

Candlelighters

Supporting the families of children with cancer



Fundraising for Candlelighters:

A guide for schools,
nurseries & colleges



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Whether you're already fundraising or thinking about how to take part, thank you for helping support families affected by childhood cancer across Yorkshire. We'd love your school to be part of our mission.

We're so grateful for your support, and we're here to help you every step of the way. This pack is full of ideas, tips and inspiration to help your school get started but if there's anything else we can help with, feel free to get in touch.

Thank you again for being amazing. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the incredible support from fundraisers like you.



Emily

Emily Wragg
Candlelighters CEO



Look out for our mascot, Champ, giving his top tips throughout the pack!



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Supporting children with cancer, and their families

Each year, over 150 children in Yorkshire are diagnosed with cancer, turning life upside down for the whole family.

Candlelighters is here to help. We provide emotional, practical and financial support from the moment of diagnosis, for as long as families need us, from hospital support and talking therapies to family days out, holidays and financial grants.

But we can't do any of it without you. Your fundraising makes all the difference, helping us be there for families every step of the way.

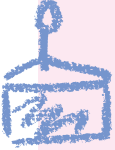
“Our greatest privilege was fundraising in recognition of a school family who have been supported by Candlelighters. It was also wonderful to be given the opportunity to bring an entire community together.”

Kyle Audsley, Headteacher at Spen Valley High School



The difference you make

Your fundraising helps to...



Mark special milestones

£50 could provide a birthday box to help a child in hospital celebrate their special day.



Provide comfort on the hardest days

£110 could fund a Family Support Worker on the ward for a day, offering comfort, care and a listening ear.



Support mental health

£400 could provide 17 hours of emotional support from our in-house counsellor.



Ease the pressure

£600 could fund a New Patient Grant, easing the financial strain following diagnosis, from travel and meals to lost income and childcare.



Give families a break

£1,100 could fund a respite holiday for a family, offering time to recharge and make precious memories.





Harper's Story

Laura and Rob's daughter, Harper, was diagnosed with leukaemia, aged two. Laura spent eight months in hospital with Harper, while Rob balanced work and caring for their eldest daughter, Freya.

Harper went through three gruelling rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. "She lost so much weight due to the chemo, and had to relearn how to walk. We only spent 12 days at home." Laura says. "We went into isolation in February, and weren't discharged until June. Rob and Freya couldn't visit for four months, that was really hard."

"Candlelighters was a godsend. When you're in isolation for months, it's a really long time to go without human contact. Talking to the Family Support Workers about normal things, not just treatment, really helped."

"I had to give up work, and we relied on Rob's income. The grants Candlelighters offer made such a difference. Everything costs more when you're in hospital."

Now, Harper is thriving and has started primary school. Freya has raised £2,000 for Candlelighters and won a local award for 'Incredible Child of the Year'.

"We're so proud of both of the girls. We know just how much Candlelighters helps families like ours."



Ways you can fundraise

There are so many ways to raise money and make a difference. Here are some ideas to help you get started:

Get sponsored:

Whether it's a fun run, litter picking or skipping non-stop, set a fun goal, get sponsored, and raise money while moving for a great cause.

- Sponsored walk or step challenge
- Sponsored read-a-thon
- Sponsored silence

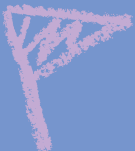
Greyfell Academy Nursery did a sponsored Obstacle Duck Waddle with the nursery children and raised an incredible £5,425.



Dress up days:

From pink days to pyjama days; dress up, have fun and give £1 to make a difference!

- Wear pink to school
- Odd socks days
- Pyjama day



Creative competitions:

Creative fundraisers are a great way to involve every pupil. Whether it's 'pay to enter' competitions, design challenges or selling what they've made, there's plenty of ways to raise money.

- Colouring competition
- Grow a sunflower challenge
- Gaming challenge

Tockwith CofE Primary School held a pink artwork gallery day where parents bought the children's artwork, and all donations went to Candlelighters, raising over £900!



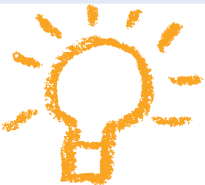
Sales and stalls:

From cakes to clothes to clutter, sales and stalls are a brilliant way to bring the school community together while raising funds.

Whether it's at a summer fete, Christmas fair, or any school event throughout the year.

- Craft stall
- Bake sale
- Plant stall

Roundhay Primary School did a coffee and pastries bar before school and various bake sales after school during Pink It Up week and raised an amazing £2,000.



Champ's top tip:

Get staff involved!
Children love seeing their teachers take on a challenge. Even better, get the headteacher involved and turn it into a whole-school event!



Plan your fundraising

To help you plan out an action-packed year, here are a few seasonal ideas.

Autumn Term:

- September is **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month** – this is a fantastic time to run events to raise money and awareness for the 150 children diagnosed with cancer every year in Yorkshire.
 - Theme events around **150** – get students walking, running, or scooting in PE lessons – why not take on our 150 Miles in September challenge!
 - Or use the colour **gold** – this is the colour used to promote **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**.
- Host a fun pumpkin carving competition and get creative with some **Halloween fun** in October.
- In December, get cosy by joining our **Christmas Jumper** day, or hold your own Festive Pyjama Day.



Proud to Support

Candlelighters

Supporting the families of children with cancer



Spring Term:

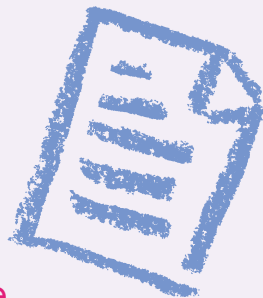
- Get students to bring in their best heart-themed cakes and biscuits for a **Valentine's bake sale** in February.
- Organise a sponsored reading challenge as part of **World Book Day** or National Reading Month in March.
- April is **Teenage Cancer Awareness Month** – another key time to recognise and fundraise for teenagers affected by cancer – plan your sponsored event, bake sale or dress up date to show your support.
- Get crafty with an **Easter egg decorating competition**.

Summer Term:

- Step it up and get children to **walk to school** during National Fitness and Sports Month in May.
- Take part in our pinktastic annual **Pink It Up** week, the first week of June, with a non-uniform day, bake sale, or a pink-themed challenge – read more on page 12.
- Celebrate the end of the school year and raise funds with a **summer fair** full of classic stalls, games, and raffles.



Your fundraising checklist



1. Set up your fundraising page

Setting up an online fundraising page is quick and easy, and means donations come straight to Candlelighters. **Scan the QR code to get started.**

- **Make your page personal:** Share why Candlelighters matters to you, add a photo, and post regular updates – people who add a photo raise 53% more!
- **Set a target:** Fundraisers with a goal raise 40% more! Decide on a figure, add it to your page and let people help you reach it.
- **Spread the word:** The more people see your page, the more they'll give!

Prefer to fundraise offline? Just let us know and we can send you sponsorship forms and collection tins!

2. Decorate your event

Scan the QR code to download posters and graphics for your event, and get in touch if you need extras like balloons, t-shirts, leaflets and more to make sure your event looks the part. Just email us to let us know what you need.



Champ's top tip:

Keep going after your challenge and let everyone know how it went - photos and updates can bring in that final 20% of donations!



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3. Spread the word

There are lots of ways to get the word out about your fundraising to find supporters, raise awareness and boost donations. You could use:

- Parent WhatsApp/Facebook groups
- School newsletters
- Letters to parents
- School website
- Social media
- Local press



4. Pay in the money you've raised

If you set up an online fundraising page to raise money, then you don't need to do anything else, the funds will come straight to us. If you have money to send in, here are all the ways you can get it to us:

- **Bank transfer:** You can use the details below – just remember to let us know and include your name in the reference.

Candlelighters Trust Fund

Account: 11163578

Sort code: 05-00-20

- **Cheque:** if you'd like to pay via cheque, please make it payable to 'Candlelighters Trust' and post it to: 8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD. Make sure you include a note with your details too so we know who it's from!
- **Cash:** You can pay any donations collected in cash into your bank account and make a card, cheque, or BACs payment to cover this.



If you've got any questions, email us at info@candlelighters.org.uk or call **0113 887 8333** and we'll be happy to help.



Champ's top tip:

Post updates often and tag us so we can cheer you on!

- Facebook: [@CandlelightersTrust](#)
- Instagram: [@candlelightersyorkshire](#)
- X: [@CandlelightersT](#)



Join in with our annual Pink it Up fundraising week!



1st week of June

Join other schools, businesses and people from all over Yorkshire to support children with cancer and their families.

Taking part is easy and flexible

It's up to you how your school gets involved. Children can take part in pink-themed fundraising activities, from non-uniform days to bake sales to class challenges or even a completely new idea you invent!

Pink It Up is a chance to bring your school together, have fun and make a real difference. Whether you raise £20 or £2,000, every penny raised helps provide vital support for families facing childhood cancer.



Head to our Pink It Up webpage for all the ideas and tools you'll need to get started...

The legal bits



Safeguarding children: If your event involves children, make sure there's plenty of adult supervision and always get permission from parents or guardians before taking or sharing any photos.



Raffles and lotteries: These can be a great, low-cost way to raise funds but there are rules you'll need to follow. Please check the Gambling Commission website to make sure your raffle, lottery or auction meets the legal requirements.



Liability: When you organise an event in aid of Candlelighters, you're responsible for covering costs and making sure it's safe for everyone involved. We can't accept liability for your event, so if it involves the public, please ensure you have the right insurance.



Cash handling: Try to have two unrelated people collect, count, and record it, and always do this in a safe place. Make sure to bank the money as soon as you can after your event.

If there's anything you're unsure about or you have more questions, please email info@candlelighters.org.uk, or call **0113 8878333**



Champ's top tip:

giftaid it



Don't forget to ask your sponsors to declare Gift Aid where appropriate - it'll increase the amount Candlelighters receives from your fundraiser at no cost to you.

If anyone supporting your fundraising is a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid adds 25p to every £1 they donate!

Scan this QR code for all you need to know about Gift Aid.



Spen Valley High School Fun Run

Raising £4,000 for Candlelighters!

Spen Valley High School proudly hosted their third annual Fun Run – supporting Candlelighters in honour of their much-loved teacher, Mr Nolan, and his family.

When Mr Nolan’s daughter, Evie, was diagnosed with cancer, Candlelighters were there – offering care in hospital, support in the community, and helping lift the family’s spirits. Partnering with Candlelighters was, in the school’s words, “a natural fit.”

“Spen Valley is a school which leads with heart, where staff go the extra mile, and where students grow into caring individuals.”



500 people ran, walked, and danced their way around the 1km and 5km routes.



The whole community turned out to “Pink it Up” – with balloon arches, banners and bright pink t-shirts.



Together, they raised a phenomenal **£4,000!**

The highlight?

“The smiles! The sea of pink against the bright blue skies – and bringing an entire community together to support one great cause.”

More than fundraising

“The Fun Run boosted school morale and public profile, strengthened ties with students, families and alumni. Students had valuable development opportunities such as young entrepreneur challenges, and leadership and teamwork building, reflecting Spen Valley’s aspirational curriculum.”

Spen Valley showed what’s possible when a community comes together – and we’re so proud to have their support.



Spenn Valley High School during their Fun Run!

Ready to take on your fundraising?
Let the fun begin! And thank you – you're part of something amazing.

If you need any more support, please get in touch and one of the team will be happy to help!

Email: info@candlelighters.org.uk | Tel: 0113 887 8333

Your support is helping children like Arlo...



Ready to fundraise?

Get in touch with us at
info@candlelighters.org.uk

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The Candlelighters Trust is a registered charity and supports the families of children affected by childhood cancer across Yorkshire. Registered Charity No: 1045077.
The Candlelighters Trust is also a limited company, registered office: Candlelighters, 8 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD. Registered in England, No. 3020552.

