

**Name and Principal Address of Charity**

Friends of Tor Bank

5 Dunlady Road

Dundonald

Belfast

BT16 1TT

**NIC 105783**

**Financial Year report relates to**

1 April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

**Friends of Tor Bank Trustees**

Ms Claire Breen

Mrs Julie Jordan

Mrs Beverley Todd

Mrs Jackie McCandless

Dr Noel Purdy

Mrs Gillian Carson

Mrs Dorothy Irwin

Mr Peter McCreadie

**The purpose of the Charity**

The purpose of Friends of Tor Bank shall be:

- To extend education opportunities for children and young people with complex needs.
- To develop more effective relationships between staff, parents and partnerships associated within the school.
- To support pupil engagement in activities or provide facilities/equipment which support the school and advance the education of the pupils.

### **How the Charity is Constituted – Governing Document**

1. We raise funds to enable the purchase of learning aids and equipment that is not available within the normal school Article 60 budget.
2. We raise funds for transport for our pupils:-
  - a. To visits at a range of education centres e.g. BMC, Priory College, riding for the Disabled
  - b. To attend special events/educational visits
  - c. To attend work placements

### **We raise funds for our family support centre where:-**

- Families are signposted to gain the necessary and appropriate support throughout the journey of their child's life.
- Parents are able to access support networks available to them e.g. Parent Coffee mornings, Bereavement support group, drop-in clinics.
- Training opportunities are available for parents so that they can gain more knowledge about their child's needs.
- Staff act in the role of counsellor for parents giving them an outlet to voice their concerns and support them through the difficult times in their child's life.

### **The public Benefit**

The public benefit flowing from the first purpose will entail improvement to the quality of the life of the pupils by:-

- Giving pupils access to the latest technologies such as iPads, interactive whiteboards, Eye Gaze and a multisensory learning environment.
- The purchase and maintenance of a school minibus and people carrier that enables our pupils to play an active role in the local community and beyond.

The public benefit flowing from the second purpose will entail improvement to the quality of the life of our pupils by:-

- Pupils are able to engage in a wide range of educational visits such as career visits and visits to other schools within our shared education partnerships/area learning community.
- Sensory needs are explored by enabling access for our pupils to visit Riding for the Disabled and swimming sessions.
- Increased opportunities for pupils to attend work placements.
- Identified pupils in our 6<sup>th</sup> form department can undertake qualifications in partner schools that are not offered within Tor Bank.

The public benefit flowing from the third purpose will entail improvement for the quality of the life of our pupils and their families by:

- A family support centre is open for parents to drop in for advice and support.

- The centre is used by Tor Bank Tots where parents of pre-school children have access to specialised support at a particularly vulnerable time in their lives.

There will be no harm flowing from any of the purposes. The beneficiaries of the purposes are the pupils of Tor Bank School and their families from the improvements to the lives of the pupils attending Tor Bank and their families.

- Friends of Tor Bank engage with all parties involved in the school. The pupils and school have benefitted through the increase in availability of and access to additional equipment, transport and resources purchased by the charity.

### **The Charity Activities**

Our main fundraising activity this year was the 'Mingle and Jingle' event which took place in December 2023. It was a huge success with the majority of funds raised on the night through Santa visits. Funds were also raised by holding our annual Christmas raffle however sales were down this year perhaps due to the cost of living crisis. We were delighted to receive a very kind and generous donation of £4230.70 from East Belfast Scooter Club. The trustees of the Charity are in agreement that additional planned fundraising activities need to take place during the 2024/25 financial year to maintain/increase the income of the Charity. The committee would like more Tor Bank families to join the Friends of Tor Bank committee to help with fundraising and support the charity.

### **Income for 2023-2024**

#### **Friends of Tor Bank is registered with the Fundraising Regulator**

Ballot sales

Christmas Mingle and Jingle

Donations from parents

Donations from the local community

Just Giving donations

Easy Fundraising

### **Expenditure for 2023-2024**

Printing of raffle tickets

Costs associated with school fair

SD Bells Coffee Cart

Interactive Whiteboard

Insurance and service for Friends of Tor Bank Minibus and school car

Selection boxes

Leaver's hoodies

Easter Eggs

### **Funds Materially in Deficit**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the Charity had no funds in material deficit

### **The Charity Commission Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance**

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year 2023/2024 the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.