

# Trustees' Report for Friends of Harberton

Address: Harberton Park, Belfast, BT9 6TX

Northern Ireland Charity Number:100215

Report for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Friends of Harberton was set up to support pupils of Harberton Special School aged 3 - 16. It is our aim to advance the education of the pupils in Harberton School and Outreach Services and in particular to:

- i) Provide appropriate play, education, and care facilities for children of primary school age with special educational needs who attend Harberton School and Outreach Services.
- ii) Provide and assist in the provision of services for children of primary and post primary school age with special educational needs who attend Harberton School and Outreach Services, that enables the development of skills in communication, reasoning, aesthetic appreciation, and environmental awareness.
- iii) Provide and assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of education, social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the quality of life for the parents and their children with special educational needs who attend Harberton School and Outreach Services.
- iv) Promote all or any purposes for the benefit of the children with special educational needs in the area of benefit, which now or hereafter may be deemed by law to be charitable under the law of Northern Ireland.

The committee believe that the fundraising efforts and the contribution made to Harberton Special School by Friends of Harberton have met all these objectives.

Friends of Harberton is governed by a constitution, formally registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 28 May 2014. The constitution follows the Model Constitution for charities in Northern Ireland adopted on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Total fundraising in 2023-24 amounted to £91,262. The majority of this money (£63,993) was raised to purchase playground equipment for both campuses. The

Education Authority also provided much needed funding to improve the outside play areas in Harberton North and South, with planned works still ongoing.

In addition, the charity was successful in securing funding to support a number of children to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at bronze level. This was a massive achievement, and we congratulate the pupils and staff involved.

Friends of Harberton were also able to fund many classroom resources along with the purchase of a second therapy dog. Peggy has become a much-loved sight in the school along with our other therapy dog, Millie.

We finished off the academic year in June 2024 celebrating in style with a colour run. This was a memorable event for both staff and pupils where the children had lots of fun getting messy with powdered paint.

Total expenditure in the year amounted to £27,474.

The committee have reviewed the financial position of Friends of Harberton and are satisfied with the current position going forward into the year 2023-24.

There were no material deficits or shortfalls in any account held by Friends of Harberton.

### **Trustees**

Rosemary Mack

Aine McGrath

Leeann Matchett (Chairman)

Clare Allen

Clíodhna Kernohan

Venkata Velpuri

Signed: 

Dated: 30 January 2025