

In aid of



# Guide Dogs for School Councils

**Guide Dogs helps people who have sight loss.**

We couldn't do what we do without the help of people who raise money for us.

**We're the Tailblazers!**

Read on and we'll tell you all about what we do and how you can help.



# What does Guide Dogs do?

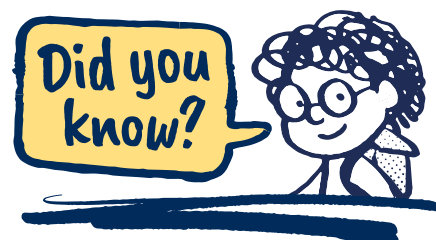
We are Guide Dogs. And we're here to help children and adults with sight loss.



## What is sight loss?

We all see the world differently. Some people can't see colours, and some need glasses to help them see things that are far away or close up.

Some people can't see anything at all, even with glasses. Others can only see lights, shadows or shapes. This can make everyday things harder to do without help.



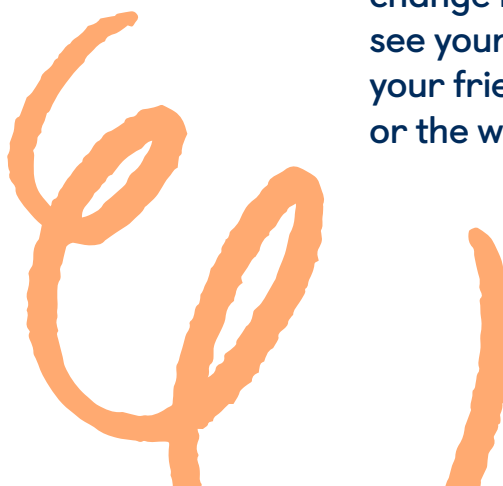
1 in 5 people will have significant sight loss in their lifetime.

## Want to know what we do in your area?

Guide Dogs helps people all across the UK, but we also do a lot in local communities too. If you want to know more, ask a teacher to help you email us at [learning@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:learning@guidedogs.org.uk). We can share facts and stories about the people we've helped near you!



How would your day change if you couldn't see your classroom, your friends' faces, or the words in a book?



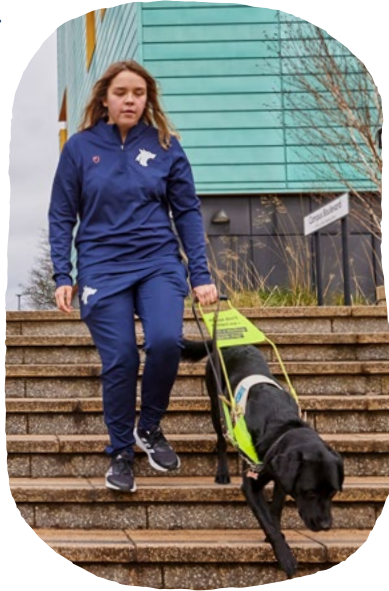
# How does Guide Dogs help?

## You might have heard of our special dogs

Our guide dogs are amazing – they change people's lives! They're a bit different to a pet dog because they've had special training.

They help people with sight loss stay safe by avoiding objects they could trip over and by finding important things, like steps or doors.

Guide dogs wear a harness as well as a lead. The harness helps their owner feel where the dog is going – like walking round a lamppost or stopping at a kerb. Some guide dog owners are as young as 11, and the oldest person we've helped is 98.



Guide Dogs doesn't just train dogs! We support families, teach useful skills, make large print books, provide technology grants, and help places like your school become easier to get around. We also have buddy dogs like me... a friend for a child with a vision impairment.

## What we achieved in just one year



We gave more than **900 grants** to help families buy technology for young people with sight loss.



We made more than **6,800 large print books**, so children with sight loss can enjoy reading a book just like their friends.



We supported **more than 3,500** guide dog and buddy dog partnerships.



Our online information and advice about sight loss was viewed more than **3.5 million times**.



# What do people say about us?

I knew a guide dog could help me, but I never expected to gain a best friend as well. Honey puts a smile on my face every day.

Caitlin with guide dog Honey



Guide Dogs made me these books and they're just like normal books, like Harry Potter! It's really helpful as the font is bigger and the paper is yellow. It just makes it easier to see.

Josie



Rex took part in a muddy obstacle course with his dad and had the idea to raise £100. Then we told him about the Name a Puppy scheme and so he wanted to keep raising money. Rex raised enough money to name a puppy and he chose to give a dog the same middle name as himself: Kal-el.

Lorna, Rex's mum



# How can you help?

1

Make your school inclusive



Young people with sight loss are just like you. But sometimes they might learn and do things in a different way. Inclusion means making sure that everyone can be themselves and gets the chance to join in.

We have resources at [guidedogs.org.uk/learning](https://guidedogs.org.uk/learning) that can help your school learn more about inclusion. Plus, we have a simple and fun inclusive sports challenge called Fund Race.



2

Don't dive on the dog!



Us guide dogs are very well trained, but we're still dogs! We can be distracted by people trying to call us, pat us, or even feed or play with us. If a guide dog loses concentration, it could be dangerous for their owner. Help other people learn to respect working dogs and let them get on with their job.

3

Get going and put the fun into fundraising



We're here to make sure you enjoy raising money for Guide Dogs. Our friendly team has special tools that you can download or have posted to you to help make your fundraising even bigger – plus, you might also unlock some amazing rewards!

Find out more at [guidedogs.org.uk/schoolsfundraising](https://guidedogs.org.uk/schoolsfundraising)



# How does your money help?

**£8**

could support a guide dog partnership for a day.



**£51**

helps us make a large print book for a child, with the font size and paper colour that's just right for them.



**£141**

could buy a starter kit for a new guide dog partnership.

**£500**

could buy an off-to-school training kit for five puppies.



**£1,240**

could buy a young person a laptop kit, complete with special technology to help them in their learning.



We all have to start small. Keep going and you'll be amazed at what you can achieve!





# Next steps to join the Tailblazers

- ☐ **Tell your Head Teacher** that you want to help Guide Dogs. Ask them to get in touch with us at [learning@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:learning@guidedogs.org.uk)
- ☐ **Get our help** with free fundraising tools and ideas on the best events to plan at [guidedogs.org.uk/schoolsfundraising](https://guidedogs.org.uk/schoolsfundraising)
- ☐ **Put a date on the school calendar** and set a goal of how much you will make. What about a catchy name for your event?
- ☐ **Plan your event** with a jobs tick list of what needs to be done, who will do it, and when it needs to be done by. Do you need help from staff or parents?
- ☐ **Share your plans** with the rest of the school. We can help you with assemblies and posters.
- ☐ **Have fun fundraising and changing lives!**

