



# Strategic Impact Report

Variety and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation  
Celebrating our long-standing partnership



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## Foreword

# Welcome from Variety, the Children's Charity

We deliver life-changing programmes that enable children and young people to enjoy a better future.

Variety's famous Sunshine Coaches are specially adapted, accessible vehicles that cater for SEND schools and other non-profit organisations working with disabled and disadvantaged children and young people.

Every child deserves to live their best life and reach their full potential.

Sunshine coaches improve the mental and physical wellbeing of disabled and disadvantaged children. They provide life-lasting memories and opportunities that provide mobility and improved access to education and healthcare.

They are the most visible aspect of Variety's work, perhaps because they are the best known. Seeing our sky-blue coaches with the sunshine logo out on the road is a reminder of all that becomes possible for children when they are able to explore the wider world.





# Introduction to our partnership

Variety has proudly partnered with the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation to reach over 50 communities across the UK. Today, we recognise their critical role as a vital service delivery partner.

We wish to recognise their support, as one of Variety's top 5 Trust and Foundation partners of all time.

Our partnership through the Sunshine Coaches programme provides a passport for generations of children to access new worlds of experiences. Giving children vital life skills while supporting their physical, social and language development.

We know this works. With an amazing 5,800+ Sunshine Coaches on the road, ours is a tried-and-tested way to improve lives. We are delighted to be sharing this fantastic news, as we celebrate our 75th anniversary.





# A milestone moment

**This year, we are delighted to announce our fantastic milestone of a massive 55 Sunshine Coaches, donated from St. James's Place Charitable Foundation.**

This report couldn't come at a more vital time. Today, 600,000 disabled children in the UK live in poverty and the worsening cost of living crisis is exacerbating the exclusion of disadvantaged children and young people.





Thank you

# Variety's Chief Executive



**Laurence Guinness**  
CEO, Variety

Variety's Sunshine Coach Programme has been a beacon of hope for disabled and disadvantaged children across the UK.

With support from St. James' Place Charitable Foundation, our specially adapted sunshine coaches have been breaking down barriers and opening doors to a world of opportunities for so many children, who have so little.

Variety's Sunshine Coach programme provides vulnerable children with educational and recreational activities they would otherwise be excluded from.

These experiences help to build confidence, and create lifelong friendships and lasting memories.

The impact is profound: improved attendance, enhanced learning, and increased social interaction. Each coach serves approximately 3,000 children per year, transforming the futures of children.

By supporting this programme, you're not just funding vehicles; you're driving change to creating brighter futures. This is vital for the children we support with the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, given that over 600,000 disabled children live in poverty. Our partnership has never been more needed or relevant and we look forward to the continuing partnership of St. James's Place Charitable Foundation.

From the bottom of our hearts we applaud and thank you for everything you do for children.



## A Proud Partnership

# St. James's Place Foundation



Over the many years, Variety has worked closely with St. James's Place Charitable Foundation Trustees, Foundation Staff and Committee members, across the UK, to support schools in greatest need of help.

**We are delighted with our Partnership with Variety over the years and in particular, supporting the Variety Sunshine Coach programme.**

**The difference the programme has made to so many children across the UK has been phenomenal, opening up opportunities for their learning and helping them feel more included has really demonstrated delivering long term positive impact, which is what we aim to achieve through our funding.**



**Catherine Ind**  
Head of St. James's  
Place Charitable Foundation

Partnership at a Glance

# Scale, scope and outreach

Every day, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation's fleet of 55 Sunshine Coaches makes a real tangible difference to the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children.



Sunshine Coaches provided to:

✓ Northern England:	14
✓ Southern England:	21
✓ Midlands:	10
✓ Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland:	10

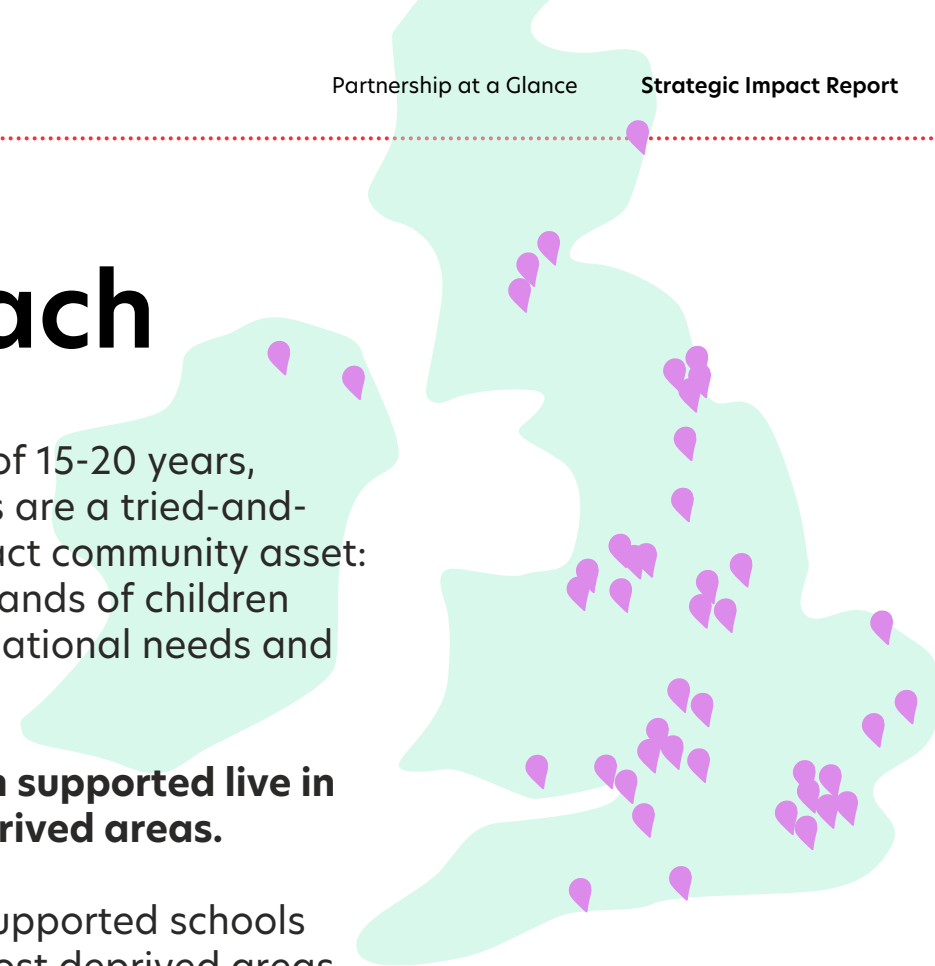
With a life-span of 15-20 years, sunshine coaches are a tried-and-tested, high-impact community asset: supporting thousands of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

- **Most children supported live in the most deprived areas.**

In fact, 1 in 5 of supported schools are in the 90% most deprived areas. This rises to 1 in 3 schools who are in the top 80% areas.

- **Most schools use their sunshine coach daily.**

More than half of schools use their sunshine coach once or more a day. That's hugely significant, when we think about the sunshine coach's 15-20 year lifespan.







Journey to Impact

# Our world of difference

Thanks to their support, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation have facilitated almost 200,000 trips, over 1 million+ miles! Together, we've achieved:

# 51,808

**Children supported**



**That's generations of children!**

Over two-decades, helping thousands of children access life-changing experiences in their community. Every day.

# 193,588

**Trips & Days Out**



**That's over a million miles!**

Enabling almost every school (an amazing 96%) to provide all their planned activities.



# A transformative and lasting journey!

**55**

**Towns and cities served**

6 in 10 schools are in the most deprived communities

That's a crucial approach to address isolation and exclusion.



**£1.4m**

**Donated so far**

That's just 50p to take a child on a trip!

With over 200,000 trips, that's £7 to fill each sunshine coach!





## Long Term Impact

# Life-changing support UK-wide



St. James's Place Charitable Foundation's donations of £1.4m have supported almost 52,000 children. That's an average of just 50p, per child, to provide access to a Coach trip, on any given day.

A sunshine coach equips the school community with the means and motivation to seek out new activities. Sunshine coaches provide a positive and lasting difference to disabled children in underserved communities. St. James's Place's support literally gives the momentum needed to ensure children enjoy unforgettable experiences.

**Earlier in the year, we invited schools to tell us about the difference their sunshine coach made. Most schools replied. We were overwhelmed with the fantastic feedback across the UK.**

# A real, immediate difference

- **Educational learning experiences:** Educational (work experience, museums) and Cultural activities (art workshops, galleries)
- **Cultural and wellbeing activities:** Environmental (trips to local parks, gardens, workshops) and recreational trips (theme parks, parties, picnics, trips to theatre)
- **Recreation and respite:** Sports and games (adventure activities) and Fun activities (visits to the farm, trips to the Beach)

**96% of all schools told us that St. James' Place Charitable Foundation's Sunshine Coach enabled their children to access all of these activities. That's a real, tangible difference.**







# 98% of teachers very strongly agreed that their Sunshine Coach helped children enjoy:



**Improved education, social and communication skills**



**Greater independence and access to local community**



**Greater confidence and emotional wellbeing**



Long Term Impact

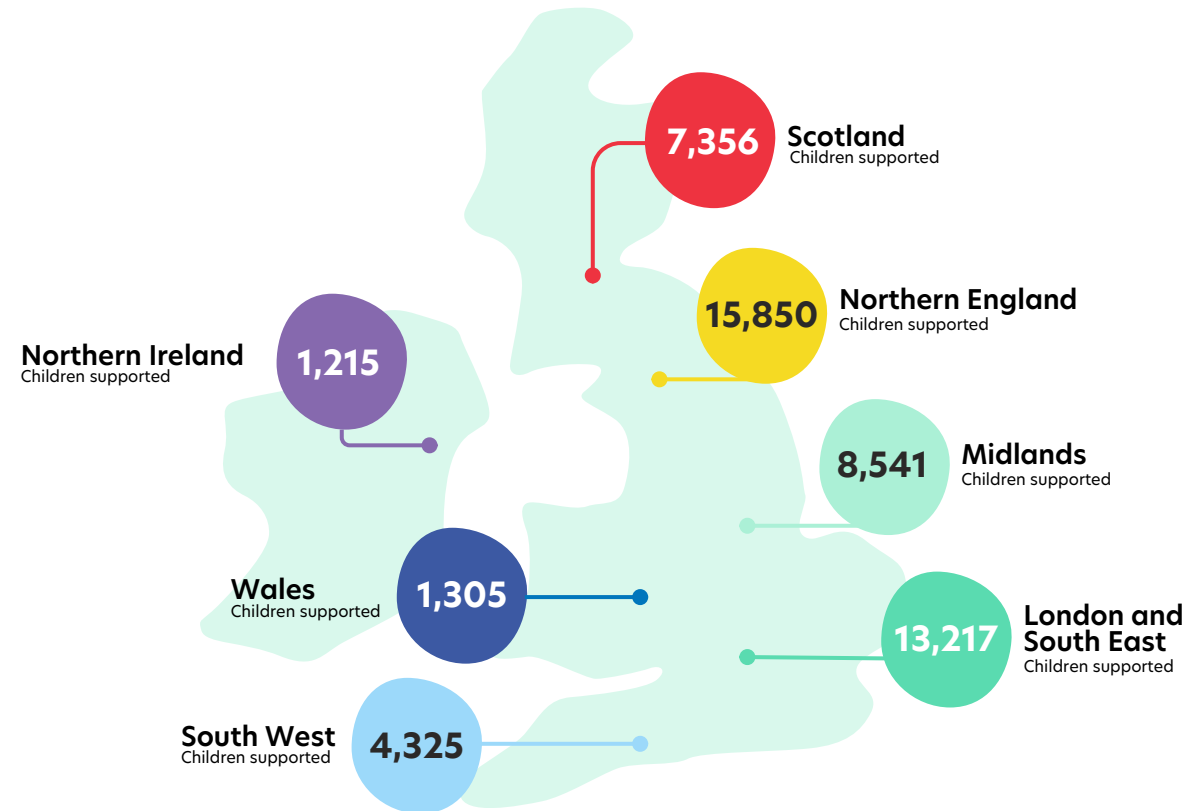
# Our journey with St. James's Place Charitable Foundation

We started our journey with St. James's Place Charitable Foundation over 20 years ago.

In 2002, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation donated their very first Sunshine Coach to St Christopher's School in Lincoln.

Since then, our partnership has reached every corner of the UK. As a result, we have been able to target our support where its most urgently needed. Today, we are proud to have supported 51,808 children (and counting!).

**Children supported by St. James's Place**



(GOV UK 2019)\* [English Indices of Deprivation, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#)  
 (GOV SCOT 2020) [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#)  
 (GOV WALES 2019) [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)



# Most schools reported excellent practical improvements across:

## Mental health, wellbeing and confidence



**98% of schools reported** that the sunshine coach improved children's welfare, as well as education and communication skills.

## Independence and access to the community



**Half of schools reported daily use.** 100% of schools told us that they used their Coach weekly.

## Financial hardship and disadvantage



**6 in 10 schools** were in the most disadvantaged areas of the UK\*.

**1 in 3 schools** were in the 10-20% most deprived areas of the UK.

(GOV UK 2019)\* [English Indices of Deprivation, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#)  
 (GOV SCOT 2020) [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#)  
 (GOV WALES 2019) [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)



# The Variety Impact Ecosystem

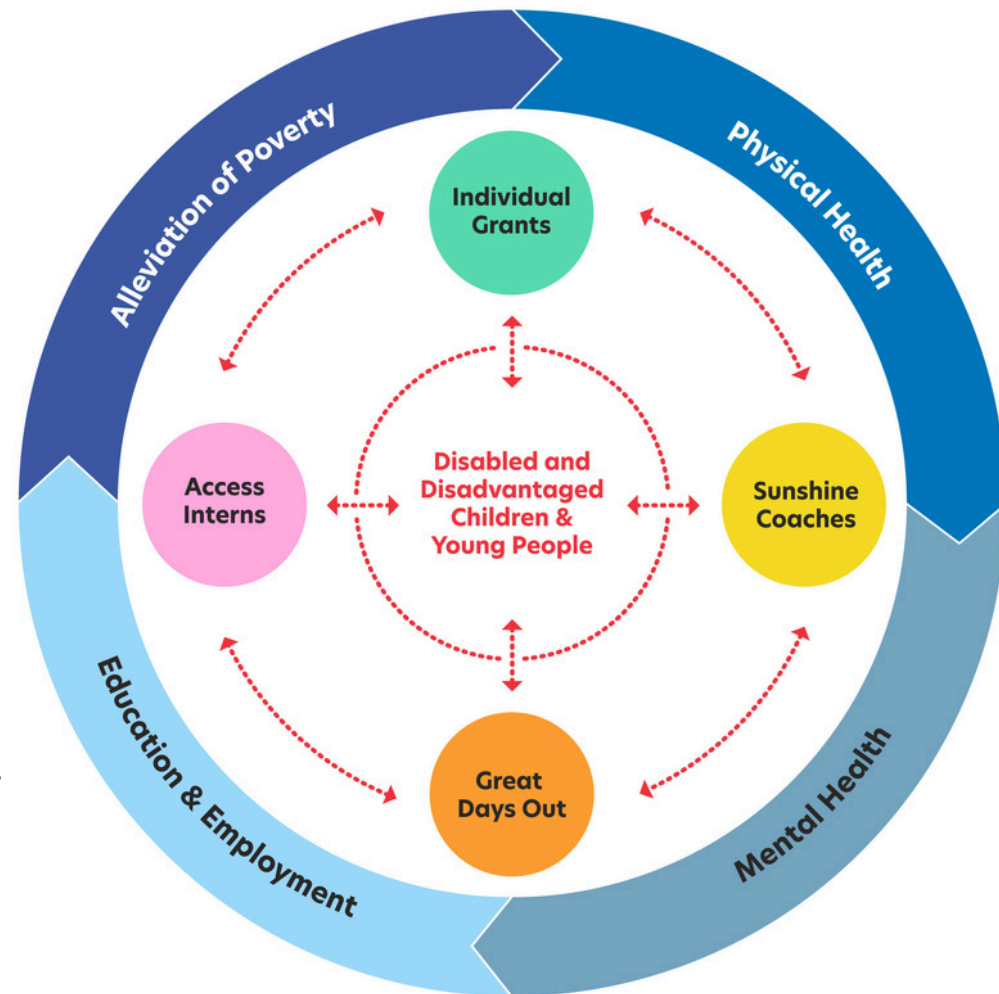
## Empowering young lives everyday

Every day, supporters like St. James's Place Charitable Foundation enable Variety to empower more disabled and disadvantaged young people to reach their full potential.

We achieve our vision through our:

- **Sunshine Coaches:** Unlocking worlds of opportunities.
- **Great Days Out:** Offering unforgettable experiences.
- **Individual Grants:** Providing life-changing support.
- **Access Interns Program:** Enabling access to the workplace.

Together, these strategically align to improve children and young people's mental and physical wellbeing; alleviate poverty; and to promote their education and employment.



Starting off 2024 with a blast!

# Cambridge Committee and Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy



This year, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation generously presented their 46th Sunshine Coach to the Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy in Ipswich. Named 'Bus Lightyear' by the school, the coach represents not just transportation but a solution for endless opportunities.


**Representatives from St. James's Place gathered with staff and students at the Academy. The atmosphere was full of anticipation and joy as everyone came together to mark this momentous occasion.**





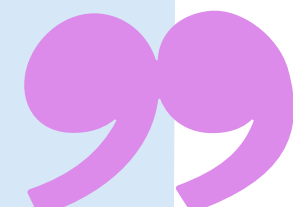


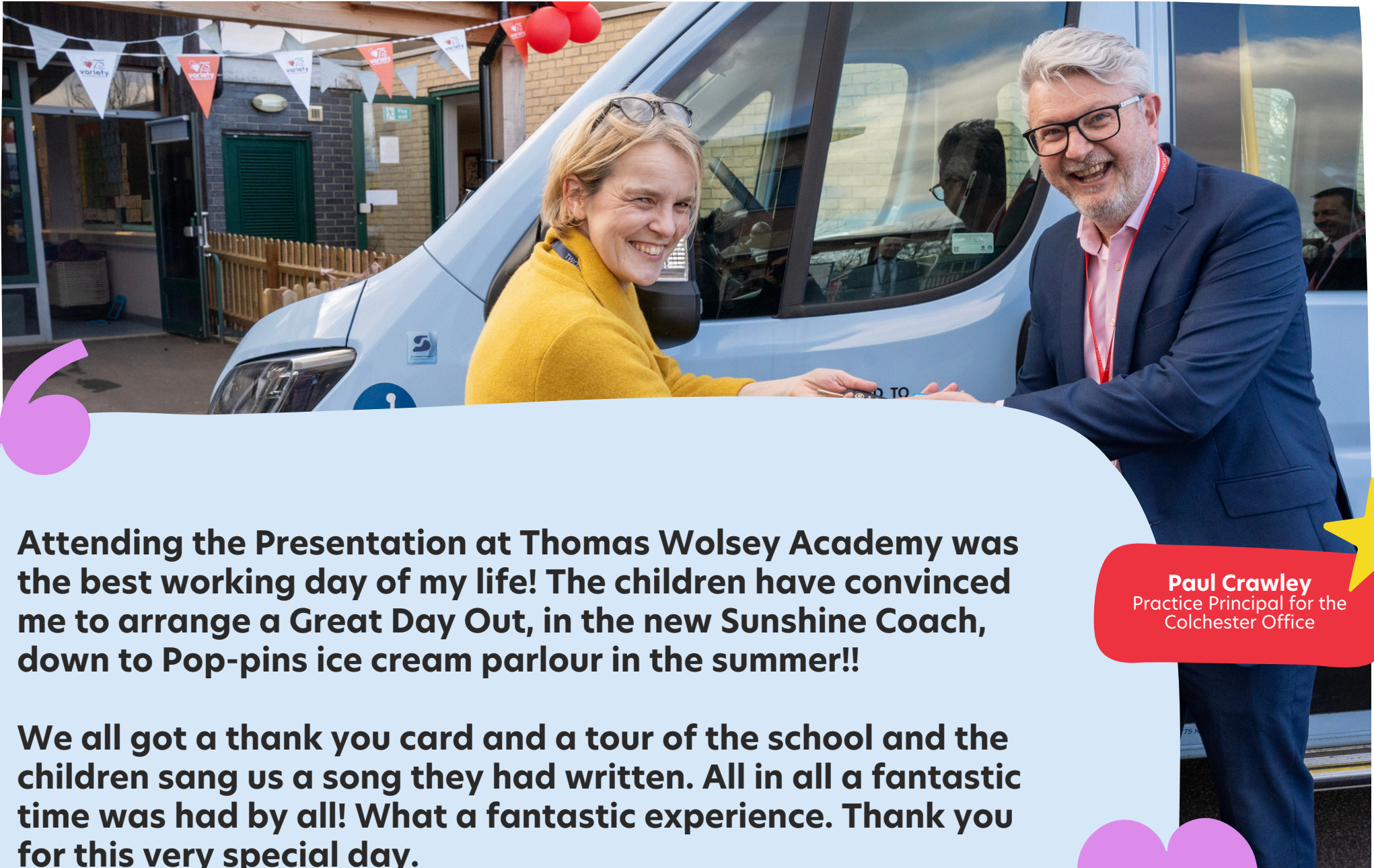
**Emily Webster**  
Co-Principal at  
Thomas Wolsey



**We are very grateful to everyone who has helped provide us with our wonderful new Sunshine Coach. The Coach is essential to our curriculum offer and allows us to provide a wide variety of rich and engaging learning opportunities right across school. Without specialist transport, we would be restricted to local visits within walking distance.**

**It is a dream to drive and it's reassuring to head out on visits knowing that it will be reliable and not break down, as was often the case with our old bus - an added concern when transporting complex and vulnerable youngsters. We are looking forward to many more trips in the future and are already planning our next adventures!**





**Attending the Presentation at Thomas Wolsey Academy was the best working day of my life! The children have convinced me to arrange a Great Day Out, in the new Sunshine Coach, down to Pop-pins ice cream parlour in the summer!!**

**We all got a thank you card and a tour of the school and the children sang us a song they had written. All in all a fantastic time was had by all! What a fantastic experience. Thank you for this very special day.**

**Paul Crawley**  
Practice Principal for the  
Colchester Office



# Our partnership with St. James's Place Charitable Foundation





**It was with great pleasure that we attended Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy for the official handover of the new Sunshine Coach.**

**My daughter loved her time at the school and flourished under their care. Having recently been a parent of a pupil at the school I know only too well how vitally important it is that the school is able to have access to wheelchair accessible vehicles to support the children throughout their curriculum.**

**Everyone at St. James Place are immensely proud and humbled to see first-hand how coming together and raising vital funds can help in our local communities in such a way. It became abundantly clear that this Sunshine Coach is more than just a vehicle; it's a beacon of opportunity and possibility for the entire Ormiston Academy family.**



**Rob Case**  
Parent and Partner Practice  
at St. James's Place

# Northern England

Supporting journeys across 14 communities



**Over the last 20 years, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has directly supported 15,850 children across Northern England.**

Since their first donation of a Sunshine Coach to Elms Bank Specialist Arts College back in 2002, St. James's Place has directed their support across over 14 communities. This has unlocked an estimated 56,035 trips and days out.

**4 in 10 communities** supported by St. James's Place are ranked in the top fifth most disadvantaged areas (per the Index of Multiple Deprivation).

St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has supported schools across:

- **Liverpool:** Barlows Primary School and Princes Primary
- **Harrogate:** Nidderdale Resource Centre, Hadrian School
- **Manchester:** Elms Bank Specialist Arts College and Oakwood Academy
- **Newcastle:** Cramlington, Sir Charles Parsons School

The Foundation have also supported 7 more schools across Wakefield, Bolton, Northumberland, Salford, Cheshire and more.

# Everyday our Sunshine Coach brings smiles to the faces of the children we support.

**The Coach allows children to access the community on purposeful and enjoyable activities. It really does give children the freedom and opportunity to shine. There are so many invaluable experiences, it isn't possible to share them all. Some key highlights are the end-of-school activity days, sports day, residential trips to name a few.**



**Richard Steen,**  
Director of Estates at The  
Birtenshaw Group in Bolton,  
supported in 2020



Spotlight on...

# Hadrian School

The Hadrian School, based in Newcastle Upon-Tyne, caters to the needs of 170 children aged between 2-11 years old, diagnosed with severe & complex learning disabilities.

**Location:** Newcastle Upon-Tyne

**Donation:** 17 seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2016



## Thank you from the Hadrian Community

**"Many of our children have complex health issues and relatively short lives. Your support makes memories for a lifetime! It is a lifesaver! Without your support the world our pupils live in would be so restricted.**

Without your support we wouldn't be able to access our own communities, make links with other schools, visit sporting events or leisure opportunities, go swimming or open up the world to our pupils with complex health care needs and life limiting conditions.

It truly does make a huge difference to our offer and we are all truly grateful for your ongoing support to our community of learning disabled children.



## Residential trip to Northumberland!

Just last month a group of pupils spent a week on a residential holiday along the coast in Northumberland. Included in that group were children who had never been on a holiday, never visited a zoo, never been in a restaurant and who live in poverty.

They came back buzzing, looking healthier, colour in their faces from days on the beach, energised from eating healthy meals three times a day, from sleeping well and having fun with their mates. That opportunity could not have taken place without your Sunshine Coach, for certain."

**Chris Rollings**  
Headteacher

Spotlight on...

# Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre

Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre offers short breaks for children and young people with complex health, disability, learning difficulties and autism needs.

**Location:** Harrogate

**Donation:** 13 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2019



## Thank you from the Nidderdale Community

In August 2019, St. James's Place handed over a brand-new Sunshine Coach to Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre in Harrogate to enable Nidderdale to expand their services and provide the children, young people and families a wider range of experiences and opportunities.

"The Sunshine Coach has given the children who have Short Breaks at Nidderdale Children's Resource Centre access to the wider community, which would be impossible without the Coach. We are in a rural setting and whilst we can walk locally, the paths are not accessible."

**Katherine Jane Clarke,**  
North Yorkshire Council

## Performance at Young Voices Concert in Sheffield

After months of practice, in January 2024, we went to The Young Voices Concert at Sheffield arena. Our parents dropped us off at Nidderdale early in the morning and then the staff helped us on to the Sunshine Coach to Sheffield. There was three young people in wheel chairs. We sang all the songs on the way and couldn't believe how amazing it was when we eventually got into our seats. We had to do the rehearsal in the afternoon with the thousands of other children who were taking part. When the lights went down, we all had torches it was amazing. When it was finished it was really late, we were tired but still sang all the way back to Nidderdale where our parents met us again. What a fabulous experience, we felt part of a huge community.

**Testimony from a child,**  
who attended Nidderdale

Submission from Nidderdale Resource Centre

# A picture paints a thousand words!



Bright and breezy!  
Trip to the seaside



Trip to the arcade



Trip to wildlife centre



Meet and Greet!  
Duck style.



Bowling trip -  
A striking effort!



Returning from  
a trip!



Smiles -  
looking for  
Sunshine!



All Aboard!



Getting out  
and about!



Window to the  
great outdoors!



Easy access!



Smiles!



Spotlight on...

# Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project



Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project work with young people with disabilities (including Down's Syndrome, autism, dyslexia and ADHD) as well as carers and refugees.

**Location:** Northumberland

**Donation:** 14 Seater Sunshine Coach

**Year of support:** 2020



## What a struggle it would be if we didn't have the Sunshine Coach!

**“CVYP is one of the largest youth provisions in Northumberland if not the North of England. As many as 300 children and young people accessing a range of services every week.**

St. James' Place's donation has allowed us to really push on with the youth engagement, by reaching out to all the communities, estates and villages. The users include so many children and young people in great need of transportation. SEND, young carers, refugees, LGBTQ+ and some of the most hard to reach. The is for everyone and is very well respected, cleaned, serviced and secure. We simply couldn't function without it. Our disabled users really heavily on the Coach to get to and from CVYP. We cant thank you all enough.”

**Rob Hall**  
Executive Manager

## The Sunshine Coach enabled us to provide emergency support during a crisis.

**“[At] a time where people were frightened and uncertain of so many things, our Sunshine Coach brought so much joy and happiness.**

The young people would see us pull up and come out of their houses, open space and a range of fun activities, food and drinks and a staff team full of enthusiasm. The Coach was identifiable and families felt the warmth and safety for their young people. It was a way for us to learn vital lessons and really listen to those in the community. The young people we have worked with include children with disabilities, young carers and those excluded from education. The Sunshine Coach enabled us to reach more parts of the community, we'd not have been able to work in.”

**Claire Gascoigne**  
Youth Development Co-ordinator

# Midlands and East Anglia

Supporting journeys across 10 communities

Over the last 20 years, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has directly supported 8,541 children in the Midlands and East Anglia with 37,194 trips out. The first Sunshine Coach here was St Christopher's School in Lincoln back in 2002.

1 in 3 of communities supported by St. James's Place here are ranked in the top-fifth most disadvantaged in the UK (per the Index of Multiple Deprivation). This includes:

- **Birmingham and Warwickshire:** Cromwell Learning Community MAT, Springfield House School
- **Nottinghamshire:** Foxwood School, Portland College and Carlton Digby Day School
- **Middlesex:** Grangewood School, Resources for Autism and Manor Mead School

Plus a further array of schools, such as Thomas Wolsey School in Suffolk, Marjorie McClure School in Kent, St Christopher's School in Lincoln and Walton Leigh School in Surrey.



**Access to the Sunshine Coach has added enormous value to the provision that we offer and provide a wealth of opportunities to access off site activities that they might not ordinarily have access to.**

**By supporting educational and curriculum learning, this has enabled our pupils to develop their independence, social and emotional skills, resilience and physical skills. Importantly, off-site trips and visits also provide enjoyment, fun and a wealth of creative opportunities!**

**Mark Bryant**  
Executive Headteacher at The  
Federation of Manor Mead  
and Walton Leigh Schools



Spotlight on...


## Portland Charity

Portland College is a college for people with a wide range of disabilities. Their includes Further Education, Employment Support and Personal Care for 281 children and young people up to the age of 19.

**Location:** Ashfield, Nottingham

**Donation:** 13 seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2018



Window to the great outdoors!

### Thank you from the Portland Charity!

**“Our Sunshine Coach facilitates Portland to provide a lifetime of opportunity to over 3,000 beneficiaries each year. As a Specialist Education and Care provider, we support individuals with a variety of complex disabilities to fulfil their potential.**

We are able to provide educational trips and accessible transport for work experience and Supported Internships. We provide access to enrichment opportunities and cultural visits, as well as medical visits to the GP and hospital.”

**Robert Pearce**  
Fundraising and CSR Manager at Portland Charity



Portland  
Charity

### Supporting the local community in Nottingham

**“Being able to support local schools, community groups and other charities to access our fully inclusive facilities is really important in our mission to provide a lifetime of opportunity for all.**

We are able to support local schools, community groups and other charities to access our state-of-the-art, fully inclusive facilities. Finally, we recruit volunteer Coach drivers. This provides these individuals (usually elderly) the opportunity to gain a sense of purpose, remain active and ensure they do not become isolated. [The Coach] provides Duke of Edinburgh Award accessibility. Portland deliver the bronze and silver awards; providing fully inclusive opportunities to people living with a disability. We couldn't do this without the Sunshine Coach. Without the transport, we couldn't deliver the awards, due to the lack of community transport available and the cost that would be incurred.”

Spotlight on...

# Cromwell Learning Community Trust

Cromwell Learning Community Multi Academy Trust works in an area of high deprivation in Birmingham. They support 656 children aged 3-11 and there over a third of pupils receive a free school meal.

**Location:** Nechells, Birmingham

**Donation:** 14 Seater

**Year of support:** 2018



In December 2018, Malcolm Cooper-Smith, Trustee, St. James's Place Charitable Foundation handed the keys of the Variety Sunshine Coach to Rubina Darr, headteacher of Cromwell Learning Community Trust, during a special event at the school in December.

## Mr Cooper said:

"Once again we are delighted to be partnering with Variety, the Children's Charity - in supporting their Sunshine Coaches Programme and we know it will make such a difference to the children at Cromwell Learning Community Trust."

**Rubina Darr**  
Senior Executive Leader at Cromwell



## Update from Cromwell Learning Trust: Five years on!

"[The Sunshine Coach] has opened both opportunities and possibilities for our children to venture out of their immediate environment.

**Indeed some of our children when in the countryside on our coach "asked are we still in England?"**

We are enabled by the coach to give experiences that the children otherwise might not have. Children's comments from moving from urban to rural areas are shaping their stories of what life was like in their own country e.g. Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Syria. Indeed when the parents come into join in the school activities, they comment on their experiences of coming from back home when they are exposed to the environment. This is an exciting addition to school resources which will open many doors regarding access to experiences in our local and national environment."

Spotlight on...

# Foxwood Academy

Foxwood Academy is a special needs school for over 110 students aged 3-19. They cater for children & young people with moderate & severe learning difficulties.

**Location:** Bramcote, Nottingham

**Donation:** 13 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2021



## Thank you from the Portland Charity!

**In April 2022, Leckie Presley, partner of St. James Place, was delighted to meet with the students and enjoyed hearing the impact of the coach directly and the ways it will open up opportunities for them.**

By improving social mobility, the Sunshine Coach opens doors to new environments and experiences, fostering a sense of autonomy and confidence in our students. The addition of a Sunshine Coach to our special school has had a transformative impact on our students.

This essential resource significantly enhances their independence, offering opportunities for real-world learning and experience that are critical in preparing them for adulthood. It helps to build peer relationships, providing a platform for social interaction and bonding that is crucial for emotional and social development.



Last December, our special school had the wonderful opportunity to take a group of children carol singing in the center of Nottingham. This outing was a powerful demonstration of what our students can achieve with the right support. This event was a milestone for our school, raising almost £1000!

It was heart-warming to see the community come together to support our cause, and it provided a platform for our students to shine. Parents were thrilled to watch their children perform, many for the first time in such a public setting. The joy and pride on their faces were unforgettable. This outing was a testament to how we can empower our children to achieve great things and be active, visible members of our community.

**Mr James Hutchinson**  
Headteacher



# Southern England

Supporting journeys across 21 communities

**St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has supported 17,542 children in Southern England. In turn, this has unlocked 71,682 trips out.**

**Their first Coach was to Columbus School in London in 2003. Over half of supported schools are in the most disadvantaged areas. A quarter of schools are in the 80-90% most deprived.**

**1 in 4 communities** supported by St. James's Place in Southern England are ranked in the top-fifth most financially disadvantaged. In London, this comprises:


- **Inner London:** Greenwich Toy Library in Greenwich, Valence School in Seven Oaks and Brook Special Community School in Haringey
- **Greater London:** Oak View School in Epping Forest, Livingstone Primary School in Barnet and Columbus School in Bexley.





**All of our outings were absolutely amazing and benefited all our children and young people. Our trips to the seaside were always a hit with the children, many had never seen the sea and sand before. To be able to see a smile on their faces was priceless Our Sunshine Coach was a lifeline and opened a whole new world of opportunities for us.**

**Without the Coach we would not have been able to visit all the amazing places we did and for that we will be eternally grateful for. The gratitude from parents, carer's and the children who used our services was deeply humbling and for our staff to have been able to deliver these services was amazingly rewarding.**



**Sarah Bruce**  
at The Greenwich Toy Library.  
Supported in 2004 with a 17  
seater with a tail-lift.

Spotlight on...

# Livingstone Primary and Nursery School



Livingstone Primary and Nursey School is a small and friendly one-form entry school in New Barnet, set in extensive grounds with spacious classrooms and excellent outdoor facilities. It supports around 250 pupils.

**Location:** New Barnet, NE London

**Donation:** 14 Seater

**Year of support:** 2004

## Thank you from the Livingstone community!

**“Our Sunshine coach has expanded the number of activities that we can attend and one outstanding event was the Bowling Competition organised by the Barnet Sports Partnership. This was one many sporting events now attended by our SEND pupils and it was an event that we managed to win. I have included a photo of the event and you can see from the faces of the pupils how the success in this event has impacted on the them!**

We use the Sunshine coach to enable us to deliver the curriculum to our SEND pupils. Having a Sunshine Coach has been key to providing a rich and varied curriculum for our pupils. If the pupils cannot access learning on a particular topic effectively in the classroom, an educational visit using the Sunshine Coach, can provide an immersive experience to compensate for this.

This has impacted on their educational and emotional outcomes. We have offered them so many different experiences and this has helped them grow in confidence, overcome barriers to learning and achieve to the best of their ability.

For example we’ve used the Coach to take pupils to high points in London to experience the views when working on the topic of hills and mountains. We’ve also taken pupils on tours of landmarks when working on maps.”



Pupils at Livingstone School Bowling Tournament!

**Giovanna Phelan**  
Headteacher at Livingstone



Spotlight on...

# Grangewood School



Grangewood School is a primary school for up to 140 children aged 3-11 with severe learning difficulties and physical and complex needs, including ASD. Grangewood School pupils attend school at one of three specialist locations.

**Location:** Northolt, Ealing

**Donation:** 13 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2019

## The Sunshine Coach has opened a new world for our children to explore.

**“Some of our children are in wheelchairs and their families do not have their own transport and public transport is not suitable for them so for them to be able to explore new environments with their friends has been incredible.**

We are a school for children with severe special needs so getting out in the community is such an important part of our children's development...a lot of our children are unable to access activities with their families.

Most of our children love swimming so we take them to the local swimming pool. It is also used in holiday clubs so the children can visit farms, zoo's and specialist play centres. Other pupils are unable to go into the community with their families so we it is such a vital resource for their independence and life skills to be able to visit shops, garden centres, activity centres and much more.”

My daughter can access swimming with her class and teachers which she wouldn't be able to do so without the Coach

### I love going out on the Coach!

Thank you so much for giving all our children the opportunity to explore the community, learn new skills, enjoy the out of doors and just loving the Coach.”

**Lindsey Gregory**  
Family Services Co-ordinator at Grangewood

A Big “Thank You” from Grangewood!

Getting ready for our next trip!

# South East England

Supporting journeys across 6 communities

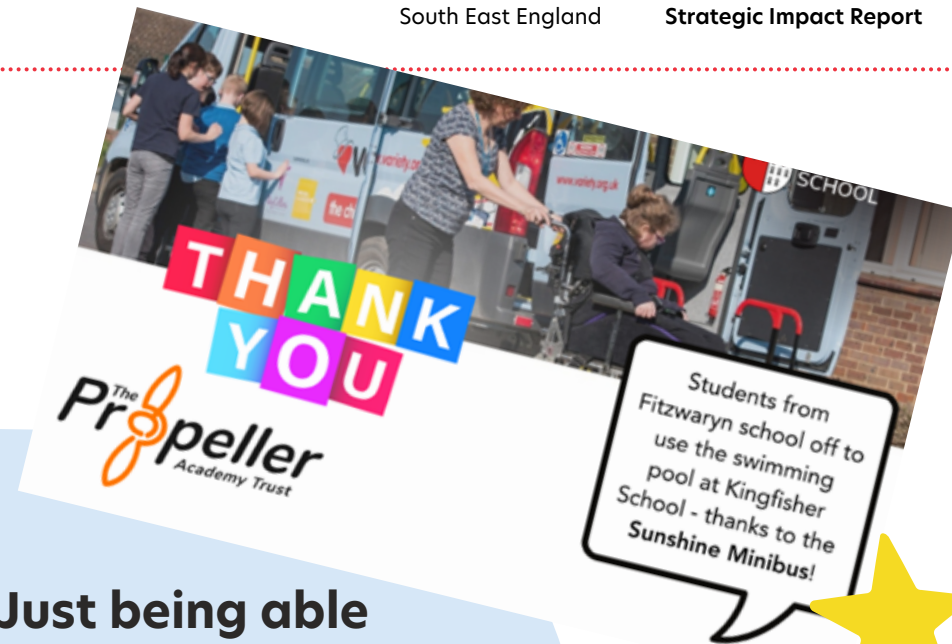
**St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has supported 3,973 children in South East England.**

**Since their first donation of a Sunshine Coach to the Jigsaw Trust in 2005, St. James's Place has supported 6 communities. In turn, this has unlocked 23,299 trips out for disabled and disadvantaged children.**

**Two-thirds of schools we've targeted are in the most financially disadvantaged areas of the country. Despite the relative affluence of South East.**

St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has funded schools in:

- **Middlesex, Essex and Surrey:** Resources for Autism, Childs Hill School, Jigsaw Trust
- **Berkshire and Hampshire:** Fitzwaryn School and Cliffdale Primary Academy
- **Kent:** Marjorie McClure Specialist School



Our children have benefited in so many ways. Just being able to access activities and not being scared to travel on buses; knowing that the Coach provides a safe space and develops independence.

All of the activities mean that our children can access activities that most children take for granted. We're particularly grateful for the lift so children in wheelchairs. Our staff say that having the Coach allows them to plan for more enrichment activities and integration to the community.

We have felt pride when we attend sporting events with schools. We can do so much more as the cost to run the Coach is minimal. The children are proud of the Coach & parents know that its safe.

**Tracey Stratton**  
Chief Operations Officer at  
The Propeller Academy Trust  
(within Fitzwaryn School)



Spotlight on...

# Jigsaw Trust

Jigsaw Trust is a charity inspired by autism in its desire to provide the very best in ongoing education, vocational and wellbeing services for autistic individuals as well as the best support for their families

**Location:** Waverley, Surrey

**Donation:** 14 seater

**Year of support:** 2005



**Having a Sunshine Coach has given our children living with autism access to a variety of activities and opportunities that are not available at school. Our children have been able to enjoy many off-site activities ranging from horse-riding, swimming, gymnastics and many more.**

The amazing donation of our Sunshine Coach has enabled us to recently take our learners on their annual residential holiday. We also often use the Sunshine Coach for our trips where the pupils take part in horse riding on a weekly basis. We are working towards their certification at the end of term.

The Sunshine Coach will have a lasting impact going beyond the immediate benefits offered to Jigsaw's beneficiaries, so a BIG THANK YOU to St. James's Place and Variety, The Children's Charity for making Jigsaw's children very happy!

**Diane Cavanagh**  
Head of Fundraising at Jigsaw Trust

 jigsaw  
INSPIRED BY AUTISM

**Both Jigsaw pupils and staff are very grateful for the new Coach which we are using for offsite visits. It is definitely very popular with our Coach drivers and is always their first choice!**

By having another Coach in our fleet, it has allowed a lot more students to be able to access the community, taking part in activities they normally wouldn't be able to and work towards a wider variety of reinforcers as individuals or as a class group. The children love the Sunshine Coach so much, they have even named it "Sunny"! Thank you St. James's Place.

**Vicky Lumsden**  
CABAS® Master Teacher at Jigsaw Trust

 All aboard!  
Jigsaw's next trip

Spotlight on...

# Cliffdale Primary Academy



Cliffdale Primary Academy is a primary special school for 196 pupils aged 2-11 years who have complex learning difficulties; over 70% of pupils have autism and severe learning difficulties.

**Location:** Portsmouth

**Donation:** 17 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2018

“We are absolutely thrilled to have received our Sunshine coach. We work really hard here at Cliffdale to provide our pupils with a curriculum that is meaningful, creative, practical and fun. We cannot thank Variety and St. James’s Place Foundation enough, it means so much to the school and all of the pupils!”

**Ashley Oliver-Catt**  
 EHead of School at Cliffdale Primary Academy

“The Sunshine Coach has opened the world to our children. As a school supporting children with complex special needs, the ability to easily access transport has allowed us to provide our children with experiences that would otherwise have been impossible.

The provision has a wider impact on the school community as it has allowed us to work alongside families to breakdown barriers the families have had to accessing public facilities and transport by allowing us to teach the children how to appropriately access these things.

As an inner city special school, the trips we have organised to working farms in the local area have been particularly beneficial to our children. The school has used the C to provide transport to the annual residential stay for our Year 6 children, this has given our parents highly valued respite care, the children a life changing opportunity to experience a stay away from their families (in many cases the first in their lives), building their social skills and independence and resilience.”

**Tim Lett**  
 Assistant Principal



**Presentation Day**  
**A huge Thank You!**



Spotlight on...

# Resources for Autism

Resources for Autism is a charity that provides practical services for autistic children and for those who love and care for them. The charity offer music and art therapy, behaviour support, holiday play schemes and more.

**Location:** Barnet  
**Donation:** 17 Seater  
**Year of support:** 2020



**“CVYP is one of the largest youth provisions in Northumberland if not the North of England. As many as 300 children and young people accessing a range of services every week.**

St. James’ Place’s donation has allowed us to really push on with the youth engagement, by reaching out to all the communities, estates and villages. The users include so many children and young people in great need of transportation. SEND, young carers, refugees, LGBTQ+ and some of the most hard to reach. The is for everyone and is very well respected, cleaned, serviced and secure. We simply couldn't function without it. Our disabled users really heavily on the Coach to get to and from CVYP. We cant thank you all enough.”

**Nick Drew**  
 Head of Fundraising



## Messages from Parents

“Damien returns back from his Saturday sessions and the holiday club sessions so happy and relaxed. it’s really beautiful to see my son like this. RFA are clearly doing something right by my son’s needs.”

“It allows my daughter, Sarah, the chance to do activities that other neurotypical children can easily access. This very rare chance for respite helps us all massively.”

“Bev really enjoyed her time at the session. It’s the first time she attended and when I collected her the first thing she said was ' I really want to come again!'. She was taken swimming at a pool with a slide which she absolutely loved. This trip has really helped give her the confidence to try new things and meet new people. It has been the highlight of her school holiday.”

**Word from Three Parents**



Spotlight on...

# Manor Mead School

Manor Mead is a special needs school for children aged 2-11 with severe learning difficulties, some also with physical disabilities, profound/complex needs, high medical needs or Autism.

**Location:** Surrey

**Donation:** 17 Seater tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2017



Smiles all around  
Thank You!



St. James's Place  
Meeting the team!



**Experience a Sunshine Coach Presentation!**  
Please watch Manor Mead's, by clicking above.

# South West England

Supporting journeys across 6 communities



**St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has supported 4,325 children in South West England.**

Since their first donation of a Sunshine Coach to Paternoster School back in 2003, St. James's Place has supported 7 communities.


In turn, this has unlocked 18,704 trips out for disabled and disadvantaged children.

Special thanks to St. James's Place Charitable Foundation from schools supported in:


- **Gloucestershire:** Paternoster School in Cotswold, The Milestone School in Gloucester, The Shrubberies School in Stroud
- **Bath and North East Somerset:** The Fosse Way School in Bristol
- **Bournemouth:** Linwood School



**Pupil**  
The Federation of  
Manor Mead and Walton  
Leigh Schools



*"I really enjoyed going to Legoland. It was a long way but it was the best day ever!"*



**Having a Sunshine Coach designed for disabled pupils to access the community offers numerous significant benefits. [It] can be used by wheelchair users with profound and multiple learning disabilities, so they are able to access events in the wider community. It ensures inclusivity by providing reliable and safe transportation tailored to their needs.**

**This has enabled Paternoster pupils to participate in a broader range of activities and educational experiences beyond the classroom, promoting their social integration and independence. The recreational outings, such as school trips to cattle country, Bournestream and inclusive sporting events are vital for personal development and well-being.**



**Mark Bryant**  
Executive Headteacher at The  
Federation of Manor Mead  
and Walton Leigh Schools





Spotlight on...

# The Milestone School



The Milestone School has up to 320 pupils ranging from 3-16 years of age. All students possess learning disabilities, profound & multiple learning difficulties.

**Location:** Gloucester

**Donation:** 13 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2021

## “The Opportunity to Experience” - A Letter from an anon. teacher

**“For the last few years, I have taught a class of 6-8 complex needs learners with behaviours associated with autism and trauma.**

My pupils display a high level of anxiety, behaviours and historically struggled to access the community. Additionally, some pupils have limited opportunities to explore environments beyond home and school due to socio-economic pressure. Having our own Sunshine Coach in school has offered the class autonomy, flexibility and, ultimately, opportunity.

We have had the chance to generalise skills learnt in school into wider contexts. We have supported pupils to access a range of opportunities. Having access to a Sunshine Coach has expanded our world, improved mental health, improved well-being and ultimately given pupils the chance to experience more. This chance would have been impossible without your generous donation. Thank you!”



Visit to Slimbridge



Trip to Garden Centres



Trip to Go Ape



Trip to Forest of Dean



Bournstream Adventure Playground



Primrose Vale: Pick Your Own!

Spotlight on...

# The Shrubberies School



The Shrubberies School caters for children and young people with special educational needs aged 2-19, with accommodation for up to 130 pupils. The accommodation is comprised of The Shrubberies School main site which caters for pupils from 2 to 16.

**Location:** Gloucestershire

**Donation:** 17 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2018



**Malcolm Cooper-Smith, a Trustee of St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, was joined by Aidan Burnett-Herd of St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, who handed the keys of the Coach to Jane Jones.**

"These are very difficult times for the school in terms of funding and we are so grateful to Variety and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation for making it possible for us to continue this aspect of our provision."

**Ms Jane Jones**  
former Headteacher

## Thank you Message

"The Sunshine Coach has opened up the world for our children who all have Severe or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties. The coach is integral to widening the life experiences of our children and has had a huge impact of their education, health and wellbeing. They have so much fun!

The Sunshine coach took 25 students on a residential trip. Emma (pseudonym) was one of them. Emma is a non-verbal eleven year old girl with severe autism. She has very high anxiety [and] had never stayed away from home from her parents before. She has never accessed a hotel or gone on a camping holiday.

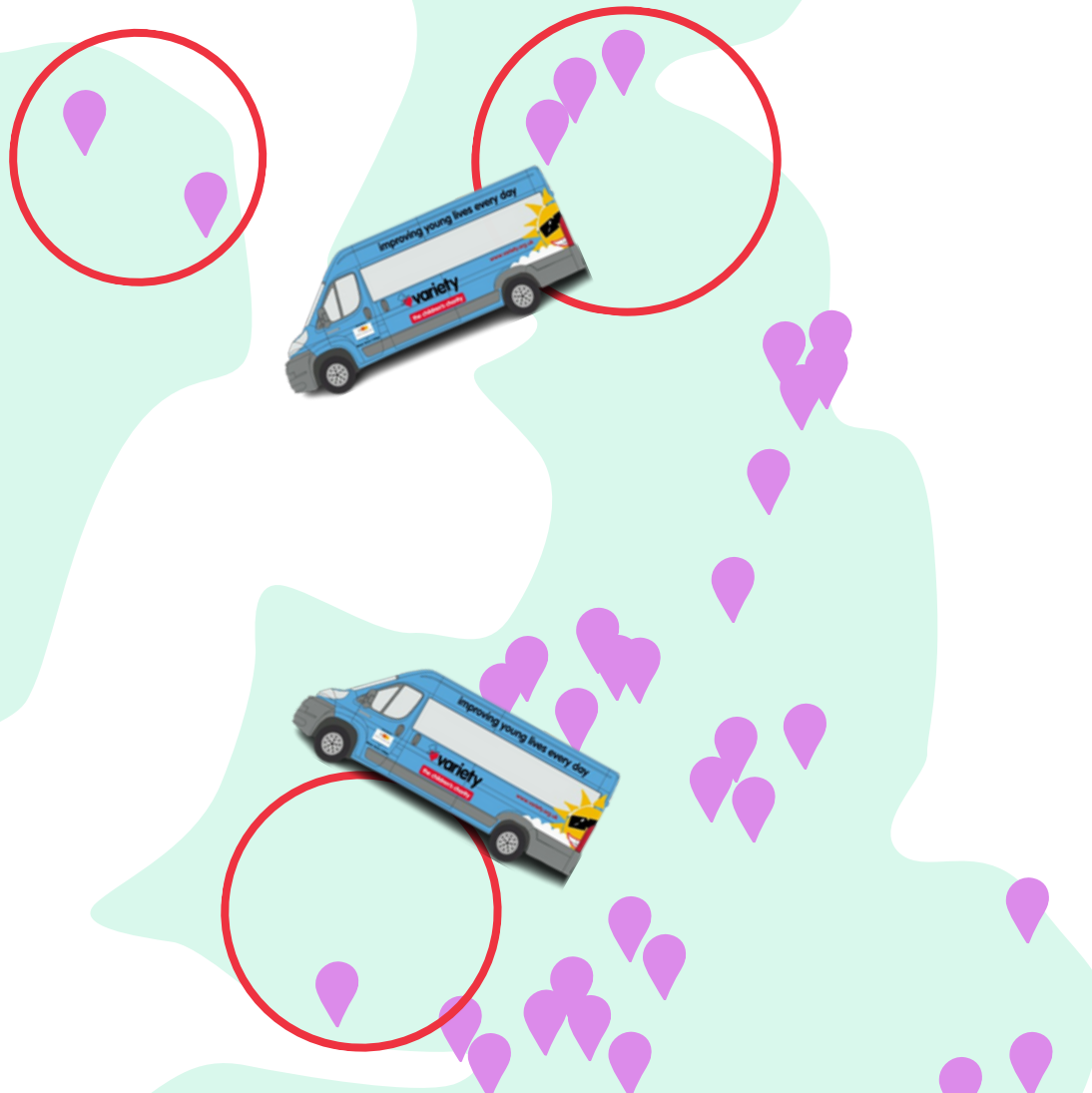
Emma travelled on the Coach to a residential provision where she spent three nights. She had an incredible time at this: exploring the woods, looking after the chickens, tidying and making her bed, being with her friends and learning to self-occupy. Without the Coach she the trip would not have taken place. The Coach gave her the experience of being away from her parents. It was truly amazing to see!"

**Wendy Newby**  
Headteacher



# Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Supporting journeys across 10 communities



**St. James's Place Foundation has directly supported 9,876 children across these three nations.**

St. James's Place Charitable Foundation has supported 6 communities in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 2 in Northern Ireland. In turn, this has unlocked 28,677 trips out!

**6 in 10 for schools are in the top 20% most financially disadvantaged areas. Half of these are in the top 10%.**

St. James's Place has supported schools in:

- **Scotland:** Stirling, Perth, Dunbarton, Kincardine and Lanarkshire.
- **Wales:** Monmouth and Glamorgan
- **Northern Ireland:** Antrim and Coleraine



“ There is rarely a day that our sunshine coach is not loaded with pupils and out on an adventure. The Coach allows our students to explore the world beyond the school walls. Each trip is a mini-adventure, reinforcing their self-esteem and teaching valuable life skills.

Every time the Coach is used it enables a group of pupils with special educational needs to learn, experience new things and make memories that stay with our pupils, long after the Coach is parked up.

Our sunshine coach is an essential tool in the education of our children and young people. We are a special needs school, trips and visits are a vital part of our curriculum. The skills and qualifications these pupils have obtained have been amazing. Without our Coach this wouldn't be possible.

”

**Chris Murphy**  
Castle Tower School in  
Ballymena, Northern Ireland

Spotlight on...

# Maes Ebbw Special School

Maes Ebbw supports over 140 children and young people from 3-19 years with a range of complex special educational needs who require specialist provision to achieve their potential as they move into adulthood.

**Location:** Newport, Wales

**Donation:** 17 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2021

In October 2021, Richard Hill of St. James's Place Charitable Foundation handed the keys of the coach to Nicola Allan, the school's headteacher, during a special presentation at the school. Mr Hill was joined at the coach presentation by Chris Allen and Edward Watts MBE, colleagues from St. James's Place Charitable Foundation.



"We have to give enormous thanks to St. James's Place for their contribution to our Sunshine Coach.

If it weren't for solid, community focussed establishments such as this, we would have found it extremely difficult to achieve our goals of replacing one of our ageing fleet of vehicles.

The pupils have benefitted greatly from the new Coach: enabling us to take them on more educational as well as recreational visits. It has helped build their confidence, and feel part of the community by enabling us to take part in local community initiatives, which before we were limited due to our ageing vehicles spending a lot of time in the garage.

Having spoken to a handful of the pupils on what they have enjoyed most about the new Coach. Each said [our trips to] Barry Island, [where we] would take them for 10.30 and spend the best part of the day at the beach: often hiring a beach hut to have a small BBQ. [We'd then] return to the school, covered in sand! Thank you Variety & St. James's Place"

**Richard Hennah**  
Premises Manager at Maes Ebbw



Spotlight on...

# Glencryan School

Glencryan School is for pupils with Additional Support Needs and has a roll of 187 pupils. Glencryan School supports pupils with wide range of additional needs, this is reflected in the resourcing and structure of teaching within the school.

**Location:** Northumberland

**Donation:** 14 Seater Sunshine Coach

**Year of support:** 2020



**In March 2017, pupils of Glencryan School were delighted to receive a new sunshine coach which was presented to them by representatives of St. James's Place Foundation Committee; Jane Ballantyne, Ross Cameron, Catherine Gibbons, James Currie, and Paul Nielsen. They were joined by special guest Murdo MacLeod, former professional footballer for clubs including Celtic and Borussia Dortmund.**

"The St. James's Place Foundation is a proud supporter of Variety and together we are committed to improving the lives of children and young people, especially those who face significant challenges in life."

**Mark Longbottom**  
former Head of the St. James's Place Foundation

"We are very grateful to Variety and St. James's Place Foundation for their donation of a Sunshine Coach. The students at Glencryan School rely on a coach in order to experience a wider curriculum, enhanced experience and equity of opportunity. The coach will be used every day to enable the children to access a variety of educational, social and leisure trips and activities, to go beyond the school environment and extend both the pupils' learning experiences and their integration into the community."

**Laura Rowe**  
Head Teacher, Glencryan School







**Glencryan School celebrates the arrival of their new Sunshine Coach!**

Spotlight on...

# Ysgol Crug Glas

Ysgol Crug Glas is a special school for 3-19 year olds who have severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Crug Glas has a passionate commitment to provide a happy, safe and exciting learning environment for all.

**Location:** Swansea, Wales

**Donation:** 13 Seater with tail-lift

**Year of support:** 2018



The Sunshine Coach offers all of our pupils access to their community, and enables them to take part in equitable experiences as their peers would, for example, taking part in pupil forums, workstreams and events through which they share their voice and vision.

One of our pupils was about to undergo surgery, his wish for his last week in school before his operation was to visit Folly Farm. The Sunshine coach made it possible for his whole class to go with him on the visit, as many of his class peers used wheelchairs and adapted buggies, meaning everyday coaches or buses would not have been able to transport them.

**Suzi Smith**  
Deputy Headteacher

Spotlight on...

## Woodland View / Merkland School



Woodland View School is a purpose built specialist school planned and designed to meet learners' social, emotional, learning and medical needs. They provide early years, primary department & secondary education to over 200 pupils.

**Location:** Outer Glasgow, Scotland

**Donation:** 14 Seater

**Year of support:** 2019

“

We have been able to undertake so many opportunities that we could not have otherwise accessed. These have included learning and social opportunities. We've used the coach in developing real areas of skill development for our learners. Sometimes it is months of planning for a half hour trip. We are incredibly grateful for having the flexibility to do long and short-term planning.

We have been able to take our young people to an Additional Special Needs football tournament, [to become] part of a wider ASN network in other schools. By going on our own we were able to ensure all young people were able to go, their dignity was preserved and we could move / leave / travel at our own pace.

”

**Kay Hunter**  
Headteacher





Looking ahead

# A huge thank you!

We couldn't have achieved this for children, without the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation. On behalf of Team Variety, may we express our thanks from our huge family of school partners.

As we look to the future, we hope to strengthen our strategic approach to supporting schools and further embed ourselves in communities across the UK.

We consider St. James's Place Charitable Foundation to be a vital partner and an important pillar for helping us to achieve our mission and to support our large network of schools across the UK.





We hope our amazing stories serve to inspire and illustrate the tangible, lasting and strategic impact of building partnerships with Variety's network of sunshine coach partners, UK-wide.

Our long-standing relationship with the St. James's Place Charitable Foundation is a testament to that.

May Variety express our heartfelt thanks to the Trustees, Committees and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation staff. You have committed your time, consideration and resources towards achieving our shared mission.

Together, we are ensuring that every disabled and disadvantaged child can live their best life and achieve their true potential. Thank you!

**Stuart Wilcox**  
Sunshine Coach  
Programmes Manager





# Thank you!

Variety and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation  
Celebrating our long-standing partnership



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