



**WeCAN...**  
Charitable Trust

**CASE FOR SUPPORT  
RESIDENTIAL VISITS**

[www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk/we-can](http://www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk/we-can)



Pendle Community High School and College (PCHS&C) is the only community special school and college for students aged 11-19 years with generic learning difficulties, which serves the whole community of Pendle. We are an OFSTED outstanding provision and we genuinely strive to deliver the highest quality standard possible within our core offer and associated budget.

Students who attend PCHS&C vary in the extent of their learning needs from moderate to severe and more profound and complex difficulties. They generally have additional special educational needs (SEN) which can include autism, speech, language and communication needs, physical difficulties and medical needs, visual, hearing and multi-sensory impairments and social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

All of our students have an Educational Health & Care Plan, which stipulates that their needs can only be met in a specialist setting, as would be too complex for their local mainstream school.

## THE ISSUE

Many of our families are unable to work due to the complexity of children's needs, or are employed in low paid, part time jobs, and simply cannot afford to take children away on holiday. Many are also anxious about taking their children away, and worried about how they might cope in unfamiliar environments especially alongside other members of the public. This in turn becomes harder work for parents and far removed from a relaxing family holiday. The vast number of our students have never been away from their families over night as they cannot access general sleep-overs like many children of similar age. Families similarly would rarely get a break from their children overnight.



In recent years, PCHS&C has actively encouraged all Year 8 and 9 students who are physically and cognitively able to access 3 days residential at an Outward Bound Centre in Ullswater. This is supported by a combination of specialist instructors based at the centre and a higher proportion of our own staff than mainstream schools would require. All staff are paid their regular salary but give up their own non-working hours for no additional recompense. This experience offers these students positive tailored social interaction, team building and adventure activities, unlike the majority have ever experienced before.

In relation to students with more complex needs, we have facilitated a week long residential to a purpose built centre in the Lake District. Due to the high level and complexity of these student's needs, we have to staff this residential on a minimum of a one to one basis. The physical and sensory experience for these students, in the company of their peers and staff they trust is exceptionally positive.

## WHY US? WHY NOW?

PCHSC is the only LCC special school and college for students aged 11-19 years with generic learning difficulties, within the community of Pendle. Our students have established close relationships with our highly specialist staff. Outside of the immediate family, we are therefore the only viable option that parents would consider trusting to take their children away from home overnight.

We wish to sustain our offer of residential experiences for all our students throughout their education at our school. In recent years, we have been able to offer more able Yr 8-9 students access outward bounds courses each year, and a small number of students with the most complex medical and learning disabilities every other year. However, residential experiences are not funded through our core education budget, and therefore we are unable to continue to provide these without additional financial means.

## WHAT DO WE NEED?

We currently charge parents £200 for those who are in employment and £40 for those who are on benefits, and supplement the rest with our Pupil Premium Grant monies (provided to school for low income families). Many of our parents who are low incomes, however, still struggle to find and prioritise this money.

The true cost of each residential especially for those with complex needs is significantly higher than this. To date we have subsidised this by ad-hoc fund raising opportunities, but this is not sustainable moving forward.

For students with the most complex needs, to attend a week long residential in the Lake District in a bespoke setting with 7 students and 5 staff costs £5760 for the full trip. School are charging working parents £300, but we still need to raise approximately £4 - £4500 per trip. We are currently providing this opportunity **once** during the child's education at PCHSC, but would like to enable this more often.

PCHSC already accesses charitable subsidy and means tested bursaries to support students who are able to access the Outward Bound Centre in Ullswater. However, the cost for 24 students remains around £5,000. Again school charges working parents £200, but an increasing number of low-income families cannot afford to pay this, so a reduced cost of £100 would enable the majority of families to be able to attend, without causing excessive financial pressures.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We Can...Charitable Trust are reaching out to our local community to help raise the money needed for PCHS&C to continue providing these incredible experiences. By choosing one of our donation options below, you will be contributing to providing PCHS&C students with opportunities they otherwise may never experience. These are just examples of what you could be contributing towards and are not fixed prices, all donation amounts are appreciated. Please get in touch today using the contact details on the reverse if you would like to pledge your support to this worthwhile cause.

**£100**

Enables 1 child from a low income family to access Outward Bound for 3 days.

**£225**


Contributes half of the cost towards a week long residential for a child with the most complex medical & learning needs with a member of staff.


**£550**

Enables one child with the most complex medical & learning needs to access a valuable week long residential opportunity with a member of staff.



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