

Red Balloon's 25th anniversary



Future Fund Wish List for community fundraisers



You can give a child a future

You can help shape the lives of thousands of children too frightened to go to school because of bullying, mental health problems or other trauma.

Our award-winning academic and wellbeing approach has stood the test of time. Since 1996, over 1,000 children have graduated from our Learner Centres and Red Balloon of the Air, and we are so proud of who they've become. They have gained self-confidence and self-belief, a love of learning, and a desire to re-engage with their communities and to take their place in the adult world.

Looking ahead, we have ambitious plans to reach even more children who need us. To do so we must keep abreast of the educational scene, new technologies and online breakthroughs, the latest academic research, political initiatives, safeguarding practice, worldwide distance-learning and learning theory. But above all we need to grow.

Significant growth will require more teachers, therapeutic staff and administrators with HR, IT, wellbeing and community skills as we enrol more students. So we have launched a new Future Fund.

Will you help by donating to or fundraising for the Red Balloon Future Fund?

Will you help us turn our vision into a reality and help the next generation of frightened children to become confident, well-educated, and contributing members of society?

In this leaflet you can read how funds raised through the Future Fund might be spent. This fund will give us the flexibility and dexterity needed to meet challenges and opportunities as and when they arise.

The items on this wish list are scaleable. For example, you might want to donate £40 for a week's wellbeing support for one student, or you might choose to donate £400 for a week's support for 10 children. Please scale these projects up or down to suit your situation. We know times are hard at the moment, so whatever you can spare will be much appreciated. Thank you.

Wellbeing programme

Red Balloon students are approaching adulthood but, unlike others, they carry unhappiness, a lack of belonging and negative experiences of learning. Some are also dealing with the consequences of bullying, mental ill-health, bereavement, illness and other trauma. Sadly, many have thought about and even attempted to commit suicide. They find it hard to cope with day-to-day life, much less think about their comfort, health and future. That's why mentoring and therapy are at the very heart of Red Balloon.

With our wellbeing programme, students can build their self-esteem and resilience. They can also establish positive and respectful relationships with others, so they can live healthy, safe, productive, capable, responsible and balanced lives.

It costs £40 per week for students to receive wellbeing support at Red Balloon. Will you donate £160 to fund a month's worth of wellbeing sessions for one of our students?



Outward bound programme

Preparing for college or the world of work is about much more than gaining qualifications; it's about becoming independent, confident, resilient, responsible young adults who seize life's chances. That's why students are offered outward bound opportunities while at Red Balloon, just as their peers do in mainstream school.

Outward bound activities give students a chance to go out and explore the wild, step outside of their comfort zones and explore their talents. This is so important for children whose lives have been blighted by bullying or some other trauma. Before coming to Red Balloon many have not left their homes for months, if not years.

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Simply leaving the house is a huge challenge, so carefully managed outward bound opportunities help give them the confidence to realise their ambitions and achieve their goals.

It costs £350 to fund an outward bound programme for each child. Will you donate £350 so a child can benefit from a key moment in their life like this?

Bursaries

Our students are amazing! Children – who, months before, were too afraid to leave their bedrooms – begin to thrive and take their first steps into the adult world, thanks to our unique educational, wellbeing and community re-engagement programme.

School may not be for everyone but we believe that education should be. Children also have the right to self-belief, confidence, friendship and a place in the community around them.

It costs an average of £22,000 a year for a place at one of our Red Balloon Centres, and £15,000 for a place on Red Balloon of the Air.

Some children have their places paid for by statutory funding while, for others, their families have to meet the costs. Some parents find this impossible so Red Balloon has a bursary fund to help. But it takes considerable time and effort to raise bursary contributions and source other funding bodies. In 2018-19, the average bursary was £2,491 per student.

Will you help transform the lives of more children by donating £2,491 for a bursary? This could potentially ensure that one vulnerable child receives the support they need.



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Cultural programme

Our cultural programme serves three key purposes: it enables children to see famous artwork, architecture, historical and heritage sites close up and it helps them learn skills to travel on public transport, mix with others, tackle challenges and build confidence. These two aspects contribute to their wider learning in Art, History and English and other subject areas.



In going on trips the students are involved in planning, budgeting, route planning, catering and all the other things that need to be taken into account when going to London or some other cultural centre. For many of our students this is an important leap in their social development as they may not have left the house for months before finding Red Balloon.

Will you help our young students grow in confidence, as well as grow an appreciation for their heritage, by helping to fund our cultural programme? £1,000 would enable 10 students from one of our Centres to undertake these enriching opportunities for a year.

Computer support

- You can read more about Red Balloon and our Future Fund on our website at: redballoonlearner.org/25th. There, you can also read inspirational stories of some of our alumni, along with a summary of our strategic growth plans.
- If none of the items on this list suit your philanthropic wishes, do get in touch with our fundraising team to explore alternative suggestions.
- This list is illustrative of what could be made possible with Future Fund donations. Trustees will strategically review how funds could best meet the greatest need.

Lockdown has shown us, more than ever before, the importance of having a good laptop at home to facilitate learning. This is particularly true for students at Red Balloon of the Air for whom receiving their laptop is their first step to recovery, as they access the majority of their lessons and wellbeing support online.

Will you help by donating one laptop to each of our five Centres? This would cost £2,500 and would enable students to stay on top of their learning, access mentoring and therapy, and connect with each other online.

