

# Annual Review

2018-19



Dingley's  
Promise

We believe in the best start for every child

# Welcome to our Annual Review 2018-2019



**It has been an incredible year for Dingley's Promise and as we come to the end of summer 2019 we are stronger than ever. In this Annual Review you will find our news from the last academic year, and our annual accounts for 2018-2019. I hope you enjoy reading about what has been achieved and will feel as excited about the future as we are.**

In 2018 we celebrated our 35th birthday, bringing people together to mark an incredible milestone for us. In the summer we held a celebratory garden party for staff and key supporters at the home of our first Patron Lady Catherine Stevenson DL. TV personality Timmy Mallett attended and cut our birthday cake, along with key community figures. At Christmas we celebrated with all of our families from across the organisation at the panto in Reading. After the performance, Justin Fletcher MBE met with all of the children, making the event truly memorable. The year rounded off with our most successful ball to date – Strictly Come Dingley. Almost 250 people attended and raised over £14,000 – a record for us and a fitting end to our birthday year.

In addition to our events, we also celebrated our birthday year by securing 35 well known faces to wish us a happy birthday either by video or by having a photo with Dingley Bear. These included Sally Phillips, Sir Trevor McDonald OBE, Louis Smith MBE, Craig Revel Horwood and Michelle Collins among others.

This Annual Review is a celebration of our progress towards spreading more inclusion in the early years. Dingley's Promise sees the promise in every child, but since we released our statement on inclusion in 2016, we have focused on making sure every child that can benefit from mainstream education has the best chance to experience that. On pages 6-8 you can read about what we have done to contribute to early years inclusion in our areas, and increasingly across the country.

Personally, I am so proud of our incredible teams in the Centres, on the training course and centrally, because it is their commitment and passion that enable us to make the huge difference that we do. As a result of our focus on wellbeing, signing up to the Real Living Wage and listening to our staff, our recent staff survey showed that 100% felt valued by the organisation. This is so important, and we continue to not only deliver life changing support to local families, but also do it in a way that respects and promotes the wellbeing of those that work for us.

**Catherine McLeod MBE**  
**Chief Executive**



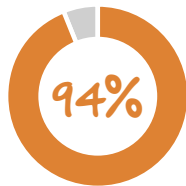
We see the promise in every child and we promise to do our very best for each and every one.

Our vision is the best start for every child and so we deliver life-changing support to children under 5 years with special educational needs & disabilities and their families. Through specialist learning through play, family support and training, and advice to mainstream settings, we seek to put children on the right path as early as possible, and support them to access mainstream education where suitable.

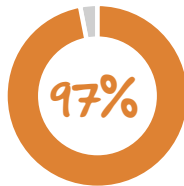
The best early intervention prevents children being placed in special education needlessly

We support some of the most vulnerable, very young children who have learning difficulties with various levels of cognitive delay, often with physical disabilities, genetic conditions and sometimes life-limiting conditions and illnesses. Conditions include Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Downs Syndrome and other chromosome abnormalities. Some children are awaiting a diagnosis and some have such rare conditions that a diagnosis is not possible

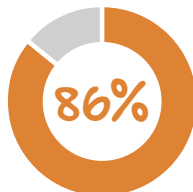
Families tell us:



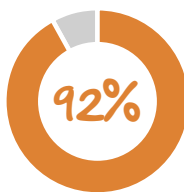
feel less isolated as a result of our support



feel more confident in supporting their child at home



feel more united as a family as a result of our support



feel more positive about the future

It may surprise you...



We need to raise **55%** of our income from voluntary donations; that's **£964 every single day.**



We receive **40%** from government funding, although this is being increasingly squeezed.

Our supporters are vital to ensure we can keep supporting children in their early years.

Become a Friend of Dingley's Promise to help children and their families who will need our services in the future.

A regular gift helps us plan ahead more effectively, ensuring we can provide the best possible care.

A monthly gift of:



**£4**

a month for a year means one child can join in the fun at one of our Holiday Playscheme days a year.



**£7.50**

a month for a year allows a child to learn new skills during a full day of Learn Through Play session.



**£11**

a month for a year means we can provide eight hours of support to one child moving on to a new setting.

In return for being a valued Friend of Dingley's Promise, we will provide:

- Regular newsletters and updates about our work
- An exclusive Dingley Bear pin badge
- An invitation to an exclusive annual event hosted by our Chief Executive

Become a Friend to every child and family that will need our support in the future. Just contact us via our website.

[dingley.org.uk](http://dingley.org.uk)





## Message from the Chair

The past year has been a successful one in many ways, but not without its challenges. The trends we highlighted last year - an increasing number of higher needs children and more of our children transitioning to mainstream settings - have continued.

This latter trend, in particular, is shaping much of our work at both a local and, increasingly, a national level - all under the banner of "Building Wider Inclusion". Discussions and formal partnerships with national organisations recognised for their work and influence in SEND (e.g. Mencap, the Disabled Children's Partnership, Government advisors Hempshalls) are building. We are also engaged with a number of local authorities in our area regarding their adoption of one or more aspects of our operating model to bring much needed support to their own families. Our innovative online Early Years Inclusion Training is gaining momentum, and further partnerships in this area indicate a potential to DOUBLE the SEND capacity within mainstream settings that undertake our courses.

Of course, our core work delivering LearnThrough Play (LTP) sessions in our 3 centres continues to flourish, and the monies provided by charitable foundations, local businesses and fund-raising challenges and events enabled us to yet again increase our volume and range of services.



We delivered 12% more LTP hours



The number of trips that took place increased by 50%



We held 3 times as many coffee mornings



The number of children attending holiday playschemes rose by 13%

I am sure you will enjoy, and be amazed at, the work of Dingley's Promise that is described in this report. Our wonderful staff are supported by a dedicated and passionate Board of Trustees, and my thanks goes to my Trustee colleagues who give their time and expertise so willingly.

**Dave Ormrod, Chair**  
September 2019

## Building Wider Inclusion

In 2016, Dingley's Promise released our statement on inclusion, and this was the first time that we laid out our commitment to ensuring as many children as possible are able to experience mainstream education. Since then, we have taken a number of steps to promote and enable inclusion, all of which are now having an impact.

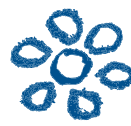
### Shared Provision

The first step was to start to offer more shared provision to families, so that children at any of our Centres could come to us, but also experience a mainstream setting during their early years. In some cases, this led to children fully transitioning over to mainstream settings when they were ready to do so. **This meant that children no longer only transition at the end of an academic year, but can do so at any time during the year, according to their development and potential.**

### Entry Exit Pathway

As children started to move to mainstream education during the early years, we realised this could be unsettling for parents who thought that once their child was with us, they would stay with us until they reach statutory school age. In response to this, we developed our Entry Exit Pathway which outlines the pathway through our services, including the potential to transition earlier than statutory school age. This pathway is now introduced to parents when we first meet them, to show them what might happen as a result of their child's development. This has proved a great success, making parents feel more informed, and allowing transitions to run more smoothly.





## Early Years Inclusion Training

In early 2017, we were being asked by a number of mainstream settings if we could recommend training on inclusive early years practice to them. Having searched for training like this, we realised there was none, and so we set about designing a training package that could give any early years practitioner a good basis in working with children with SEND, with start up funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

In May 2017, we engaged the Academy of Leadership and Management to help us develop the online training offer, and also to gain accreditation for it. The whole organisation worked hard to capture what we do at Dingley's Promise and local and national experts were asked to peer review the course content. In November 2017 the course received formal accreditation from national body ncf, and we started advertising our 'Level 3 Certificate in Early Years Inclusive Practice'.

In January 2018, after a small pilot cohort the full course was launched nationally and to the end of August 2019 we have had 58 learners from across the country. Grants from the Greenham Trust, RCVYS and the Prince Philip Trust Fund have funded vital bursaries in West Berkshire, Reading and Windsor to bring the cost of the training down for nurseries.



In May 2019, we worked in partnership with Action for Children to run a pilot programme in the north east of England training a cluster of their nurseries. This work was funded by the Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust.

In August 2019, we developed face to face training offers (not accredited) so that learners had more choice about how they study. These options are now being offered to local authorities so they can choose the level of training they want for their settings. This is vital to make sure we spread good practice as widely as possible since people have different budgets and different learning styles.

Also in August, the University of Reading delivered their research on the impact of the training programme. They found that the training was increasing capacity in early years settings by at least 114% on average. **This means that the training is doubling capacity in mainstream early years settings to take children with SEND.**

### What impact has all of this had?

**72%** of our transitions this year were to the mainstream (an increase of 17%)

**34** trainees are confident that their settings could work inclusively with **246** children with SEND

Unlocked **111** new places for children with SEND in mainstream nurseries

**92%** of parents have hope for the future as a result of our support

### What is next?

We are currently building a delivery partnership with Nasen, who will feature our accredited training as part of their early years training offer. This programme will see us travel across the country to talk to local authorities about the benefits of the training in helping them to make their early years services more inclusive. With research from Coram stating that a huge 78% of local authorities don't feel they have enough provision for children with SEND in the early years, this is absolutely vital.

The Big Lottery has funded a five year programme to develop and refine the Entry Exit Pathway so that it can be shared nationally, and will help to influence more specialist early years provisions to look at opportunities to enter the mainstream, and to help all settings to communicate more effectively with children with SEND.

We expect that in the coming years, spreading our best practice will enable thousands of children with SEND to access their early years entitlements and increase the capacity of local authorities across the country to be able to offer children with SEND the best start.

If you want to know more about our training offer, please contact

**[julia.cox@dingley.org.uk](mailto:julia.cox@dingley.org.uk)**



## Spotlight on our Reading Centre

Over the Easter holidays we had lots of work done redesigning our garden area to make it more accessible for all year round outdoor play! We have had artificial grass put in, our swing moved and even a fence put all round our undercover area, so that children can enjoy outside play even on rainy days. The children have absolutely loved being out in the sunshine this term and we are so pleased to be able to maximize the potential of this space for our children!

*'I kicked the ball towards the goal and shouted "yes!" I had to place the ball in the right place and sometimes take a step back before I kicked the ball. After I tried a couple of times I then started walking whilst kicking it like a football player!'*

**Alfie**

Dexter has grown in confidence playing football with a staff member. He will dive to the floor as the footballers do, and when Tracey goes to score a goal Dexter will say "you hit the goal post, so that's out" and moves the goal post to make it smaller!!



## Introducing Sahib who attends our Reading Centre

**Since joining Dingley's Promise recently, Sahib has made incredible progress, soothing himself when feeling anxious and sometimes joining in with an activity.**

Sahib is 4 years old and is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Sahib was seeing a Paediatrician and receiving support from the Portage team, who both recommended us and how we might be able to help. When he first joined us, he relied on adults for all of his self-care, wouldn't freely drink or eat and struggled to engage with anyone, often not even making eye contact with others.

We've used lots of repetitive language with Sahib, a visual timetable and introduced some Makaton sign language. This has been a huge help for him, including letting us know when he wants to go on the swing, his favourite activity. We've used specialist techniques, including Intensive Interaction that focuses on communication that precedes speech, including eye contact, sharing personal space and enjoying being around others.

Sahib's Mum comments

*"Sahib loves coming to Dingley's a lot. He loves to go outside on the swing, where he is happy and interested in others. I can see the progress that he is making."*

It's been fascinating to see Sahib learn and grow. He will now play with mud and water with purpose, alongside other children. Sahib will also drink from an open cup with support, throughout the day. We look forward to seeing what else Sahib can achieve over the next few months.

*"Dingley's Promise has been a great support for me. I feel happier as it has given me time to talk to others and attend an English course."*



## Spotlight on our West Berkshire Centre

This year, we have been able to make much better use of the garden. We have been fortunate to be able to purchase an accessible shed, enabling children to select their own toys. This has helped to fully include those who are unable to independently use other equipment in the garden e.g. climbing frame or a bike.

We've also installed a ball and water run in our garden, donated and built by Richard Preston, which is proving very popular with all the children. Children can take turns and explore the running water.

We recently welcomed Lottie as an Early Years Practitioner following the successful completion of her apprenticeship, and our Centre Manager Abi Preston-Rees recently completed her Diploma in Early Years Management. **Congratulations to both!**



## Introducing Esme who attends our West Berkshire Centre

**Having been introduced to Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Esme now uses this to communicate what she needs.**

Esme is 4 and a half and is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and has very limited communication. The Early Development and Inclusion Team talked to Esme's family about the prospect of attending Dingley's Promise and helped to make the referral.

Esme found changes in her routine very difficult and liked things to be done in a certain order. However, with limited communication, she found it hard to tell us what was upsetting her and what she would like instead.

We quickly introduced PECS to Esme, who is now working at level three, using some spoken words and reading full sentences. We've helped her to explore different toys and engage with adult led activities, which she will now sit through all offered to her.

Esme's Mum comments

*"Esme has come on so much, so we think Dingley's Promise are brilliant!"*

It's been beautiful to see Esme's imagination develop, seeing her initiate imaginative play. Our favourite memory will always be when she made a microphone out of a magnet and started to sing to herself in the mirror!

*"Having the support from Dingley's Promise has helped us to support Esme, we are so thankful."*



## Spotlight on our Wokingham Centre

This year we have introduced sensory circuits.

Due to the number of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or awaiting a diagnosis, we needed another approach to support children with their concentration skills. A number of activities throughout the day require children to focus, in readiness for school. These include Attention Bucket, Story Time and any adult led activities as per their support plan.

Therefore, the team has introduced Sensory Circuits into the daily routine. This is a sensory motor skills programme that is short and snappy. They last for 10 to 15 minutes and are a set of activities that improve brain processing efficiency. These circuits are also a fun way to start the day and are used throughout the day when required to help children's concentration. A circuit might include a wobble board, leg rolls wall push ups and passing a bean bag. They follow a sequence to raise the child's alertness, offer a motor challenge and then calm them before their next activity.

We've found this immensely helpful to support children with focusing on activities to help with their development, and have shared our circuits with the other two Dingley centres to help them also.



## Introducing Dominic who attends our Wokingham Centre

**Having joined Dingley's Promise in February 2017, Dominic has been able to enjoy sensory activities and learning alongside other children.**

Dominic is diagnosed with a life limiting condition that means he will deteriorate as he gets older due to regular seizures. When he joined us he was able to eat and drink orally, but this is now done by tube. He has also now been registered blind and has no verbal communication at all.

Dominic loves the sound of the other children around him and likes to join in with the singing. Sensory activities are an important part of his time with us. He loves the bubble tube and appears to be able to see it's colours. He also enjoys exploring sensory resources on his feet – particularly wet things.

By far his biggest achievement this term is being able to lift his left hand independently to activate a cause and effect App. This skill he is developing opens up opportunities for him in relation to communication that his parents never thought possible.

Dominic's Mum comments

*"I am happy that my son attends Dingley. For him it is very important to be near kids and it is nice to have a few hours for myself."*

Alongside support for Dominic, Dingley has focused on the whole family, allowing his younger sister to spend time with her parents alone, and his Mum to achieve her dream of going to University part time. Without a setting that they trust to look after Dominic, none of this would have been possible.

Our hope is that by Dominic's attendance at Dingley, we can continue to make a difference to both his life and the lives of his family members.



**Dominic**



2018 - 2019 saw our supporters taking on great heights, mustering up exceptional courage and demonstrating an incredible determination for our work. We can't thank you enough!

**Eight graduates from Vodafone**, proudly named the Snowdafone Team, raised nearly **£2,200** climbing Snowdonia.

**Sixteen keen runners took on the Royal Berkshire Green Park 10k race** and between them raised over **£3,700**. Our thanks go to Senthil, Kerry, Tara, Nicky, Simon, Abi, Victoria, Matthew, Paul, Hollie, Vrushali, Vishwas, Alison, Zora, Matthew and Aushi.

**Colline Watts** raised **£200** taking part in the fun Colour Obstacle Rush.

Loving the new ceiling hoist in our **West Berkshire Centre**, Lewis Hall, aged 4 took on an incredible 1k step challenge raising over **£1,130** for the Centre.

**The Co-operative Childcare in Reading** completed a 13 mile sponsored walk from Henley to our Reading Centre and raised over **£1,000**.

**Alex McLeod**, one of our youngest fundraisers aged 6 raised over **£135** by courageously running the Mini Mile at StepUp4Good in the pouring rain!

**Gavin Weir** supported by Brewers Decorators cycled from Newbury to Eastbourne in 12 hours raising over **£1,200** and counting!

**Jeremy Canning** donated **£150** from the Nifty Fifty Endurance events.

**Nick Jones** stepped up and raised **£390** in the Reading Half Marathon and looked like he didn't even break a sweat!

**Molly and Megan Terry, Andy Briggs, Claire Widd, Neil Commons and Talitha Skuse** all took to the skies and bravely leapt from a plane at 10,000ft raising over **£2,700**.

**Verity Walker** ran a Tough Mudder, despite not being a runner and raised **£175**.

**Twelve runners** including Byron, Hollie, Matt, Kevin, Andras, Norbert, Richart, Thomas, Vrushali and our CEO Catherine McLeod all ran the 2019 Royal Berkshire 10k on a very warm day and raised **£4000** for us.

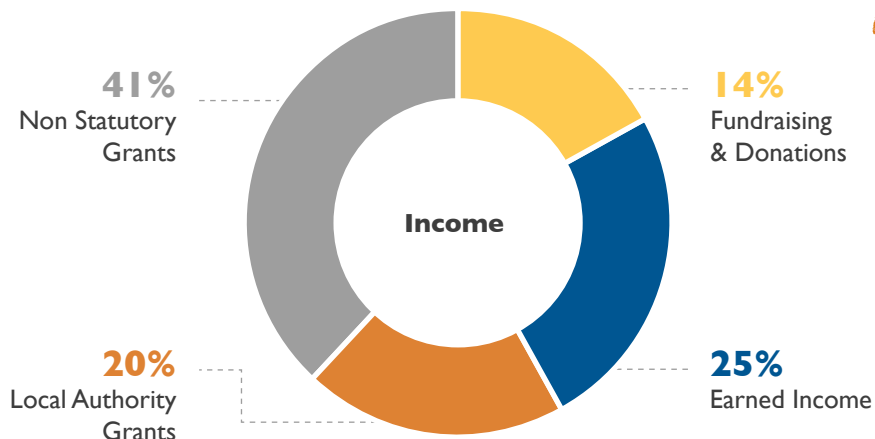
**James, Ben, Ian, Adam and Nick** bravely took part in the Burghfield Box Kart Bash risking life and limb to raise **£350**.

**Richard Ranson, Nicola Osborne, Phil Johnson, David Davies, Nick East, Gail Pearson, Jo Brown, James Walsh, Nick East and Catherine McLeod** leapt 15,000ft from a plane to raise almost **£8,500** – an incredible amount!

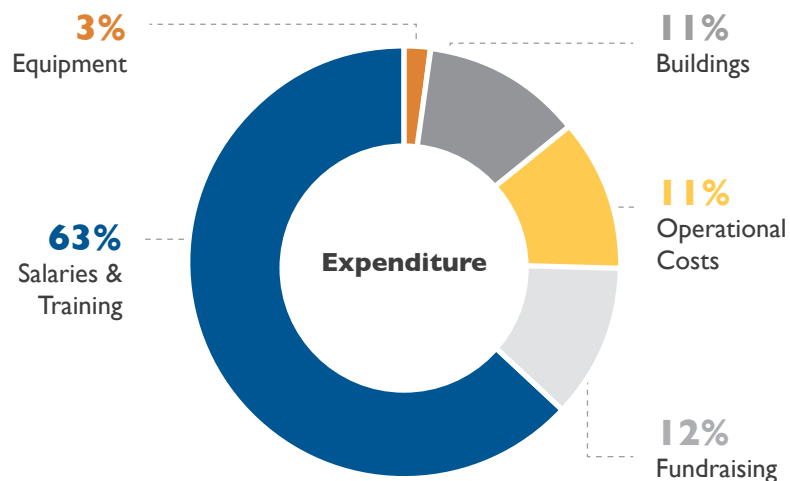
**If you would like to support Dingley's Promise through a challenge – please get in touch!**



# Financial Information 2018 - 2019



**Total Income: £641,256**



**Total Expenditure: £672,296**

Position at end – March 2019	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2019 Total (£)	2018 Total (£)
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:</b>				
Donations and Legacies	£80,989	£8,510	£89,499	£93,006
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	£1,107		£1,107	£1,531
<b>Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities</b>				
Earned Income	£1,397	£158,419	£159,816	£141,028
Grants	£56,722	£334,112	£390,834	£345,744
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£140,215</b>	<b>£501,041</b>	<b>£641,256</b>	<b>£581,309</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Cost of generating funds	£80,884	£939	£81,823	£77,108
Charitable activities	£7,101	£583,372	£590,473	£506,528
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>£87,985</b>	<b>£584,311</b>	<b>£672,296</b>	<b>£583,636</b>
Transfers	-£67,589	£67,589		
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	£52,230	-£83,270	-£31,040	-£2,327
Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2018	£129,673	£118,731	£248,404	£250,731
Fund Balances c/f at 31st March 2019	£114,315	£103,049	£217,364	£248,404

Balance sheet	2019 (£)	2018 (£)
<b>As at March 31st 2019</b>		
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Fixed Assets	£83,458	£100,584
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Other Debtors and Prepayments	£15,452	£17,024
Cash at bank and in hand	£169,082	£176,856
<b>Total</b>	<b>£184,534</b>	<b>£193,880</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
Other creditors and accruals	-£50,628	-£46,060
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>£133,906</b>	<b>£147,820</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£217,364</b>	<b>£248,404</b>
<b>Funds</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	£114,315	£129,673
Restricted Funds	£103,049	£118,731
	<b>£217,364</b>	<b>£248,404</b>

## We wish to extend a huge thank you to our grant giving supporters:

Barbara Ward Children's Foundation  
BBC Children in Need  
Berkshire Community Foundation  
Cardy Beaver Foundation  
David Brownlow Charitable Foundation  
DM Thomas Foundation for Children  
Englefield Charitable Trust  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Genetic Disorders UK  
Gerald Palmer Eling Trust  
Greenham Common Trust  
Green Hall Foundation  
Groundwork  
Henry Smith Charity  
Masonic Charitable Foundation  
Mobbs Memorial Trust  
Morrison's Foundation  
Moto in the Community  
National Lottery Community Fund  
Newbury Town Council  
Reading Dispensary Trust  
Reading St. Laurence Church Lands  
R S Brownless Charitable Trust  
Screwfix Foundation  
Sculler CIC  
Souter Charitable Trust  
The Ammco Charitable Trust  
The Earley Charity  
The Hedley Foundation  
The Ironmongers Company

The Peter Baker Foundation  
The Shanly Foundation  
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust  
The Sobell Foundation  
The Steven Bloch Image of Disability Charitable Trust  
Wates Foundation  
Wessex Youth Trust  
Wokingham United Charities



LOTTERY FUNDED



## We also wish to extend a special thank you to all of our community and corporate supporters:

321 Media  
Amberjack  
Amica Live  
Archway Business  
Ascot Golf Club  
Ascot Racecourse  
AWE  
Barclays Bank  
Brewers Decorating Centre  
Calcot Women's Institute  
Candis Ltd  
Costco Wholesale  
Cox Automotive  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Dianne Buswell  
Direct Wines Ltd  
Dynamiq Management Ltd  
ebpSource Ltd  
Embroiderer's Guild Reading & Berkshire  
FP Reisser Ltd  
Gamma  
Herma UK Ltd  
Hilton Reading Hotel  
Inner Wheel Wokingham  
John Lewis  
Laudis Business Advisors  
Leeds Building Society  
Lions Club of Reading  
Maiden Erleigh Rotary Club  
Mayor of Newbury  
Mile Golf & Country Club

Newbury Racecourse  
Newbury Weekly News  
Newbury and Reading Wargames Society  
Oceanbridge Management Ltd  
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PBA Accountants  
Plough on the Green  
Porsche  
Prudential plc  
Queen Anne's School  
Ross Trustees  
Rotary Club of Pangbourne  
SIRE Technology Ltd  
Softtalk Consultancy and Services  
Stratfield Saye House  
TaxAssist Accountants  
The Botanist Reading  
The Castle Inn  
The Co-operative Childcare  
The Lions Club of Henley-on-Thames  
Thatcham Town Private Hire  
Vodafone Foundation  
West Berkshire Brewery  
Wokefield Park  
Wokingham Lions Club  
Woolton Hill Market

**A thank you to our creative partner in helping us to produce this document:**

**onebite**

# Dingley's Promise



**£700,000**  
needed to run Dingley's  
Promise for one year



**3**  
Centres



**150**  
children supported



**15**  
Volunteers



**19,981** hours delivered by staff and volunteers



Operating for  
**36 years**



Delivered over **542,000**  
hours since Dingley's Promise started

We believe in the best start for every child



## Contact

### Wokingham Centre

Norreys Avenue (on the site of All Saints Primary School), WOKINGHAM,  
RG40 1UX

Telephone: 0118 977 1234

Email: [admin.wokingham@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin.wokingham@dingley.org.uk)

### Reading Centre

Kennet Walk Community Building, Kenavon Drive, READING, RG1 3GD

Telephone: 0118 327 7424

Email: [admin.reading@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin.reading@dingley.org.uk)

### West Berkshire Centre (Newbury)

Poplar Place, NEWBURY, RG14 1NA

Telephone: 01635 552458

Email: [admin.westberks@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin.westberks@dingley.org.uk)

### General Enquiries

Telephone: 07940 259 355

Email: [admin@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin@dingley.org.uk)



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[www.dingley.org.uk](http://www.dingley.org.uk)



Dingley's Promise is the working name of Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres, a company limited by guarantee and resided charity. Company Registered in England and Wales No. 07279320. Registered Charity No. 1137609. Registered Office Kennet Walk Community Centre, Kennet Walk off Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3GD