

**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 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**Friends of Tor Bank Trustees**

Ms Claire Breen

Mrs Julie Jordan

Mrs Beverley Todd

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 are not available within the normal school Article 60 budget.
2. We raise funds for transport for our pupils:-
  - a. To visit 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.

### **We raise funds to cover the costs of our school assistance dog, Ruffles who:**

- Supports pupils' emotional well-being and mental health.
- Encourage positive behaviour and social interactions.
- Provide comfort to pupils experiencing anxiety or distress.
- Enhance engagement in learning activities.

### **The public Benefit**

#### **The public benefit flowing from the first purpose includes:-**

- Giving pupils access to the latest technologies such as iPads, coding equipment, interactive whiteboards, Pro 7's, Eye Gaze and a multisensory learning environment.
- Enhanced life skills and independence by providing opportunities for pupils to develop essential skills for daily living, communication, and employment.
- The continued maintenance and insurance of two school vehicles which enable our pupils to play an active role in the local community and beyond.
- Reduced social inequity by bridging educational gaps for pupils with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities.

#### **The public benefit flowing from the second purpose includes:-**

- Stronger Support Networks by encouraging collaboration between parents, staff, and external partners, leading to a more cohesive support system for pupils.
- Better educational outcomes - when parents and staff work together pupils receive more consistent support, improving learning and development.
- Staff benefit from partnerships by gaining access to training and resources.

- Increased community engagement which strengthens relationships with local businesses, healthcare providers, and charities all of whom can provide additional resources and opportunities.

The public benefit flowing from the third purpose includes:-

- An increased sense of belonging as pupils contribute to school activities fostering a sense of inclusion and pride within the school community.
- Encouraging active citizenship as pupils develop a sense of responsibility and engagement.
- Involvement in meaningful activities which helps boost confidence and self esteem.
- A family support hub is at the centre of the school which provides a safe place for parents to drop in for advice or a cuppa and access specialised support at key junctions in their child's life.

There is no harm flowing from any of the purposes, all of which contribute to a more inclusive, effective, and community driven approach to education, benefiting pupils, families and the local community as a whole.

Friends of Tor Bank engage with all parties involved in the school. The pupils, school and Tor Bank families 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 activities this year were 'Move it in May' and our 'Mingle and Jingle' event which took place in December 2024. Funds were also raised by holding our annual Christmas raffle and a special mention must go to Secondary pupil, Logan Huish who raised £2000 to assist with the purchase of new electric school vehicles. We were absolutely delighted once again to receive a very kind and generous donation of £3528.26 from East Belfast Scooter Club. The trustees of the Charity are in agreement that additional planned fundraising activities need to take place during the 2025/26 financial year to increase the income of the Charity as the cost of Ruffles, the school's assistance dog and two new school vehicles will be purchased during the 2025/26 financial year. 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 2024-2025**

#### **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

Move it in May

Gift Aid donations

Sale of school minibus

#### **Expenditure for 2024-2025**

Printing of raffle tickets

Costs associated with the school 'Mingle and Jingle' event

SD Bells Coffee Cart

Insurance and service cost for school vehicles

Leaver's hoodies

Seasonal gifts for pupils

School resources

#### **Funds Materially in Deficit**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 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 2024/2025 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.