

In aid of



School takes on blindfold 'Fund Race' for Guide Dogs charity

20/7/23



Lytham Church of England Primary School has demonstrated their ethos of promoting respect from all their learners yet again by raising £200 for Guide Dogs through the sight loss charity's 'Fund Race' campaign.

Fund Race is a track race or obstacle course where every participant is blindfolded and uses a rope as their guide (see the race in action [here](#)). It is an active challenge that everyone will remember and follows learning about sight loss through a free assembly pack.

Our 'Pupil Leadership Team' were inspired by Reverend Nick and his guide dog training. So much so, that they choose to plan and set up a blindfolded obstacle course to raise money for the 'Guide Dogs' charity. They raised a grand total of £200! Not only did they encourage all pupils to be physically active but they raised awareness of the difficulties faced by people with sight loss.



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Susie Finlinson, National Schools and Youth Manager for Guide Dogs, said:

“We’ve created this challenge, especially for schools, to start important conversations about sight loss and being more inclusive and accessible.”

“By taking part, Lytham has not only done this but has also raised vital funds to support our life-changing work. We’re hugely grateful for their participation in our campaign.”

The campaign was created after hearing Guide Dogs staff share their experiences of growing up with a vision impairment, and how their schools adapted sports activities. The charity wants to encourage other local schools to consider participating in Fund Race. Schools can download their free resource pack here guidedogs.org.uk/FundRace

Former England footballer and Fund Race supporter Michael Owen said:

“As a father of a child with a vision impairment, I know all too well how sometimes children with sight loss can feel left out at school. But with Guide Dogs life-changing support, they can learn things in a different way and do all the same things as their friends.”

Today, Guide Dogs leads the world in breeding and training working dogs, creating unique and carefully matched partnerships that provide life changing support. The charity also provides a range of services for children and parents of children who are visually impaired - including providing buddy dogs, information and advice for families, and life skills for young people.

In Lancashire, there are around 43,200* people living with sight loss. Not all of these people are registered blind, but their sight loss is significant enough to impact their daily living.

The funds raised by Lytham will support Guide Dogs to help people with sight loss now and in the future.

*RNIB data

- Ends -

For more information including interviews, images, case studies, please contact **Emma Tucker, Lead Regional Marcomms Manager, Guide Dogs**, emma.tucker@guidedogs.org.uk

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About Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs helps people with sight loss from the day they're born. Every family is unique, so Guide Dogs UK support is tailored to the individual and parents can easily access information and advice over the phone or online.

It costs just under £55,000 to support a guide dog from birth to retirement.

Find out more at www.guidedogs.org.uk