Thank you for choosing to fundraise for Royal Blind!

About us

Royal Blind is Scotland’s largest visual impairment organisation. We create life changing opportunities for visually impaired children and adults from across Scotland and the rest of the UK. Royal Blind is a service provider and the funds that we raise are spent directly on caring for, educating and empowering visually impaired people. We support people of all ages - from babies and toddlers at our pre-school playgroup, children and young people at our school, after school club and young adults service to elderly people in our care home.

Our key services include:

The Royal Blind School is Scotland’s only residential school specialising in the care and education of visually impaired children and young people, including those with complex needs. We offer day and weekly residential places for pupils from P1 to S6. There is a free pre-school playgroup for under 5’s.

Kidscene is an after school and holiday club that caters for children with and without disabilities between the ages of 5 and 16. We are based in the Morningside area of Edinburgh and have access to excellent facilities including a swimming pool, sensory garden and multi-use games area. We welcome children of all abilities and priority places are available for visually impaired children.
The Royal Blind Learning Hub provides training courses, support, advice and workshops to teachers and educators of visually impaired children and young people across Scotland. Our support focuses on the key skills required by children with visual impairment in order to access the curriculum.

Forward Vision is a transitional service that supports young adults between the ages of 17 and 25 who have a visual impairment as well as other disabilities. We offer 24 hour residential care as well as short breaks for respite.

Royal Blind currently runs the only nursing home in Scotland that specialises in caring for blind and partially sighted older people, Braeside House. We are expanding our services and will shortly be developing a second care home for visually impaired older people in Paisley.

The Scottish Braille Press is a leading UK provider of accessible media. We transcribe text for a range of business clients into large print, audio and Braille formats to enable written materials to be accessible to blind and partially sighted people, enabling their education, knowledge, empowerment and inclusion. We produce our own range of Braille magazines and provide employment for people with disabilities.
Enclosed in this pack you’ll find everything you need to get started.

This pack contains:
- Sponsorship forms
- Pay in slip
- Top ten fundraising ideas for schools
- A blindfolded lesson plan suggestions sheet
- “Where Your Money Goes” - Examples of how the money you raise will aid Royal Blind service users.

Should you have any questions, or if you would like to arrange for us to come and give a talk to your pupils, please don’t hesitate to contact Natalie from our Marketing and Fundraising Team.

T: 0131 229 1456
E: natalie.reid@royalblind.org
Happy FUNdraising!
Most of these ideas can be done on their own or as part of your school fête.

• **Non-uniform day** - One of the most effective ways to fundraise for Royal Blind. Pupils pay £1 to ditch their uniform.

• **Bake sale** - The classic! You could add an awareness element by having the children decorate the cakes blindfolded, to see the challenges of living with visual impairment.

• **Fun run** - Sponsorship events are a really effective way to raise both money and awareness, and help get your pupils active.

• **Dance-athon** - A twist on the usual sponsorship events. Get the pupils to decorate the gym hall and dress up!

• **Car wash** - The parents are sure to love this one!

• **Sponge throw** - Pupils pay to throw wet sponges at a teacher.

• **Guess the name of the teddy bear** - Pupils pay to guess the name of the teddy bear, winner takes home the teddy! You can request a template sheet for this from our fundraising team, or make your own.

• **Guess the number** - Pupils pay to guess how many sweets are in the jar, winner/closest wins the sweets.

• **Beat the goalie** - Pay to try and get one past the goalie! Best done with your PE teacher as the goalie.

• **Blindfold challenge** - Let your class see the difficulties of living with sight loss by blindfolding a pupil for a lesson, and make it a sponsored event. This one requires some careful planning but is a great way to demonstrate why Royal Blind is such a worthwhile cause. There is a lesson plan suggestions page included in this pack.
Blindfolded Lesson Plan Suggestions

Introduction

- Begin by asking pupils to name the five senses. Explain how you are going to discuss ‘sight’ and people who are not fortunate enough to have full use of their sight.
- Have a discussion with pupils about what it must be like to have little or no sight and what they would miss most about this sense. As a class, you could compile a list of daily tasks e.g., eating breakfast, getting dressed, etc, and go through each one and discuss the difficulties a blind person may face.

Potential activities

Some examples of the tasks your blindfolded pupil/staff member could undertake:
- Making a drink of squash
- Writing a party invitation to a friend
- Drawing a picture
- Identifying an object

Safety

Ensure the responsible staff member is always sighted, plan ahead, and do not utilise sharp or dangerous objects in your activities.

Did you know?
For most children, around 80% of what they learn occurs through vision.
£10 – an adapted dinner plate with high sides which helps reduce the stress and embarrassment of eating for people who cannot see their food.

£29 – an ultra-light cane with vibrating buttons in the handle, which can sense objects and obstacles.

£32 – a talking clock for the blind which announces the time and date in a clear voice and has multiple alarm settings to help schedule a busy day.

£47 – a set of talking kitchen scales which the young people at the Royal Blind School use in Home Economics lessons and their independent living flat.

£120 – a special car-transit wheelchair for our elderly residents in Braeside House, ensuring that they continue to enjoy their life as actively and fully as they can.

£180 – a pressure relieving chair, which helps to improve the posture of residents of our services.

£275 – a talking microwave with adapted buttons that can issue spoken requests to stir and turn food.

£300 – a music therapy session at Braeside House, our care home for blind and partially sighted older people.

£1,510 – the amount we spend every hour of every day across our services.
A primary 4 class at Flora Stevenson Primary School in Edinburgh raised £361 for Royal Blind. The class was visited by Royal Blind staff, who gave an overview of the charity’s work and an insight into what it is like to have a visual impairment.

What is it like to be blind?

Glenn Watson, a support worker at the Royal Blind School, asked the pupils if they’d ever met anyone with a visual impairment. How did they know that person couldn’t see? Did they have a cane, or dark glasses, or maybe a guide dog? Glenn explained that not all blind or partially sighted people had a cane or glasses, so it’s not always easy to tell if someone is visually impaired.

The pupils were put into pairs. One was blindfolded and guided around the room by their partner, under careful supervision. Shouting and confusion ensued! The class then discussed the difficulties faced by the person blindfolded and the person guiding - it was too noisy, there were too many obstacles, and it didn’t feel very safe.

The pupils were then taught the correct way to guide their blindfolded partner. It was much safer and the person being guided felt much more secure and in control.

Natalie Reid from Royal Blind’s fundraising department asked the class if they had ever heard of Braille. She then told the class what it was and how it worked, and passed around some Braille books for the children to see. Natalie asked the children about their favourite subjects at school, then got them to imagine how much more difficult it would be to learn these subjects with a visual impairment. Even something as simple as reading a story could become very difficult! Visually impaired children have to work very hard.

Glenn then passed around the SIM specs. These are special glasses that simulate a range of different visual impairments, such as peripheral vision, blurred vision, tunnel vision and complete blindness. The SIM specs are passed around the room for the children to try on, under supervision.

The class was then shown some of the tools blind people use to help make their everyday lives easier, including a specially designed kettle, and a device that whistles when a cup is full. Some volunteers from the class got the chance to try and pour a ‘cup of tea’ using these special aids.

Pause for thought

The class then got to ask questions about what they had learned. As always there was a sea of hands in the air! The children asked questions on everything, from how blind children do their homework to how they get dressed and pick out their clothes.
Time to fundraise!

The class hosted their own fundraising afternoon based on what they had learned. The children were split into groups and given a series of tasks to complete while blindfolded. They had to complete as many as possible on the list within 25 minutes. Each pupil got a sponsor form to take to friends and family. They also held a ‘guess the name of the bear’ competition.

Once the class had completed their fundraiser and collected the money, Royal Blind came back to see them, bringing along a pupil from the Royal Blind School, Reece. The children presented Reece with a giant cheque and asked him a few questions about life with a visual impairment. The class got their photo taken with Reece and were presented with a certificate to put up pride of place in their classroom.

Did you know?

60-70% of children with sight problems have additional disabilities, usually linked to neurological conditions.
The above named person is participating in a sponsored event to raise funds on behalf of Royal Blind, Scotland’s largest visual impairment organisation, based in Edinburgh and working to create life changing opportunities for blind and partially sighted children and adults across the country. If your sponsorship donation is from taxed income, please place a tick in the box provided. Royal Blind will then be able to reclaim tax on your donation from the Inland Revenue at no inconvenience or cost to you. For every £10 you donate, Royal Blind can reclaim £2.50.

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Please complete this form (in block capitals) and send it to:
The Fundraising Department, Royal Blind, 50 Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh EH10 4JB.

☐ I enclose a cheque (made payable to Royal Blind)/Postal Order
☐ I enclose cash
☐ I wish to pay by (please tick one option)
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Switch ☐ Delta ☐ Maestro ☐ Solo

and authorise you to debit my credit/debit card account
Card no. ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ Exp. Date ___________ ___________ Security no. ___________ ___________
Issue No. ___________ or Start Date (Switch and Maestro only): ___________ ___________

Personal Details
Title: ___________________ Name: ___________________
Organisation (if applicable): ___________________
Address: ____________________________________________ Post code: ___________________

Home telephone number: ___________________ Mobile: ___________________

Your Event
Type of event: ____________________________________________
Date of event: ___________________ Total amount raised (£): ___________________

Any comments about your event: ____________________________________________

If you have any photographs of your event, please send them to fundraising@royalblind.org. We may like to use them in future marketing material. We hold your details on our database to keep you informed of future Royal Blind activities. Please tick here if you would prefer not to be contacted. ☐
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