



**Harmeny  
Education Trust**

# ***A space to thrive***



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**AUGUST 2023 – JULY 2024**

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Front cover photo and images of the Learning Hub on pages 10, 11 and 15 taken by Jim Stephenson.

Photos with quotes on pages 8, 9 and 10 taken by our young people as part of our photography club.

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## OUR VISION

For children and young people to have the love, encouragement and nourishment they need to grow and reach their potential.

## OUR PURPOSE

To provide therapeutic care and education which helps children and young people overcome trauma and adversity, discover the joy of learning, and lead happy, fulfilling lives.

## About Harmeny

Harmeny Education Trust is a charity with children and young people at its heart. We provide care, education, and therapeutic support to children and young people, aged 5-18, who have complex additional support needs as a result of early years trauma and adversity. Our beautiful estate is set in Balerno, in the hills above Edinburgh. Everything that we do is rooted in Our Vision, Purpose and Values.

## Our Values



### Relationships

We believe in compassionate, nurturing relationships, for we know that they build trust, respect and understanding.



### Community

We believe in helping each other to thrive, for we are a community which is welcoming, supportive and celebrates difference, enabling everyone to flourish.



### Child-Centred

We believe that children and young people are at the heart, as they come first in all that we do.



### Learning

We believe that learning is a passport to life because we have seen that creative and engaging education has the power to transform lives.

# A message from our Chair of Trustees

**Jennifer Scott**



Welcome to the Annual Report for 2023-24. This has been a year of change, consolidation, and celebration.

In March 2024 we said goodbye to Neil Squires, who had been Chief Executive for almost 14 years. I worked closely with Neil for nine of his 14 years after I became a Trustee. Neil's commitment to Harmeny was second to none, and he worked tirelessly, dealing with the many challenges which he faced.

There is a long list of achievements accomplished under Neil's tenure, but the ones that stand out are: the completion of The Harmeny Way, the therapeutic practice handbook for staff; the delivery of the Acorn Project, allowing young people to stay at Harmeny beyond the age of 14; and the completion of the fantastic Learning Hub, providing facilities for an expanded secondary curriculum. These successes are even more impressive given the economic challenges of the last few years. These achievements were made possible because of Neil's dedication, leadership, and ability to work in partnership and pull the right people together to help to realise them.

In March we were delighted to welcome the new Chief Executive, Gavin Calder. I have been so impressed with the speed at which Gavin has adapted to the role, understanding all the complex facets that make up Harmeny. His commitment, enthusiasm, and positive approach shine through.

Along with many other staffing changes, and some changes on the Board, we have taken time to consolidate all the recent achievements, not forgetting to celebrate them and the difference that these have made and will continue to make to the lives of the staff, children and young people at Harmeny.

A huge thanks as ever to the staff, volunteers and the children and young people who make Harmeny such a special place to live. Their dedication ensures that we continue to embed our new services and remain a space in which our children and young people can thrive.

*Jennifer presenting Neil Squires with a leaving gift to mark his 14 years of service*



# A message from our Chief Executive

## Gavin Calder

As Chief Executive, it is my great pleasure to welcome readers of this annual report. In it you will learn about a busy year, where much has changed, but we have also consolidated, and celebrated the things that we do well, and the people who have contributed over many years.

The new Learning Hub has been a great addition to our secondary provision, but we also cannot forget the first-class education provided by our highly experienced team in the Primary School.

As an educator for almost 30 years, I have quickly realised just how much energy also goes into the loving care of our young people in the life spaces, with respect shown for each and every individual.

While we have not been immune from the staffing crisis in the care sector, we have weathered the storm well, and now finish the year in an even stronger place, as we continue to give the young people the consistency of experience that they richly deserve.

The many and varied activities that have made up the Harmeny year are reported on herein, and you can also learn about groundbreaking Life Story work spearheaded by our Therapies Team.

The Here4U project is crucial in making sure that former pupils remain part of the Harmeny Family once they move on geographically, and another example of our efforts to keep The Promise.

The Chair of the Board, Jennifer Scott, has paid tribute to the outstanding work of Neil Squires. I would also like to thank him and extend this to all Harmeny's Trustees,

especially Jennifer, for their tireless efforts over the last 12 months.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff across Care, Education and in Support Services for their warm welcome, and for all the amazing work that I have seen so far. You are all inspirational!



## Our year in numbers

**14**

The number of local authorities we have worked with this year.

**3**

young people left Harmeny to return to a family setting.

**36**

Harmeny has supported young people this year. 28 on a residential basis, 8 within our Day Education Service.

**2**

young people transitioned from our residential education to our day education service.

**8**

young people achieved their Bronze ASDAN Award.

**76%**

of pupils increased their general maths ability\*

**80%**

of pupils increased their reading ability\*

## Supporting our former pupils

We believe that all who have been part of Harmeny will always be part of Harmeny. Our Here4U project is our dedicated transitions and keeping in touch service, which provides ongoing support and guidance for former pupils up to the age of 26.

Support that our Here4U project worker has provided includes: securing funding for driving lessons, guidance for completing housing applications and bursaries for college, and sharing photos and memories of their time at Harmeny.

Established in 2022, we have now connected to 66 of our 108 young people under the age of 26 (61%), and would like to encourage others to get in touch too. Older former pupils are also welcome to get in contact. We can provide support through calls and visits, and offer the chance to share memories and discuss experiences of Harmeny.

Where possible, Here4U also monitors outcomes for our young people, and has undertaken research into the impact that our therapeutic approach and interventions has had on our young people as they have grown into adulthood.

**Of the 43% of former pupils that we have been able to confirm outcomes for:**

**10%**

are in school and continuing their learning

**21%**

are in employment

**45%**

of former pupils aged 16+ attend college



Paul, our Here4U worker

*"I can talk about the things I did as a kid, with the people that were there"*

**Former pupil**

**FORMER PUPIL?**

Get in touch:

[Here4U@harmeny.org.uk](mailto:Here4U@harmeny.org.uk)

## Strategic Plan 23–25

This year saw the launch of our August 2023 to July 2025 strategic plan. The plan is centred around **consolidation**, giving us time to adapt to the post-pandemic environment, launch and embed our new Learning Hub and therapeutic framework, and prepare for our young people to grow with us as part of our new Acorn 15+ service. Aligned with the foundations of The Promise, our plan is key to providing our children, families and staff with the scaffolding to thrive.

### Key achievements this year include:

Completion of our **new secondary learning facilities** - The Learning Hub - and the implementation of our new senior phase secondary curriculum, in partnership with schools, colleges, business and third sector organisations. See pages 9-11.

The launch of our **therapeutic practice model**, The Harmeny Way. See below.

Continued enhancement of our induction and ongoing development of our staff, including moving to fully-funded qualifications, **increased learning opportunities**, and a leadership & management programme to augment the skills of our management team. See page 16.

Further embedding of our therapeutic practice, a **focus on de-escalation techniques**, and review of the use of restrictive practice. See pages 12-14.

Underpinning all our work is **giving a voice**, not only to our children but also to staff, parents and carers. Our continued focus on groups such as pupil council, our parent & carer group, and our staff engagement group, means that we can hear from the people who matter most, and use their voices to continually drive improvements across Harmeny.

### Launch of The Harmeny Way

Our therapeutic practice framework, The Harmeny Way, was launched in February 2024. The framework is a collaborative resource that captures our ethos and values, and clarifies the underpinning theories that guide our practice.

At the heart of The Harmeny Way is our children and young people, and the resource was developed from an observational lens, considering what complements their needs and supports them to thrive. It is also linked closely to The Promise, and in particular to our strategic aim to minimise restrictive practice.

A new learning and development programme, capturing the essential elements of the handbook and bringing it to life in different learning fora, is being devised following consultation with staff and a wider skills development analysis. This will be supported by a Practice Steering group, made up of 12 members from across Harmeny, who will act as champions to embed it throughout the organisation.





## Events and activities

### Edinburgh Airport visit

In May our intrepid young people had a scorching hot (but very safe!) time at Edinburgh Airport. But they weren't there to catch a flight, they got to climb aboard a real fire engine and put out a controlled fire with the help of the amazing Edinburgh Airport Fire Service!

The children learned all about airport safety procedures, and the vital role firefighters play in keeping everyone safe. They even got to hold the hoses themselves, which was definitely a highlight!



### Football skills put to the test

It wasn't just Scotland who were tested this year in the European Championships; Harmeny's football team played against fellow residential care provider, Seamab, in May, before taking on multiple teams at the WhoCares? Scotland Care Cup in July.

The football matches were an excellent experience for all involved, with the team showing great sportsmanship and scoring some excellent goals.

### Summer fun

The sporting theme continued into the summer, starting with our annual Sports Day. Families, carers, trustees and staff all attended the event to support the young people throughout their activities.

Olympic fever gripped Harmeny in July, and we made the most of our holiday time by getting out on the water through kayaking and trips to the beach. We ended the holidays with a Summer Disco involving roller skates, incredible dance moves, disco lights, and pizza!



## Education update

Our residential and day education services focus on creating the best environment to support and encourage children to re-engage within the Curriculum of Excellence through a range of varied learning experiences. We recognise that each and every child has unique needs and skillsets, and we help them to succeed in the way that suits them best. This year saw the opening of our new secondary and vocational learning facilities - The Learning Hub - and the implementation of our experiential secondary curriculum beyond S2.

Over the last 12 months, our InCAS assessments (computer-based tests devised by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at the University of Durham) have shown that 76% of pupils increased their general maths ability and 80% of pupils increased their reading ability. As part of our newly extended secondary curriculum focused on vocational and employability skills, eight young people achieved their Bronze ASDAN Award and one young person achieved their first SQA.

Our strong focus on outdoor education continued with activities such as biking, kayaking, hiking, camping, orienteering and burn-stomping. These activities are designed to help build confidence, improve physical and emotional wellbeing and help our young people to gain new skills and interests that will last them a lifetime.

***"I took this picture the first time we climbed up Arthur's Seat with Outdoor Education. There was a beautiful view of Edinburgh from the top!"***  
**Young person**



## Day education service developments

In January, we expanded our day education service staff team with a full-time Assessment and Planning Worker (APW), to support the adults and children.

The expanded APW role has enabled us to increase our year-round support to our day education service pupils and their families, and maximise the use of our Resilience Framework to create a strengths-based and solutions-focused approach to ensure high levels of engagement with learning, and consistent attendance during school terms.

## Expanding our learning facilities



Teaching began in our new beautiful Learning Hub on 23rd October 2023, following a special opening ceremony for the children and staff.

In November we held a formal opening event to mark the completion of the Learning for Life Appeal, and thank our incredible supporters who have helped to make this new space a reality.



The Learning Hub was formally opened by Fraser McKinlay, Chief Executive of The Promise Scotland, with local MSPs, supporters and representatives from across the care and education sector.

### Award-winning design

In June, we were thrilled to win a Gold Award in the Education Building category, and a silver award for Client of the Year, at the Scottish Design Awards!

The Learning Hub has been shortlisted in three further design and construction awards, along with our architects, Loader Monteith and Studio SJM Architects, and our builders, Thomas Johnstone Ltd.

Results are due to be announced from November, so keep an eye on our website for updates!



*Matt Loader (Loader Monteith), Mandy Shiel (Harmeny's Head of Education) and Sarah Jane Storrie (SJM Studio Architects) celebrate our double award.*

# The Learning Hub

The Learning Hub is a huge improvement on our old outdoor centre, and has created a therapeutic learning environment for all our children and young people. It is so much more than a building, and has given our young people the consistency in learning needed to thrive:

- We can now be there for our young people beyond the age of 14 and through their vital teenage years.
- We can provide a secondary curriculum beyond S2, and enable our young people to gain skills, confidence and qualifications in subjects that they care about, leading to further learning, apprenticeships and jobs.
- Now our young people are reaching 15 years old, we are able to lay the groundwork for further education and access to college courses.
- It has allowed us to support our young people who have struggled to maintain their education within a mainstream school, giving them the option of part-time timetables or to return to learning at Harmeny.

These new facilities mean that we can flex our support around a young person's needs at a key point in their lives.

**Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible by supporting our Learning for Life Appeal.**



*"Sometimes if I get stressed I like to have a walk around the building, because it's not that long and it is easy to walk around."*

**Young person**

*"It is an inviting space that allows our young people to feel valued and enjoy the company of their peers. Now they get to stay, they get to belong, and they get to finish their education in the same place... that's extremely valuable"*

**Tracie, Child and Family Worker**

*"I use the My Space room a lot because I just need space most of the time. It's not that the teachers are bad or anything, it's just sometimes I need some space. I like how the chairs are comfortable, and I also like the peace and quiet... It's calming, so it's my favourite place"*

**Young person**



*"The Welcome Room is a place where me and my best friend can have breakfast and lunch at. It's more light and it's also got much more room for walking and jumping about."*

**Young person**



*"It has become a place for all children who are interested in woodwork, bike maintenance and artwork and attend their outdoor sessions. Meaning that by the time they become secondary pupils, they are already familiar with the building and the staff, so this allows for a smoother transition between primary and secondary"*

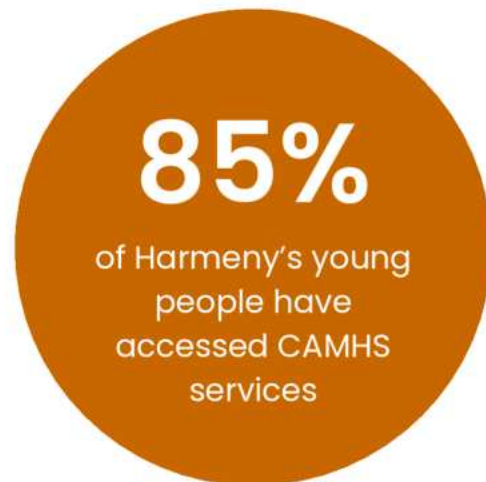
**Rob, Outdoor Learning Facilitator**

## Our trauma-responsive approach

We continue to enhance our therapeutic provision, further developing our existing relationship with the NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) team, and embedding tools such as Seasons for Growth and Life Story work, to ensure that our therapeutic approaches are consistently used across all our teams. Our Care Action Group oversees the implementation of new strategic developments, as well as new approaches to the recruitment and retention of staff.

### Improving access to specialist mental health support

This year we have had six-weekly consultations with two professionals from the NHS CAMHS team. Their impact has been immense, as they allow us to explore, challenge, and progress the specialist mental health support provided for our children and young people. 85% of Harmeny's young people have accessed CAMHS services, and 13 topics have been explored in CAMHS sessions.



### Expanding Therapeutic Life Story Work

Two of our Assessment & Planning Workers (APWs) are currently studying towards achieving a diploma in Therapeutic Life Story Work (TLSW). TLSW is a sensitively guided process that enables our young people to explore and make sense of their past. It provides a platform for difficult and emotive feelings to be validated and worked through, allowing them to develop a more compassionate sense of self, and look forward to the future optimistically.

The knowledge of TLSW that our APWs have gained has been shared more widely to upskill colleagues, which has enabled Harmeny to facilitate TLSW with more young people as part of our therapeutic practice.

## Strengthening wellbeing and resilience

Colleagues from our Care and Education teams have facilitated Seasons for Growth group work sessions to support young people who have been affected by different types of loss, including bereavement, transition, and separation. These sessions provide a safe space to understand and cope with the effects of change, loss and grief, and to manage the powerful feelings that these events can trigger.

## Ensuring a consistent and trauma-informed approach

We have revised our recording tools, such as our forms and risk assessments, ensuring that they allow more reflection and the use of trauma-informed language. We've also reviewed our Quality Assurance Framework, and introduced new protocols for auditing our forms. To support this work, we have introduced a new Social Worker post focused on child protection, and a Therapies Manager. See page 15.

## The Thoughtful Spot

We have introduced a new dedicated sensory space for children and staff, which offers them a chance to relax, play, learn and spend time with someone away from the busy-ness of other areas in Harmeny.

The space is bright, spacious, welcoming and comfortable, and we are delighted that our therapists can use this space to offer play and music therapy to our children.

Currently, six children benefit from these therapeutic approaches in our Thoughtful Spot. It is also where one-to-one reflective space discussions will take place with our Therapies Manager and psychotherapists.



*"Lots of birds visit us at Harmeny. I took this picture of a robin that was hanging out in our woodland."*

**Young Person**



*The Thoughtful Spot, a sensory space used for play and music therapy.*

## Prioritising de-escalation techniques

A major focus for us in the past year has been prioritising de-escalation techniques and reviewing our use of restrictive practice, in line with the commitments of The Promise. Through CALM training and careful review and consideration, we continue to improve on what we have already achieved in reducing the number of physical interventions required.

## Use of CALM theory

All staff involved in the care and education of our young people complete two days of CALM theory training, which focuses on de-escalation, with physical restraint being used only as a last result where physical harm is likely to occur.

Two additional members of our team will shortly complete their CALM Associate training, enabling us to offer more child-specific discussions to staff and further promote de-escalation techniques through regular training.

We have also facilitated discussions with the children in school about CALM and what it means for them.

## Smoothing transitions

The transition to and from the classroom after break and lunchtimes was identified as a key trigger point for distressed behaviours through analysis of physical interventions. This led to the introduction of slightly longer break times, to allow more opportunity for active play. As a result, we have seen a 54% reduction of holds within the school day.



***"Rain doesn't stop us, we love to play football and get muddy!"***  
**Young person**

## A consultative approach

The voice of the children and our staff is vital to making improvements to all our practice. We regularly consult with our young people through Pupil Council, cottage meetings, and in-class discussions to review our approaches. Our staff engagement group, check-ins, and surveys also provide opportunities for staff to feedback.

We also participate in national groups, such as Educating through Care Scotland (EtCS) and the Social Work Scotland Residential Care Practice Group, to share and learn best practice.



# Developing a supportive workforce



We appreciate that our work is challenging for our teams, and that safeguarding the physical and mental wellbeing of our staff is vital to us being able to provide the care and education that our children deserve.

Supporting staff professionally and personally has always been high on our agenda, and we continuously consider initiatives that we can offer to promote healthy lifestyles, and provide ways for them to work through challenging situations.

We focus heavily on mental health supports, including our employee assistance programme, and over the last year we provided a placement to a student counsellor. This received great feedback from the staff who engaged with the service.

To bolster our opportunities for reflection, such as supervisions and debriefs, we are recruiting two consultant psychotherapists, who will provide sessions on an individual and group basis to allow staff to work through the challenges of their role.



## New Therapies Manager role

In February we appointed a forensic psychologist, Dr Nicola Wylie, as our Therapies Manager, to oversee our therapeutic practice and ensure that it meets the needs of our children and adults.

This role also takes leadership of how we engage adults in case discussions about individual children, and oversees the Assessment and Planning team, which promotes a joined-up therapeutic approach across Harmeny.

Dr Wylie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, gained from over a decade of work with children and young people, and training in risk, mental health, and a range of therapeutic interventions.

## Supporting new and existing staff

As our service has grown and developed, so too has our staff body, and our commitment to ensuring that our staff are fully equipped to meet the needs of our children and the organisation.

Getting a great start in a new role puts staff in the best position to achieve success, and we have continued to develop our 10-day induction to ensure that it allows our recruits a fantastic introduction to life at Harmeny. Our new starts get a mix of theory sessions, time in the cottage or classroom, and a chance to meet our managers and senior leadership team. We take feedback from all inductees, and use this to continually improve our induction programme.

### Continued professional development

Supporting our staff into and through their qualification journey has been another key priority. To achieve this, we have moved from a 50% funded to a fully-funded model for mandatory qualifications such as SVQs and HNCs.

We also appreciate the fantastic work that our managers do, and to provide them with the skills that they need to lead, we invested in a leadership & management programme for our senior care workers, cottage managers, service managers, and senior leadership team.

A training programme to support the extension of our care and education beyond age 14 has also been developed, with the first training sessions on suicide awareness training taking place in April. An extensive programme covering topics including self-harm, sexual health, harmful sexual behaviours, escape techniques, attachment, and the adolescent brain will continue over the next year.



*Dr Suzanne Zeedyk presenting to care and education staff on attachment.*

*"I love the combination of skill and curiosity that exists in the [Harmeny] team. Their approach to working with traumatised children offers insights for working with all children"*  
**Dr Suzanne Zeedyk**

# Building Connections

In April, developmental psychologist and expert on attachment theory, Dr Suzanne Zeedyk, came to speak to our teams about the fundamental attachment needs of children, and how healthy attachments can soothe a child's stress system.

It was inspiring and motivating for our staff to hear from Suzanne, and benefit from her passion and expertise. Suzanne remarked that she has never before been in a room with 'so much knowledge of attachment', which is a true testament to our brilliant staff!

## Global guests

This summer we hosted three international visitors to share knowledge and best practice. Liana and Madeline from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire studied Harmeny's therapeutic approach to education.

Ryuji also visited from Japan as part of a three-month tour of the Netherlands, Germany, Scotland, and the USA, to explore how other countries practice residential care.

Closer to home, we welcomed Miles Briggs MSP for a visit to learn about Harmeny's Here4U project as part of his roles as a member of both the Scottish Parliament Cross Party group for Care Leavers, and the Education, Young People and Children committee.

Neil Rennick, the Director-General for Education and Justice, also visited, to learn about our work and discuss developments in funding, best practice and legislation, and their impact on specialist education provision.

All visitors praised Harmeny's staff, environment and programmes, highlighting the positive impact of their experiences.



*Dr Suzanne Zeedyk*



*Liana and Madeline*



*Ryuji with Service Manager Craig Paul, after a run exploring the Pentlands*

## Sharing our practice

In May, Harmeny was delighted to sponsor this year's Children in Scotland conference.

The conference gave us the opportunity to share the work that we do at Harmeny, as well as learn about other organisations, and be inspired by teams across Scotland who make a difference in children's lives.

Our Here4U Project Worker, Paul Henderson, took to the main stage to deliver an inspiring presentation.

Paul outlined how Harmeny is working hard to meet the aims of The Promise, including developing our 15+ Acorn service, which has helped to reduce the number of young people having to transition away from Harmeny when they reach adolescence.

Paul also highlighted the amazing work that we are doing as part of the Here4U project, which is allowing us to maintain links with former young people who have lived with us, and evaluate the impact that our services have had on them as they move into adulthood. See page 5.

## Sharing our educational insights

In March, Ted Magazine journalist, Emma Seith, visited Harmeny to learn more about our new Learning Hub, and explore whether any of our highly specialised approaches to learning could be replicated in mainstream schools.

Emma highlighted how our careful timetabling gives pupils and teachers the best chance of success in learning, particularly around literacy and numeracy. Maximising the outdoors as a learning space across all subjects was also noted, due to its positive impact on mental health.



The Harmeny team at the Children in Scotland conference



*"The workshop by Harmeny was very inspirational. The speaker was passionate and demonstrated genuine care and commitment to The Promise. Hearing about the amazing work at Harmeny and the brave choices they have made to improve the lives of care experienced children was moving."*

**Children in Scotland conference attendee**

## Fundraising update

At the start of the school year, the race was on to raise the final funds to kit out the new Learning Hub in time to open for learning after the October half-term break. Our amazing supporters helped to raise over £90,000 (including Gift Aid) for furnishings and fittings, exceeding our target by 14%!

Many businesses also rallied round, donating furniture, fixtures and fittings for free. This has meant that we have been able to continue to invest in the Learning Hub past the opening, giving our team and young people the chance to continue to shape their learning environment.

We were also hugely proud to continue our partnership with the team at RBC Brewin Dolphin's Edinburgh office, who have raised over £40,000 since 2022, as well as volunteering over 470 hours of staff time to ensure that our estate remains a safe and therapeutic space for all.



*Raising the final appeal funds by abseiling the Forth Rail Bridge – RBC Brewin Dolphin staff and Harmeny volunteers.*



*Thomas Johnstone Ltd staff at the Glasgow Kiltwalk*

Our association with Thomas Johnstone Ltd, who built our Learning Hub, also continued this year, with TJL choosing Harmeny as their charity partner for 2024 with a series of fundraising challenges.

In total, between August 2023 and July 2024, £153,372 was donated, including Gift Aid, to ensure that our children and young people have the support and opportunities they need to thrive. These donations have enhanced our holidays and activities fund, as well as our transitions and keeping in touch project, Here4U.

We were also very grateful to receive a grant from The Scottish Government Pupil Equity Fund, targeted towards improving children's attainment and achievement in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing.

**Thank you to everyone who has helped to make Harmeny a place to live and a space to thrive this year. Your support has ensured that we can now support young people beyond the age of 14, and provide the spaces and opportunities that our remarkable young people need to fulfil their potential.**

## Volunteering update

Many hands made light work to maintain our 35-acre estate, paint and decorate our cottages, get the Learning Hub ready for opening, and wrap Christmas presents as part of our corporate volunteering scheme. This year, 228 volunteers from 27 teams gave 1,368 hours of their time to support our work.

In addition, 20 volunteers regularly support the work of the organisation throughout the year, sharing their knowledge and skills in education support, photography, gardening, STEM subjects, and fundraising.

If you'd like to get involved in our team volunteering programme, please contact [fundraising@harmeny.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@harmeny.org.uk) for more information.



Abrdn



Marsh



RBC Brewin Dolphin

248

volunteers helped  
across Harmeny  
this year

27

corporate teams  
volunteered

1,368

corporate  
volunteer hours  
were given

20

Keep up to date with our news and opportunities to support our work through our e-newsletter. You can register for updates on our website.

# Our Financial Year to March 2024

We are a not-for-profit, Grant Aided Special School, providing care and education services on a day and year-round residential basis for children of primary age up to age 18. Children are referred to Harmeny throughout the whole of Scotland. The majority of our income is received through statutory fees paid by local authorities, and we also currently receive a grant from the Scottish Government.

Any surpluses generated are reinvested to ensure that we can provide sustainable therapeutic care that meets the needs of our young people. Funds raised through fundraising activities are used to enhance our support, providing additional activities and therapies, plus helping to maintain and grow our facilities.

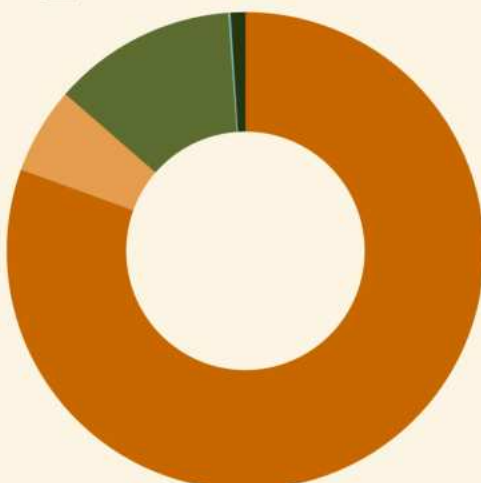
Harmeny enjoyed a strong financial performance during the April 2023 to March 2024 financial year. We recorded a surplus in the year of £1.2m, with £419k of this coming from our Learning for Life Appeal. The surplus was reduced in comparison to the prior year as we came to the tail end of the appeal. During the year we reached our £3.1m fundraising target, and this income was allocated to the completion of the Learning Hub.

Operating performance continued to be strong. Our income increased compared to last year, despite a reduction in fundraised income. Our pupil numbers remained steady through the year. Our performance has allowed us to navigate increasing costs in an uncertain economic environment.

The surplus for the year has allowed us to sustain our unrestricted general reserves to remain at our target level to give us capacity to meet unplanned expenditure. Our outlook looks challenging, with the phased withdrawal of the Scottish Government Grant by March 2029 and continuing pressures on costs. We are increasing our contact with all local authorities to ensure pupil numbers return to capacity and rigorous cost control remains a key priority.

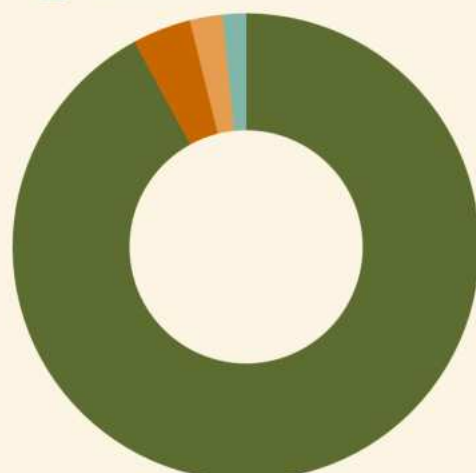
## Income sources in 2023-24 £'000

- Fees from local authorities £7,229
- Fundraised income £527
- Scottish Government Grants £1,117
- Misc income £14
- Investment income £89



## Expenditure in 2023-24 £'000

- Care and Education Services £7,137
- Administration £314
- Fundraising expenses £175
- Governance £125



A full copy of the audited accounts is available on our website.



# Harmeny

***A place to live,  
a space to thrive***



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**Harmeny Education Trust**

**[www.harmeny.org.uk](http://www.harmeny.org.uk)**