. This means that the term after child is 3 years old they are entitled to 15 hours for funded sessions which we claim from Norfolk County Council Education department. A number of children are funded via the Norfolk County Council 2 year funded scheme. Furthermore, we have children that are in receipt of the government 30 hour funding. It has been noticeable that during the year that the numbers of children attending has been reduced. This is attributed to a low birth rate year for our school leaver cohort combined with changes in parents working situations as more parents are working from home for some of their working hours reducing the need for childcare.

Finances have been an ongoing area of attention during the year; with secure and robust evaluation of cash flow resulting in reductions in spending. It was evident very early on in the year that revenue would be significantly reduced as many children stopped attending and numbers returning for the school year were not as high as expected. Grants to the NCC Community Fund have been made to support the development of practice and enhance the learning for the children with successful bids for both Church Lane, Terrington St Clements and Saddlebow Road.

The staff have been very supportive of the financial pressures and their support and agreements with some tricky and difficult decisions to ensure cost effective service has been brilliant. Staff wages reviewed and increased in line with recommendations for minimum wage and the national living wage.

Hardship/family Support fund:

The Charity has continued to offer some of our most in need families services by continuing with the hardship/family support fund whereby a 'restricted fund' has been set up to allow us to be able to support children to attend that under normal circumstances would not be able to. During the academic year 4 families were supported via this fund.

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Restricted Early Years Pupil Funding: Families in receipt of the EYPP have benefited from having the termly government vouchers to support their rising cost of living. We have used the additional funding received for these children to support the intervention of targeted support to include but not limited to:

Welcomm interventions

Additional staffing to support activities for example cooking, music and movement sessions, community trips and learning events.

Restricted SEN funding has been used to support those with specific learning to offer enhanced learning materials and activities.

Committee confirmed as for the year 23-24:

Committee:

Jeanette Nowrung	Lesley Hartley	Kathryn LeServe	Jasmine Watts
Sasha Courtney-Jenner (Resigned Sept 23)			

Kathryn LeServe (Safeguarding lead)

Louise Harris and Paula Reed (staff representatives)