Parkfields Road, Kingston KT2 5LL
Tel: +44 (0)208 546 3616 | Email: info@barnfieldriding.org | www.barnfieldrda.org





Our Thursday morning class celebrate the end of the Summer term with a Certificate of Achievement

About us

We run horse riding therapy lessons for four different schools in the Kingston area. They all provide for pupils who have a range of severe and complex learning disabilities (SEND) or with vision and sensory impairment. We subsidise these classes from funds that we raise each year. We are a charity that is solely run by volunteers. All the funds raised go towards running our classes and providing a safe environment to work within.

A Member Group of RDA It's what you can do that counts
Registered Charity Number 1073731

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Without grants and generous donations from the public we would not be able to provide this essential service for our community.

This year we have had a challenging time as the building adjacent to the arena, where we hold the lessons, has been re-developed and this new nursery has re-opened with new owners. We had building works ongoing for more than six months. The noise and activity from this was very challenging for our riders, volunteers and ponies. It is very difficult to explain to council representatives and property developers how vulnerable our children with disabilities are and how unpredictable horses can be to unusual noises and activity. Moving forward we hope that there will be no more unexpected safety challenges, and we all learn from the experience.

Volunteers

We are totally dependent on our volunteers who run the lessons. We have built up our numbers and have many new volunteers from the local community who are supportive and dedicated. However, we are continually looking for new volunteers to help as there is a natural turnover each year. It is important for the children who attend each week to build relationships with our volunteers, so we very much appreciate their commitment.

In most of the classes we run the teachers help with the volunteers, lifting on and dismounting each rider and side walking. The volunteers run the class, lead the ponies and also side walk. For a safe environment we require 3 people to look after 1 rider. Our volunteers also assist the children with the hat/gloves fitting and keeping them safe and occupied while at the Riding School.

Lessons

We run four separate school classes plus private group classes and individual classes that we subsidise. Our new Thursday am class we started in 2025 is a wonderful addition to our programme. It is a Kingston school and located close to Barnfield stables so the children are able to walk with their teachers to the stables for their lesson.

We are currently subsidising around 35 children each week and we also run classes for unsubsidised children. Expansion is restricted by the number of volunteers available and the amount of funds we can raise each year, plus space available at the stables. Each child has to be assessed for suitability, qualification for subsidies and regular commitment. As we are run by volunteers we aim for commitment each week as much as possible in order to schedule the classes and notify the stables which horses we require. Each horse has to be individually tacked up then lead by a volunteer for the lesson with side walkers, depending on the severity of each individual disability. The lesson is usually run by a

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qualified paid instructor. Only small classes with a maximum of 6 children are held due to safety reasons, which is always paramount.

Grants and Fundraising

We continue to apply for grants and run fundraising activities. We need to raise around £30,000 a year which is an onerous task and we thank all our supporters who help achieve this. We have one asset owned by the charity – that is the Mechanical Horse which was 100% funded by private donations. This allows riders to practice riding techniques on a horse simulator run by a professional RDA trained instructor. We have no employees or overheads from employees, our charity is 100% run by volunteers.

We also participated in Ham Parade Market and Ham Fair and once again we have to thank Ham Polo club who are very supportive of our charity. We had a wonderful fundraising evening at their club house – a Chukkers demonstration by their very experience riders and horses, followed by delicious BBQ food and live music.



Our accounts also reflect the success of our campaign to apply for grants and the receipt of private donations. We were awarded restricted grants from local foundations to help fund our lessons' subsidies. We would like to say a special thank you to Richmond Housing Association, the Hedley Foundation, the Victoria Foundation and Kingston Nursing Association.

We are totally dependent on the generosity of our BRDA supporters and the general public who we greatly appreciate and would like to thank.