

Great Childhoods Made Possible

Barnsley's Great Childhoods Ambition





Introduction

We want **Barnsley** to be a **'place of possibilities'** for everyone. A place where all **children** and **young people** can benefit from the **opportunities** that **great childhoods** can bring.

We want to create and celebrate these opportunities to prepare all children and young people for their futures, helping them to learn, grow and be inspired.

Covering everyone from ages 0 to 18, or 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), our ambition brings together current and future opportunities that make great childhoods possible.

What do we know?

Barnsley is home to around **67,000 children** and **young people aged 0 to 24**. Approximately 22% of these children are growing up in low-income families, 27% have Special Educational Needs and 1,637 are receiving social care support.

We know that these, as well as other factors, have an impact on education and can create barriers to opportunities.

At the end of the 2023/24 academic year, **28.5% of primary students** were classed as disadvantaged, **4.2% higher** than the **national average**.

At secondary school phase, **28.8% of pupils** were classed as disadvantaged, **4.7% higher** than the **national average**.



How will the Great Childhoods Ambition help?

Through the ambition, we will focus on five key areas that children and young people told us they think are important and that reflect elements of a great childhood in Barnsley. These areas will help to address the challenges and make sure that anyone, regardless of their background, has the same opportunities in Barnsley.

Belong: Making children and young people feel like they belong. Being part of the local community and having their voice heard will help firm their roots. When they belong, they feel safe and happy.



Explore: Giving children and young people opportunities to explore. Trying new things helps them discover new interests and hobbies. It helps them to learn about the world and everything in it.



Dream: Helping children and young people have big dreams. Looking up to role models who are inspiring shows them that they can achieve great things.



Grow: Supporting children and young people to grow. Making every day a learning day helps them discover new skills and find happiness in what they do.



Connect: Allowing children and young people to connect with the people and places around them. Being able to travel around our borough, meeting new people, and trying new things will open exciting opportunities for them.



The priorities support the existing work, activities, projects and opportunities across Barnsley and help identify new areas of investment at all ages and stages of childhood.

How will we know we're achieving our goals?

We will be closely monitoring the different projects that are part of our Great Childhoods Ambition to make sure that they're making a real difference to lives in Barnsley. We will look at data that will help us achieve our priorities, for example:

Belong: We will monitor school attendance and number of exclusions.

Explore: We will monitor the number of children and young people visiting our exhibitions and events, taking part in school trips or taking up sports activities.

Dream: We will monitor the number of apprenticeship and post 16 opportunities.

Grow: We will monitor digital skills, healthy child data and school readiness.

Connect: We will monitor the number of people using our website, using the free travel offer and engaging with our youth services.

How can you get involved?

It's a big ambition, but with everyone's support, we can dream big, aim high and believe anything is possible.

You can help inspire the young people in your life by looking at our website for ideas, experiences, opportunities and support to get involved with. **Every little action can make a big difference to the next generation.**



barnsley.gov.uk/GreatChildhoods



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Metropolitan Borough Council