1625 Independent People

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING PACK





Thank you.
It means everything.

Whether you're a student taking on a sponsored challenge, a teacher organising a school event, or a parent helping out behind the scenes, thank you. What you're doing genuinely changes lives.

1625 Independent People works around the clock to support young people in Bristol who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or leaving care. We provide housing, mental health support, help into employment and education, and peer-led activities that help young people feel less alone.

Many of the young people we support are the same age as your students. Some of them have experienced things no young person should have to face alone. Your fundraising helps make sure they don't have to.

Because of supporters like you, we are one step closer to a world where every young person has a safe place to live, trusted adults they can turn to, and access to the opportunities they deserve.

1,900+

young people supported by 1625 in the last year



Jade's Story

When Jade* first came to 1625 at 17, she was sofa surfing, moving between temporary places and struggling to find stability.

School had been a difficult experience, she felt unsupported and was unfairly labelled a "naughty kid," completing her education at a Pupil Referral Unit. Jade was living with anxiety, depression, and OCD, which further impacted her confidence and self-esteem. At that point, holding down a job felt impossible.

1625 didn't push her straight into work. Instead, we started small, rebuilding confidence one step at a time. Jade explored volunteering in areas she was passionate about - animals and music. With support, she took part in an animal care course at a city farm, a big achievement given her anxiety.

A year later, she reached another milestone: moving into her own social housing tenancy, giving her the stability to look forward.

Jade began volunteering with the Bristol Zoo and exploring her interest in hospitality with 1625's support she met potential employers, took part in work experience, and eventually landed her first paid role.

Now, Jade is confident, ambitious, and determined to build a career of her own.

Her journey reflects a remarkable transformation in mindset, from believing employment was out of reach, to seeing a future full of possibilities.

***Name changed for privacy**

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



£6.00

could buy a Day-Pass bus ticket so a young person could get to college, attend an interview, or join one of 1625's peer social trips.

£15.00

could buy ingredients for a cooking session for three young people, empowering them to master the art of preparing nutritious meals within a budget.

£50.00

could buy smart clothes and shoes for a young person about to start work or attend an interview.

£100.00

could buy a 5-month gym membership to support a young person's health and wellbeing.

£1,000.00

could provide 8 coaching sessions to support a young person with employment, education, mental health, domestic/sexual violence, or participation.

A-Z OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Looking for inspiration? Here's an A–Z of ideas to get you started. Ideas highlighted in GREEN are especially great for school fairs and community events.



Art Exhibition



Bake Sale



Car Wash



Dance-a-thon



Exercise Challenge



Football Tournament



Games Stall



Head Shave



In-Lieu Donations



Jumble Sale



Knitting Challenge



Livestream Gaming



Marathon



Non-Uniform Day



Open-Mic Night



Plant Sale



Quiz Night



Readathon



Sponsored Silence



Tombola



Upcycling Sale



Variety Show



World Record Attempt



Xmas Jumper Day



Year-long Challenge



Zipwire

Still stuck? Read on for some of our favourite ideas...

FUNDRAISING CALENDAR

Not sure when to fundraise? Here's a month-by-month guide to help you plan ahead

SEPT	Back to school sponsored challenge, non-uniform day, year group quiz
OCT	World Homeless Day fundraiser (10 Oct), Halloween bake sale
NOV	Sleep Out — join our annual event or run your own, Bonfire Night celebration
DEC	Christmas jumper day, carol night, Christmas fair
JAN	New Year challenge (step count, reading marathon), sponsored silence
FEB	Valentine's bake sale, pancake day fundraiser
MAR	Slipper Day
APR	Easter egg hunt, spring school fair
MAY	Mental Health Awareness Week walk-a-thon, plant sale
JUNE	Sports day challenge, summer school fair
JULY	End of year variety show, summer upcycling sale/clothes swap

READY TO GET STARTED?

Here’s everything you need to plan, run, and complete your fundraiser.

FUNDRAISING STEP-BY-STEP

Not sure where to start? Here's a simple step-by-step guide to planning your own fundraising event. Before you do anything else, make sure you have permission from your school.

1. **Choose your activity**
Will it be a sponsored challenge like a run, swim, or cycle? A ticketed event like a quiz night or talent show? Or a sale — a bake sale, bring-and-buy, or school fair stall?

2. **Choose your audience**
Who are you inviting? Just your class, the whole year group, the whole school, or families and the wider community too?

3. **Choose your location**
Will it be in school, outside, or online? Make sure you have permission to use the space.

4. **Choose your time**
Will it be during school hours, after school, or at a weekend? Check the school calendar so you don't clash with other events.

5. **Spread the word**
How will you promote it? School newsletter, social media, posters, or assembly? Tell people what it is, when it is, and how to donate.

6. **Choose your donation method**
Will you collect cash on the day, set up a JustGiving page, or both? See our guide on page 12 for help with this.

School Favourites

Here are some of our favourite fundraising ideas that work brilliantly in a school setting.

Non-Uniform Day

One of the simplest and most popular school fundraisers — ask students to donate £1 or more to wear their own clothes. Give it a theme to make it more fun: favourite colour, sports kit, decades fashion, or Christmas jumpers.

Talent Show

Open the stage to students, staff, or both. Charge entry for performers and sell tickets to the audience. A panel of teacher judges always goes down well.

Sponsored Challenge

Sponsor a student or a whole class to take on a challenge — a sponsored silence, reading marathon, step count, or anything else that suits your school. Collect sponsorship using our guide on page 12.

School Fair Stalls

School fairs are a fantastic way to involve the whole community. Great stall ideas include: a tombola, bake sale, games stall, plant sale, second-hand uniform stall, craft or upcycling sale, and a refreshments stall.

Dress as Your Teacher Day

Students pay to come in dressed as their favourite teacher. Works best with staff buy-in — ask teachers to judge the best costumes and award a prize.

1625's Story

We'd love to pop in for an assembly or chat at your fundraising event (fair, performance, parents' evening). We'll bring real stories and help your community understand youth homelessness in Bristol.

SLEEP OUT

Every year, 1625 Independent People hosts a Sleep Out — where supporters give up the comfort of their beds for one night to raise money for young people experiencing homelessness in Bristol.

We're inviting you to host your own Sleep Out at school and raise money in your own way.

How to Run a School Sleep Out

A school Sleep Out is a brilliant overnight fundraiser — students sleep in the school gym, hall, or even on the school grounds, raising sponsorship from friends and family.

Before the event

- Get permission from your headteacher — agree a date, location, and supervision arrangements.
- Send a letter home to parents and carers with full details and a permission slip.
- Set up a JustGiving page or sponsorship forms so students can collect pledges in advance.
- Plan activities for the night — films, games, snacks, and a short talk about 1625's work.

On the night

- Sleeping bags, roll mats, and warm layers — no beds allowed!
- Document your night on social media using #SleepOut1625 to inspire others.
- Share stories about the young people your fundraising is helping.



GAMING FOR GOOD



Put on a gaming evening with your friends or colleagues and raise money for 1625! Host a D&D night where players can donate to change a dice roll or add a point to their stats. You could also run a board game tournament winner-stays-on to find the true champion, with everyone donating to enter.

For a bigger event, try a sponsored gaming marathon — how many hours can your team play? Collect sponsorship in advance and livestream your attempt to encourage donations from people who can't attend.



The Great 1625 Bake Off

Challenge your class or school to a baking competition! Ask people to bring in their best bakes and have a panel of judges score each one on appearance, flavour, creativity, and texture. Crown a winner, then invite everyone to donate what they can for a slice.

Always label allergens clearly at your bake-off — ask participants to note any common allergens (nuts, dairy, gluten, eggs) so everyone can enjoy safely.

COLLECTING YOUR FUNDRAISING

SETTING UP A JUSTGIVING PAGE

1. **Go to justgiving.com**
   Click 'start fundraising'.
2. **Search for 1625 Independent People**
   Select us as your chosen cause.
3. **Set up your page**
   Add a title, photo, and a short description of what you're doing and why
4. **Set a target**
   A fundraising goal motivates donors. Even £100 gives people something to help you reach.
5. **Share your page**
   Via email, WhatsApp groups, parent portal, social media, newsletters, and in school posters. The more you share, the more you raise!

COLLECTING SPONSORSHIP IN PERSON

- Use our sponsorship form to collect
- Ask friends, family, neighbours, and teachers to sponsor you before the event.
- After your challenge, follow up with everyone on your list to collect what they pledged.
- A teacher or parent should always be involved in handling and banking cash collected in school.

Scan the QR to download a printable PDF of our sponsorship or copy the following page. Email fundraising@1625ip.co.uk with any questions!

SPONSORSHIP FORM

1625 Independent People

Participant full name:
Full address:
Activity:
Date:

Boost your donation by 25% giftaid it

If I have ticked the box headed 'Gift Aid? ✓', I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want the charity named above to reclaim tax on the donation detailed below, given on the date shown. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax / or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

First Name & Surname	Full Address *Don't give your work address if you are Gift Aiding your donation.*	Postcode	Donation Amount £	Date Paid	Gift Aid? ✓
		Total donations received			
		Date donated to charity			

1625 Independent People is a charity and a registered society (Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, reg: 23964R exempt from registration with the Charity Commission).

FUNDRAISING TIPS

START EARLY

The sooner you set up your JustGiving page, the more time supporters have to donate. Give pupils, parents, and staff plenty of notice before your event.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

If you're using JustGiving, add photos and a short explanation of why your school is fundraising. Personalised pages raise up to 65% more!

KEEP REMINDING PEOPLE

Most people need to be asked three times before making a donation. Send reminders home, post on the school's social media, and mention it in newsletters..

BRING IT TO LIFE

The more pupils understand who they're raising money for, the more motivated they'll be. Ask us to come in and talk to students directly.

GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

The more people taking part, the more you raise. Think about how different year groups, staff, or the PTA could each play a role, whether that's fundraising, promoting the event, or cheering people on.

CELEBRATE WHAT YOU RAISE

Share the total with pupils and let them know the real-world difference it makes. Connecting the amount raised to something tangible, like the examples in this pack, helps make it meaningful!

GIFT AID

UK taxpayers can tick the Gift Aid box. It adds 25% on top of every eligible donation at no extra cost to them.

PAYING IN YOUR FUNDRAISING

Online

If you have chosen to fundraise via a platform like JustGiving, then the money you raise will come directly to us!
If you have collected cash, you can pay that into your own bank and then donate it to your own JustGiving page.

If you haven't set up a JustGiving page, then you can also donate via our website - www.1625ip.co.uk - and click on the Donate button in the top corner

Please be aware if any cash donations have been Gift Aided please pay this via BACS.

Cheque

Please do not send any cash to us in the post. Instead, you can send a cheque made out to '1625 Independent People' and post it to: Fundraising & Events, 1625 Independent People, Kingsley Hall, 59 Old Market Street, Bristol. BS2 OER

BACs

You can also transfer the money directly to our bank account with your name as the reference.

Please email fundraising@1625ip.co.uk to request our bank details.

FUNDRAISING SAFELY & LEGALLY

Collections & Handling Money

Make sure you keep any cash you collect in a safe place and try to pay it in as soon as you can. If doing a bucket collection, you may need permission from the venue or local council. Remember to be respectful of the location and the people around you. If you're doing a bucket collection, please let us know so we can provide you with an official 1625 bucket!

Raffles & Lotteries

If you want to run a raffle or a lottery, check the Gambling Commission website and your local authority to see if you need a gambling or lottery licence.

Licences & Insurance

If selling alcohol or hosting live music, you might need a licence – check with your local authority. If you're hosting an event for members of the public, you will need public liability insurance as well.

Risk Assessment

Always consider all the risks when planning an event. This includes things like food safety, working with children and vulnerable people, or even lifting heavy items. Ensure your event is as safe as it can be.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

We are happy to help you every step of the way with your fundraising and there is no such thing as a silly question!

If you would like to ask us something, the best way to get in touch is by emailing our team at:

fundraising@1625ip.co.uk

We love to see your photos from your events, so please share with at any of the following places:

@1625ip

@1625IndependentPeople

1625 Independent People

1625 Independent People

1625ip.co.uk


2024
1625
Independent
People
Preventing Youth
Homelessness



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