



Impact Report 2022



Contents

Introduction	4
Sophie Harrison-Byrne, Interim Director	
Who is First Give?	5
The First Give programme structure	6
Outcomes	7
Outcomes for students	
Outcomes for schools	
Case study	8
Winterbourne Academy's story	
Creating a giving journey	10
First Give Primary	10
First Give Step Up	11
Involving young people	12
Youth Advisory Group	
Championing social action and philanthropy	13
The Spark Podcast	
Looking forward	14
With thanks	15



Introduction

Last academic year offered a glimpse of what a post-covid reality – or ‘new normal’ – could be for First Give. Having weathered the 2020 academic year with a totally remote offer to closed schools, and then providing something of a hybrid programmatic offer in a very disrupted 2021, this year saw a return to regular programme delivery with almost all events delivered in person. Frankly, this has been a complete joy to witness.

Young people have responded to the opportunities afforded to them by First Give with enthusiasm and passion as evidenced by the data and case study in this short report. It has not all been plain sailing: the emergence of Omicron over the winter of 2021 disrupted operations but we are proud of an impressive year for First Give – our biggest yet.

Last academic year also saw the launch of our key strategic goals – these will shape our purpose and provide us with a renewed sense of direction as we seek to maximise the potential of First Give as an organisation that is seeking to create positive change for the next generation.

This report gives a snapshot of some of the things we have achieved in the past year together with our partners – funders, schools and young people. It also looks forward as we continue to realise our vision.

“The vision we are working towards is motivated and equipped young people using their skills to make the lives of others better. As a result, more people habitually take action, collectively or individually to support causes they care about.”

Thank you to all our partners for another successful year, and I look forward to this year – working to ignite a spark of social conscience in a new cohort of First Give partner schools and their young people.

Sophie Harrison-Byrne, Interim Director.

Our three strategic goals will guide our work through to 2024:

- 1** To work in **partnership with more schools** and students across England and Wales year on year;
- 2** To deepen the impact of First Give by developing additional programme offers, **creating a ‘giving journey’** so that there are multiple opportunities for young people to engage with our mission;
- 3** To promote charitable action, altruistic behaviours and ‘philanthropic citizenship’ so that they are seen as desirable **lifelong habits that are accessible to all.**

Who is First Give?

Since 2014 First Give has been working in partnership with secondary schools to inspire and empower young people to take action to make a positive change in society.

We believe that all young people should have the opportunity and platform to make a real and tangible difference to their communities through social action.

2022 Our year in numbers

182
total completed programmes

33,767
total participating students

33
new school partnerships

170
winning charities

£182,000
granted to charities

£69,945.15
raised by students

What are the top social issues that young people care about?

The top three social issues selected by students (based on winning charities) this year:

Mental Health

Health

Human Rights

(including LGBT+ rights; anti-racism and refugee rights)

Since forming in 2014...

928

Total number of First Give programmes completed

162,222

Total number of students who have completed the First Give programme

£1,079,500

Total amount in grants donated to charities

The First Give programme structure

The main way that we aim to achieve impact is through our innovative schools programme. In each partner school, a full year group take part.



1 Learn

Students learn about social issues in their communities and choose the issues which are important to them.



3 Meet

Charities are invited in to meet the class, so that students can learn more about their work and how to help them.



5 Present

Students learn public speaking skills and put together creative presentations about the work of their charity and what their class has done to support it.



2 Research

Students research charities working in their communities and as a class, choose one to represent.



4 Plan & Deliver

Students plan and deliver social action activities (fundraising, awareness raising, volunteering) in support of their charities.



6 School Final

One group is chosen to represent each class at your school's First Give Final. A panel of judges rate each class based on their social action and presentations. The winning class wins a First Give grant of £1,000 for their charity.

Outcomes

Outcomes for students

Increased awareness of social issues and charities

76% of students reported improving awareness of social issues affecting their community

79% of students reported improving awareness of how charities help people in their local community

Increased confidence to make a difference

90% of students who presented at their school's First Give Final told us their ability to help others in their community had improved

Skill development

88% of students told us they improved in at least one of our key skill areas:
Presentation skills;
Teamworking skills;
Leadership skills; Research skills; Project Planning skills

Motivation to help others

82% of students told us they may or will do more social action in the future

Outcomes for schools

96% of teachers would recommend First Give to other teachers

92% of teachers said partnering with First Give helped their school to support and encourage students to tackle social issues

90% of teachers said partnering with First Give helped their school to develop more meaningful ways to connect with the community



Case study

Winterbourne Academy's story

Over the academic year 2021/22, First Give delivered programmes in partnership with over 170 secondary schools across England and Wales. This is the story of just one of those programmes.

Every year Winterbourne Academy in Bristol run the First Give programme with their year seven cohort. This year's Final had particular poignancy. More than one class had chosen a social issue that had affected their peers. The First Give programme structure gave students the opportunity to discuss vital issues such as bereavement, homelessness and terminal illness. Students rallied around affected classmates, taking positive action to give back to the charities that had helped them over the last few years.

As each group presented on behalf of their class charity it became clear that the experience of discussing the issues had inspired a spark of generosity, kindness and social conscience.

For some classes this took the form of raising awareness with quizzes and presentations to other year groups. Some ran fundraising events including a 'sleep out'; a teacher versus student dodge ball game; a fun run and a 'food for good' cake sale. One class had even started collecting rucksacks with essentials for a homelessness charity they had connected with. The sheer volume of social action led by year seven was inspirational.

At the end of the First Give programme, a panel of judges award a £1,000 grant to the winning class's charity. All groups had done amazing work and had demonstrated their support in meaningful ways. But ultimately the judges felt that form group 7.8 had gone the extra mile in support of their charity, Winston's Wish.

...it became clear that the experience of discussing the issues had inspired a spark of generosity, kindness and social conscience."



The combination of a huge range of social action and a powerful presentation, in which one brave student spoke of his own personal experience of using the charity's services led to a tight lead on points.

One student from the winning presenting group said, *"First Give is a really, really great opportunity to help people who help others...I felt really happy to be able to help Winston's Wish because they help lots of families like ours."*

As the winning class charity was announced, our facilitator Non was also able to reveal that on top of all of the volunteering, awareness raising and advocacy, students in year seven had collectively raised over £1,500 for their chosen charities.

Victoria Boynton, the Headteacher at Winterbourne told us *"It was an absolute privilege to hear about the commitment year seven have shown to their chosen charities. The efforts invested demonstrated their kindness and community spirit and the support they showed their peers who faced challenges was inspirational."*

It was an absolute privilege to hear about the commitment year seven have shown to their chosen charities."

Victoria Boynton,
Headteacher, Winterbourne Academy



Creating a ‘giving journey’

This year saw First Give **develop and deliver two pilot programmes** to help deepen the impact of our work, **creating a ‘giving journey’** so that there are multiple opportunities for young people to engage with our mission.

First Give Primary

We worked in partnership with four primary schools to design and run a primary version of the First Give programme. The structured, six-lesson scheme of work, combined with three First Give led interventions are designed to be delivered with year six pupils following their SATs exams.

According to the RSA’s **Citizens of Now**¹ report:

“Primary-age pupils are capable of taking on an active role as young citizens in our communities...Our research reinforces the existing evidence that pupils derive direct benefits from participating in youth social action, including developing leadership, teamworking, problem solving, and communications skills as well as a sense of social responsibility, civic self-efficacy, with signs of developing a habit of service.”

Our initial findings from First Give Primary similarly indicated that there are positive outcomes for pupils and schools. Students particularly valued the opportunity to do something that felt “different to normal lessons” and that “helped people”. Teachers particularly highlighted the development of teamworking skills and empathy as key benefits.

“First Give Primary was a really great way to get children involved with their community and thinking about the wider world.”

Teacher, First Give Primary pilot



¹ Tejani M, Breeze H (2021) [Citizens of Now](#). RSA

First Give Step Up

We partnered with Ark Acton Academy to co-design and pilot **First Give Step Up**. The programme was launched with an assembly to remind students of the impact they had through First Give. The full year group were then asked to complete a survey designed to give us better insight into the medium term impact of the core programme.

A small group of six students were then selected to take part in First Give Step Up. With the help of a specially designed handbook and a First Give facilitated session, the small group chose a social issue they wanted to focus on. They then independently planned and carried out a social action project of their choosing.

The group landed on the idea of redeveloping a disused allotment area on the school site. The allotment would become a garden for a new gardening club; to grow wildflowers and encourage biodiversity; and serve as a community space for students at school. They pitched their idea to the Headteacher and secured funding of £1,000 from the school budget as well as organising their own bee and honey-themed bake sales to raise money for the project.

The project is still ongoing, sparked by First Give Step Up, but a report meeting with the Headteacher allowed us to celebrate students’ actions thus far.

Initial findings from this pilot indicate the sustained impact for young people following participation in the core programme.

One year on:

91%

told us First Give improved their understanding of how charities help people in their community

64%

told us they were more inspired to take action

67%

told us they were more confident in their ability to help others through social action



Involving young people

Youth Advisory Group

We want the views and voices of young people to be at the heart of our work. This year we began to build the foundations that will ensure we are involving young people, particularly First Give alumni, in our decision-making.

This year we appointed Sophia Ashroff to the board of First Give; as our 'young trustee' she will be responsible for providing strategic oversight to our budding Youth Advisory Group. Sophia is an alumnus of the programme and we're delighted to have her on board.

Our Youth Advisory Group was established this year as well. It aims to further embed young people in the running of First Give. A central premise of the First Give programme is that young people are given the opportunity and platform to speak up about the issues that matter to them. Giving young people a voice on the decisions we make as a charity is equally important to us, and that is why we have been working to develop a Youth Advisory Group.

The group is currently made up of seven young people who are alumni of the First Give programme. The young leaders have met during the year to advise us on potential programme changes; to give us insights into the programme at their schools and to represent us at meetings across the sector. In the coming year we will work to further establish and embed this group.



I am really excited to have joined the board of First Give – having been through the programme at school I know how inspiring it is. It's important to First Give that the views and voices of young people are heard and I look forward to champion this a trustee."

Sophia Ashroff, First Give Trustee

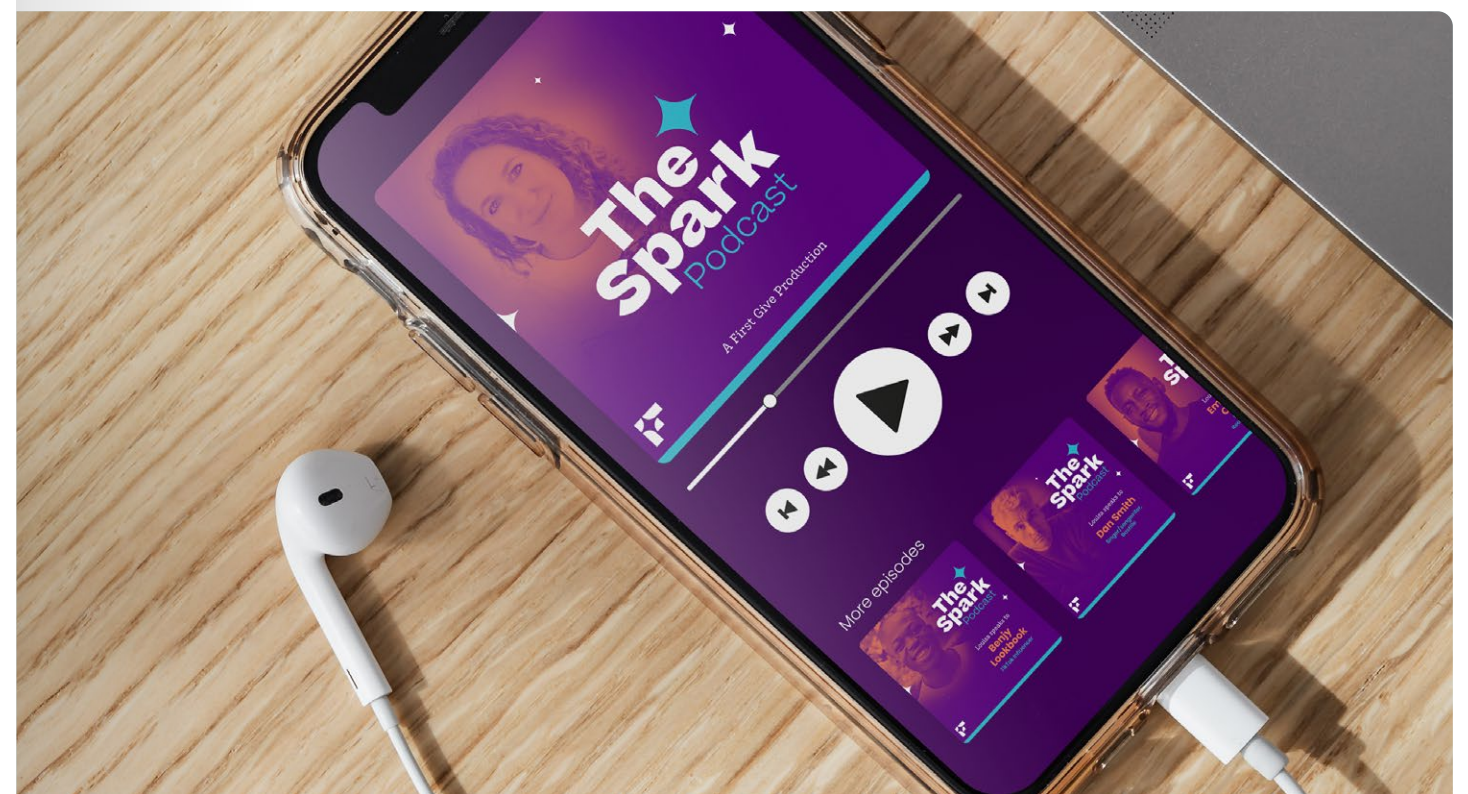
Championing social action and philanthropy

The Spark

First Give launched a mini-podcast series last year in order to promote charitable action, altruistic behaviours and 'philanthropic citizenship' so that they are seen as desirable **lifelong habits that are accessible to all**.

The series interviewed inspirational guests to explore what ignited their spark of social conscience. It was hosted by Louisa Searle, Director of First Give, with her guests all people who dedicate a lot of time to social causes. Guests included: Dan Smith, lead singer, and songwriter for pop group Bastille – and also an ambassador for the First Give charity; Benji LookBook – Tik Tok influencer; Nathan Dennis – a social entrepreneur and founder of the Birmingham-based charity First Class Foundation; and Manny Awoyelu – a full-time Assistant Head Teacher and Director of the Reach Out Project.

In each episode, Louisa's guests go deep into their childhoods to reveal how their experiences of school and childhood shaped their attitudes towards charity, giving, and having a social conscience.



Looking forward

With Christmas around the corner, we are already a term into the new academic year. Our plans for this year are as ambitious as ever, and many of them are already well progressed.

In 2022/23 we will continue to work towards our strategic goals by:

- ◆ Partnering with secondary schools to deliver 210 programmes. This would mean reaching approximately 37,800 students this year alone!
- ◆ Developing and delivering extended pilots of the First Give Primary and First Give Step Up programmes. We're hoping to work with ten primary partners and five secondary partners to further develop the 'giving journey'
- ◆ Growing our Youth Advisory Group to increase youth voice in our decision making. We'll be recruiting new members and developing terms of reference to harness the group's potential.



With thanks

None of this year's work and achievements would have been possible without the generous commitment of our funding partners (see back page). We'd like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to our funders.

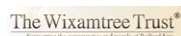
We would also like to thank the hundreds of schools and charities who have given their time to instil their passion and commitment in First Give participants. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen our communities together.

Empowering young people; igniting a spark of social conscience.

Our founding funders



Our funding partners



Impact Report 2022

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