



Volunteering

Who are we and what do we do?

Our vision is that the profoundly disabled children and young adults that we support are safe, happy and achieve the best possible outcomes, to ensure that they are valued and valuable members of society.

All of our children and young adults have a degree of brain damage, resulting in profound, multiple and complex disabilities. This includes combinations of visual and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, down's syndrome, autism, drug resistant epilepsy, diabetes and digestive disorders requiring tube feeding.

These children and young adults are some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the UK. Their complex disabilities affect every aspect of their daily lives, making even the simplest of communication impossible, which has affected the development of key life skills and vital social integration skills.

They struggle to communicate their needs and feelings, even with their own families. In too many cases parents of disabled children do not always get the support they need and they are often unable to help their children achieve all that is within their capability - even basic life skills.

How we do it

- A special school, [Royal School Manchester](#), for pupils from two to 19 years.
- A specialist college, [Royal College Manchester](#), for students from 19 to 25 years.
- [Residential care](#), ranging from a few nights up to 52-weeks.
- [Seashell Active](#), our sports team offer a wide range of health, wellbeing and leisure activities for our students, staff and the wider community.
- [Family Services](#) help families to build the confidence needed to bring up a severely disabled child, supporting them to understand their rights and advocating on their behalf to give them a voice that they otherwise wouldn't have.
- Our [Sensory Support Team](#) provide specialist training and consultancy throughout the community and across the country to help promote the positive inclusion of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



Volunteering Opportunities

We couldn't achieve our aims at Seashell without the help of volunteers. We have lots of options for corporate volunteering days as well as opportunities for individuals, to come and help us with a particular skill or to mentor and support one of our services.

We are so excited you are interested in coming to volunteer with us and really grateful you are considering donating your time. Below is a list of the main opportunities we have available but if you have something in particular in mind, do let us know.

As part of the work skills programme here at Seashell you may be joined by some of our students who will assist with some of the tasks associated with your project and work alongside you.

List of opportunities

General gardening tasks, these could include:

- Staining sheds, benches and fences
- Weeding, trimming back and tidying our gardens
- Planting up seasonal vegetables and bulbs
- Helping our residential houses maintain their gardens

As the majority of opportunities are outdoor, you may want to consider the below ideas that you could do at any time of the year:

- Apprentice style challenge
- Raffle prize gathering
- Fundraising – utilise your day to raise funds in any way you like – we can supply some fundraising ideas to get you started

We also have ad hoc opportunities such as supporting events and activities, please let us know if you would be interested in receiving these.

We look forward to welcoming you on your volunteering day and to give you some context of the value we place on your support please see the infographic below that details the impact of volunteering in 2022



Corporate Volunteering at Seashell in 2022

2953

Hours



582

Volunteers



£28,053

Economic Value



66

Organisations



The Day

You can arrive any time after 9.30am and stay for as long as you can spare. Some groups do a couple of hours whilst some stay for the day.

We ensure you have a room to use throughout the day with refreshment and toilet facilities.

Parking is tight on site so we ask that you car share where possible but understand this might not always work. Just let us know in advance if you will have lots of cars and we will do our best to ensure there is space.

Our key rule on campus is no mobile phones to be used whilst out and about on site. You can use them in the room that is your base but absolutely nowhere else. There is a zero tolerance to this and you will be asked to cut the call if you are using a phone outside. This is for our safeguarding policy as we do not allow any devices with a camera. We will take photos throughout the day for you.

We produce a risk assessment for every visit tailored to the task. If your organisation needs any further paperwork, we are really happy to provide it. We have public liability insurance up to £5m and can send a copy of the document on request.

We don't need individual DBS checks for the day as we are very confident in our own safeguarding policy. You will never be left alone with any of our children and young people as all our care is one to one.

We will make sure that any tools or equipment you need for the task are available. The only thing we recommend is bringing your own gardening gloves. We do have some but they are used by everyone so are well-worn!

Our children and young people have very complex disabilities and we do have some

behaviours that challenge on site. Every incident here will be handled by our very specialist staff and you will not be involved at all. However, if you see anything that make you anxious, please just ask us and we can explain what happened.

We give everyone the chance to have a look around the campus guided by a member of Seashell staff so you can get a better understanding of the work we do here and the chance to meet some of our young people. You are very welcome to do a site visit ahead of the day.

Our Resources

It would be fantastic if you would consider raising some money before you come on a volunteering day, or maybe your Company provides you with a volunteering budget.

This would help us enormously and could provide:

- New multi-sensory plants/herbs for both our raised beds and garden beds
- Paint/stain for benches and raised beds
- New planters with soil and plants
- Garden furniture that could be put together on the day
- New gardening tools
- Art/craft, cooking or sensory materials for a theme day
- Sports equipment
- Sensory resources for our houses

If you want to visit us prior to volunteering in order to identify a funded project for your team, we are happy to meet and show you around.

We welcome your ideas and creativity. Or we can send over a wish list of our priorities for funding so the team can choose.

To discuss further

Call us on 0161 696 9385

Email us at fundraising@seashelltrust.org.uk

