

**THE NINEVEH CHARITABLE TRUST
PARK FARM
FRITTENEDEN ROAD
BIDDENDEN
ASHFORD
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Registered No. 256025

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Questionnaire

Tell us about yourselves

Whirlow Hall Farm Trust is an educational trust based in Sheffield. Our mission is to help youngsters make the most of their potential, regardless of their circumstances and challenges, in a learning environment that is based on a working farm.

Our principal focus is 'Alternative Provision', a different approach to education for youngsters that struggle in mainstream classrooms. We run nurture programmes for primary and secondary children – some as young as 5 years old - who are excluded or at risk of exclusion from school. Often dismissed as disruptive or a nuisance, we help them develop the emotional and social skills to cope with the pressures they face. Our goal is always to help them get back to school so they can enjoy their childhoods like other children. Older children have the opportunity to complete qualifications, opening doors to apprenticeships or college placements.

But for some, the challenges continue after school age. So we run activities for young adults who struggle with autism and other challenges, to help them develop life skills, make friends and reduce their risk of isolation.

These programmes are known as "Whirlow LIFE" (Learning In a Farming Environment) and are broken into three categories:

Primary Provision (Ages 5 – 11)

Secondary Provision (Ages 11 – 16)

Post 16 Provision for young adults aged 16+ with Special Educational Needs (SEND)

Tell us about the Funds

- Has the project we helped to fund been completed? If so, how is it maintained?

The project is ongoing running inline with the academic year for the primary and secondary programmes, and for 50 weeks of the year for the post 16 programme.

- If not completed yet, why not? Are plans in place to finalise the project?

The length of time each child comes for and number of sessions per week varies for each child and their circumstances. Some children spend half a day, some three days per week. Some will visit for 12 weeks, and some will come for much longer. Often it is due to funding available. Another factor

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is how much the school is happy for a child to spend outside of school. Other factors include; how far they have to travel (this adds further cost); personal circumstances (they often struggle to get out of bed); and the need for additional support staff. All children start with 1:1 staff to child ratio and usually this is a member of staff from their school. Some schools are unable to send a member of staff due to costs or availability.

For young people on the post 16 programme, their fees to attend the programme are paid from their personal budgets. They, with support from parents/carers/support workers may choose how they spend this and on which activities.

- Did the funds provided by us prove adequate, or was there an over- or under-spend?

The funds were a much needed contribution towards running the Whirlow LIFE programmes. Although the schools or young people pay a fee to attend the programmes, this does not cover the full cost of running the programmes and running the working farm which is required in order to run the range of programmes we offer.

The shortfall is raised from a broad range of sources, including: fundraising events; seeking corporate support; selling produce in our shop and cafe; external catering; event space hire; community fundraising; and through appealing to charitable trusts and foundations. Many of these activities have been impacted by the restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, and will continue to be for many months to come. We have therefore focused our efforts on our strengths during this time, one of which is seeking support from grants.

- How were any surplus funds used, or was further funding made available?

Whirlow as an organisation and the Whirlow LIFE programmes are all funded from the broad range of sources mentioned above.

Tell us about the project

- Has the project been successful and well received by the beneficiaries?

At the start of the UK's first lockdown, the Post 16 Whirlow LIFE programme was adapted to run remotely. This provided a much-needed link to a place where those youngsters feel safe, included and happy. The aim was to continue to reduce anxieties, reduce isolation and encourage engagement with learning activities. We aimed to keep the young people connected to the farm and reassured we are still there for them. From June we were able to welcome those learners back to the farm along with the Secondary Whirlow LIFE students. We will resume the Primary programme as soon as the demand is there.

The lockdown restrictions imposed in order to combat COVID-19 have brought the importance of this provision into sharp relief. The Farm has offered the students a familiar routine in a time of change and uncertainty, and gave much-needed respite to their families.

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Are you satisfied with the outcome, or, with hindsight, would some modifications have been appropriate?

We are delighted to have been able to offer the Whirlow LIFE programmes to those who needed it during the peak of the pandemic. We will continue to strive to provide educational programmes. The Post 16 programme was adapted to run remotely from March and was able to start welcoming students back to the farm from June. The Secondary Whirlow LIFE programme was able to resume at the Farm in October. Due to a number of factors, both within and out of our control, we have not resumed the Primary programme. We are ready to do so as soon as the demand is there.

- Was funding for this project made available from any other sources?

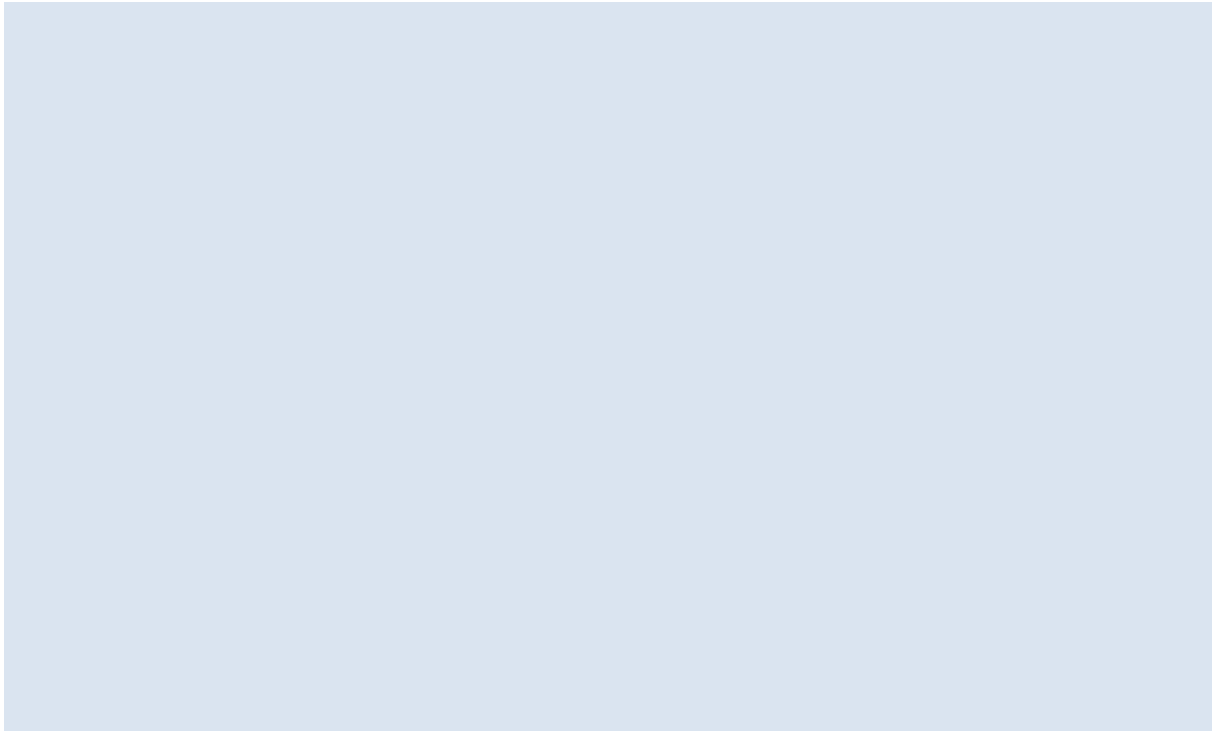
This programme is funded by a range of sources as mentioned above. This includes fees paid by the schools or individuals to attend. The shortfall is made up from our range of fundraising activities.

Feedback about us

- How did you find our own process of selection and payment?
Straightforward and no issues
- Have you considered providing us with an update on the activities for which our Trust provided the funding?
Yes, I have included a general update
- Would you welcome a visit by our Trustees?
Yes. We can also facilitate a virtual visit if required during the COVID-19 restrictions.
- Have you any other comments?

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- This questionnaire is part of our due diligence, obtaining feedback to help us, and we are grateful for your input – please return the questionnaire as soon as possible.

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