



**LEARNING FOR
LIFE APPEAL**



**Rebuilding
lives,
reshaping
futures**

Making space for opportunity

Harmeny is a special place. It is home to a community where children aged 5 to 14, impacted by trauma and adverse experiences, find the space to live, learn and grow.

Our Learning for Life appeal is an opportunity to help increase both our capacity and reach. It will enable more young people to discover their potential, and extend our support up to the age of 18.

Help us grow Harmeny's space, and make a real difference to some of the most vulnerable, yet inspiring, children in Scotland.



When we first met Logan he was scared

Abused by his step-father and neglected by his mother, he was angry and overwhelmed by his feelings and didn't know how to express them. Living in care, he had moved foster home and school ten times.

He trusted no one; everyone just let him down. He couldn't make friends; he didn't even know how to play. All he wanted was a safe and stable home and to be accepted.

Logan was eight years old

His future was bleak. Without the right support, he wouldn't receive the same chances as other young people to engage with education, training and work. He would struggle to secure employment and was more likely to turn to drugs and alcohol, self-harm and crime.¹

Without help, Logan's right to a safe and secure childhood and a happy and fulfilling life would be denied.

¹ Scottish Government Independent Care review report 'The Money', 2020

"Building positive relationships is where we start.

We know the likes and dislikes of each child and can generally 'find a way in'. The idea is to understand and engage every child."

Teacher



For over 60 years, Harmeny has provided care and education for vulnerable children like Logan. We provide nurturing, loving care by creating sustained positive relationships and a therapeutic approach to learning that focuses on a child's strengths. We are persistent even when complex needs make this difficult, and we are deeply committed to helping all our children achieve their full potential.

Harmeny excels at giving children aged 5-14 hope for their future, a sense of belonging, and the personal development they need to engage with wider society. On average, our children spend three years at Harmeny. As a result of the therapeutic support we provide, 60% of our children are able to move to foster or family-based care with local special educational support.

Our support means Logan no longer feels scared. But his traumatic past means the future is still a scary place for him.



Right now, Logan knows he has to leave at 14 years old

For children like Logan who have suffered trauma in their early years, transitions are a source of anxiety. Even moving from their cottage to classroom, or from break back to class, can trigger feelings of fear. So imagine how it must feel to know that, at 14 years old, you have to move away from somewhere you feel safe and secure to another school and residential home miles away. For our older children who need more time to recover, or where a return to a family setting is not possible, we need to develop our services to ensure that they can remain at Harmeny until they are 18.

The Learning for Life Appeal will allow Logan to stay at Harmeny for longer

Our existing primary classrooms provide a great start for our younger children. However, the current building housing our early secondary classrooms is no longer fit for purpose. We need to raise £3.1m to build a new Learning Hub, a flexible space designed with teenagers in mind. This will provide Logan, and young people like him, with the facilities they need to continue living and learning at Harmeny, preventing yet one more traumatic and stressful move.

Former pupils like Kevin have told us just how hard such a transition can be.

Kevin's story - when children have to leave

"I was 13 when I left Harmeny and this transition was hard. I quickly got in with the wrong crowd and didn't cope with secondary school. I was out fighting all the time, smashing car windows, taking advantage of grandparents.

I left school after a year with no qualifications and a criminal record. Then I left home and went off the rails – I spent the next six years on a downward spiral and did a lot of things I'm not proud of. I got to know the police station well.

Even at the worst times, I remembered Harmeny's values and they've helped make me who I am today, with my family - and working in a bank!"

"Transitioning from the supportive network of Harmeny will never be easy but I hope, with the new facilities, it will be easier now than it was for me."



Help more young people discover their potential



Research into the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has already shown a concerning increase in mental health issues for the young, and an acceleration of the attainment gap in Scotland.² Disadvantaged young people are twice as likely to have missed out on their education because of the impact of Covid.³

We know there are many young people on our doorstep who are living with adversity and are disengaging from school. These vulnerable young people need alternative education programmes now more than ever to ensure they re-engage with learning, gain qualifications and develop skills for the workplace.

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The new Learning Hub will provide the facilities we need to deliver new secondary day education programmes for young people within our wider community -- giving more young people like Jack the opportunity to rediscover a love of learning.

² Research conducted by University of Glasgow, 2020

³ Poverty Alliance Report: The Poverty Related Attainment Gap, 2021

Jack's story - uncovering hidden talents

Jack (aged 14) and school were not a good combination. As a young person in care, he felt marginalised and could get very angry. He was spending less and less time in class. His teacher heard about the pilot of our secondary skills programme and set up a weekly placement.

In bike maintenance Jack discovered an activity that caught his imagination. More than that, he established relationships of trust with those around him.

Even after his placement had ended, Jack would turn up at Harmeny, keen to keep working with the bikes. So the outdoor manager set Jack up with a bike repair shop run by a professional acquaintance. "This is the real thing, Jack", he said. "Show them what you can do."



That was the beginning of a regular commitment - and a real shift from a troubled background and run-ins with the police to the potential of employment and growing self-confidence.

Making time for Logan...

With your help we can create the right learning environment and secondary curriculum we need to ensure Logan can stay at Harmeny and receive the same chances to engage with further education, training and work as other young people.

£3.1m will build a Learning Hub where Logan, and young people like him, will:

- access skills-based secondary education programmes designed around their needs and interests
- have more time to recover from trauma and build resilience
- discover their strengths, increase their employability and grow towards their potential

Maximising on Harmeny's exceptional wooded and landscaped grounds, the Hub will also be the launchpad for our year-round outdoor education programme.





... and space for Jack

New multi-functional workshop spaces within the Hub will allow learning, enterprise and work-readiness skills to be delivered. These will also provide the capacity we need to extend our reach via a new secondary day education service for those living in our wider community.

Working in partnership with local schools, colleges and businesses, we will help more young people like Jack to gain the skills and confidence they need to move on to positive destinations such as employment, apprenticeships, college or university.

Your support will positively impact the lives of many vulnerable young people, both locally and nationally, who otherwise may never be given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

How you can help

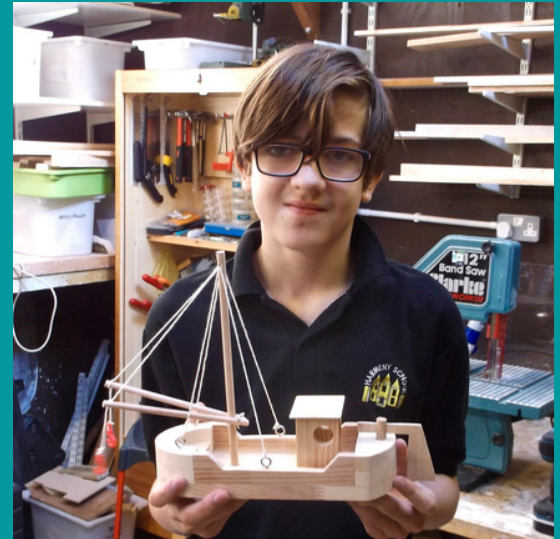
To support the Learning for Life Appeal and enable more young people to discover their potential, please get in touch.

Phone 0131 449 3938

Email fundraising@harmeny.org.uk

Visit www.harmeny.org.uk/appeal

Your kindness will give those who have had some of the hardest starts in life the skills, space and support they need to thrive.



"Harmeny offered me the best chance in life. It taught me how to be happy." Former pupil

Names of children have been changed to maintain confidentiality. Photographs have been selected in line with Harmeny Education Trust's policy and are not associated with stories or quotes used. Harmeny Education Trust Ltd is a registered Scottish Charity No SC024256 and a Company Limited by Guarantee No SC162021