

You've been selected!

Selected for what?

First Give supports students to **learn about social issues** in their community. Through the Programme, delivered in around 200 secondary schools across England and Wales, students will choose charities that they want to support through social action.

How did I get selected?

In one of the early lessons in the Programme, the students are asked to conduct **research on local charities** that tackle the social issue they have chosen.

In their research they will have looked at your charity website, been inspired by what you do, and found your contact details.

So, what do I have to do?

The following pages give you an idea of what's involved and how you can help these young people's journey towards social action.

Oh, and there's a chance you could **win a £1,000 grant** at the end of it too.



How can I help?

We know that when students meet a representative from their chosen class charity, they are more likely to become **passionate about the charity** and stand a better chance of winning the **£1,000 grant**.

We recommend that a charity representative meet with the class for between 10–60 minutes to answer some of their questions. Ideally this would be an in-school visit, but you might find it easier to do this via video call.

We appreciate that it might be a daunting prospect to speak to a class of students and it may have been some time since you were last in a school. This is why we have put this resource together. Here you can see some **examples of the kinds of questions** students might ask, plus some tips for preparing to meet the class.

“How long has your charity been running?”

“Why is the charity needed?”

This is your chance to help students understand how essential your work is.

“What does your charity spend its money on/what would they spend the £1,000 on?”

It's really helpful for students to have an idea of exactly how you would spend the £1,000. Is it possible for the class to help decide how the money will be spent?

“What interesting facts and stats are there relating to your charity?”

“How many staff and volunteers are there?”

“Who benefits from your charity's work?”

“Are there any case studies of people who have benefited?”

Personal stories will make the work of your charity feel more real.

“How can the class support your charity (e.g raising funds or awareness)?”

The students will be doing social action to support your charity. They will be marked on the impact and creativity of their social action. How could they have a genuine impact?

Top tips for presenting to students

All school contexts are different, but in any school, there will be a member of staff present to manage any behaviour concerns. The students will likely be excited and enthusiastic to have an external guest coming in.

If you are presenting to the students, we hope these tips will help you in your preparation:

- ◆ talk slowly and clearly and be aware that you might need to repeat yourself
- ◆ if using a PowerPoint use lots of images and not too much text
- ◆ provide key statistics that the young people can use in their own presentations
- ◆ use case studies to explain the real world impact of your work
- ◆ use media such as videos if you have them available
- ◆ include answers to questions that students might ask (example questions shown in blue)
- ◆ provide suggestions for their social action (see the examples on following page).



What do you mean by ‘social action’?

In the meeting or on the call, the young people might ask you for ideas for their social action. At First Give, we define social action as: *‘practical action taken to make a positive change in society’* and through the Programme the students are asked to plan and undertake social action.

We think it is really important for young people to **make a connection between their chosen social issue and their social action**, so it would be really helpful if you had some specific ideas and suggestions ready for this. Think about whether there are campaigns, awareness raising activities or fundraising opportunities that students can support with. For example, if your charity provides a service for young people, these students are in a perfect situation to raise awareness amongst their peers at school.

The impact that students can have with their social action will vary. Some will be high achievers who plan and carry out events or lend their voices to your campaign. For others, simpler tasks such as poster making might be more achievable. **This will depend on the age and achievement levels** of the class you are working with.

If students are raising awareness or fundraising for you*, another way you could support the young people, if you are able, is by **providing resources such as balloons, fundraising buckets, branded t-shirts or materials** which could aid their raising awareness such as branded stationery or information leaflets.

*Please be advised that some schools will not be in a position to fundraise additionally for you.



Below are some examples demonstrating what different groups might be able to achieve.

Example 1

A group of students may want to raise awareness of your charity by creating their own **posters** to put around the school and their local communities.

Example 2

A group of students who choose food poverty as their social issue might set up an event such as a cake sale. Instead of asking for money to pay for the items, they could ask for people to donate an item that the local foodbank is in need of.

Example 3

A group of young people choose LGBT+ bullying as their social issue. One way in which they might be able to raise awareness of this issue is to **set up an LGBT+ group in school and create a safe space** for young people in the school community. As an LGBT+ charity, you might be able to provide guidance and support on how to set this up and top tips on advertising this within their school community.



What happens next?

The students will complete their social action and will then prepare a five-minute presentation about your charity and the social issue you tackle.

The Final

This is an exciting and celebratory event where **the presenting groups will deliver their presentations to a panel of judges and an audience**, normally the rest of the year group or to an audience of parents/guardians.

We encourage the Lead Teacher to invite chosen charity representatives to attend the Final so please **look out for an invite** to an event. It really does add something special to the Final and for the young people who are presenting when the charity representatives are in the audience!

Please note: in their presentations, the young people might say that they were able to raise money for your charity and state a total, which is fantastic!

If this is the case, please be advised that it is the school's responsibility to ensure these funds are donated to you. First Give does not deal with students' additional fundraising monies; we only donate the £1,000 grant.



First Give has been a fantastic way to build our youth supporter network in the community.”



**Young Carers of
Barking & Dagenham**

If you would like to talk to someone at First Give, please don't hesitate to email us at info@firstgive.co.uk including the name of the school that has contacted you.

