



YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY

# Annual Impact Report

January – December 2024



## The UK's first and most rewarding digital fundraising source – helping schools and communities thrive

Your School Lottery is a purpose-led digital fundraising platform that was created for parents, by parents, to offer an easy and fun alternative to the more traditional fundraising sources. Pioneered and managed by Gatherwell Ltd, an award-winning lottery provider, Your School Lottery was the first-of-its-kind ethical lottery platform for parents, carers and the school community, created and dedicated for the purpose of advancing the educational needs of all children in the UK.

Since its launch over a decade ago, Your School Lottery has been a reliable and popular digital fundraising source, helping PTAs and teachers at participating schools across Britain, reach their funding goals. With over £10.5 million raised since 2014, running a school lottery with Your School Lottery can make a huge impact and helps schools improve the quality of education for all students – in an easy and fun way!

**With the growing pressure on schools and PTAs to up their fundraising game, we love hearing how parents are embracing the transformative power of a lottery and supporting their schools.**

Last year, the income generated by parents supporting their school lottery helped fund so many wonderful activities and resources for students! Hear what schools and PTAs had to say:

“

We've bought Guinea pigs for animal therapy, and cooking equipment to encourage the children to learn vital skills. We've also bought sports equipment for PE lessons and to make lunchtimes and break times more engaging for the children and to encourage physical activity.”

**Carbeile Junior School, Cornwall**

“

We bought SLR cameras for the art department, a 3d printer and subsidised a school trip to the zoo!”

**Brooklands School, Skipton**

“

The money raised will go towards a new heating system and a redesign of our Early Years outdoor learning area.”

**St. Saviour's R.C. Primary School, London**

## Teachers and parents raise their concerns on a national scale

A snapshot survey by the National Education Union<sup>1</sup> of 3,981 teacher members working in English state schools, carried out online in October 2023, revealed grievous concerns about funding.

What teachers say:

“

School funding levels do not allow for enough learning resources.



**92%**

believe that current funding levels are not high enough to allow their school to employ enough teachers, or for other staff to support pupils' learning.



**68%**

of teachers and leaders say that investment in school buildings has been insufficient. Just 15% have seen enough investment in upkeep of their buildings.



**85%**

believe their school is not able to provide appropriate learning resources for pupils because of current funding levels.

What parents say:

“

We need to see a major shift and significant investment in schools. Our children deserve better.



**47%**

of parents struggle to keep up with the costs of school uniforms.



**43%**

say they don't have disposable income to pay for school trips and feel that the school should fund these.



**27%**

of parents can't afford to pay for technology such as computers, tablets or internet access.

<sup>1</sup>Current school funding levels are inadequate | National Education Union (Published 4 November 2023)

# When schools are underfunded, children suffer

As we've been actively involved in school fundraising for over a decade, we understand the collective pressure on schools and parents to help source additional funds to improve the school environment and enrich the pupils' education. These pressures impact the entire community, as underfunded schools lead to unstable learning environments, less qualified teachers and poor support services.

Every year, the question of school funding in the UK is becoming more and more of a concern. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) says costs will outpace funding for schools in 2025-26.

The schools leaders' union NAHT reports that: there has been a period of 15 years with no overall growth in school spending and that Schools are now facing new and significant cost pressures e.g. surging energy prices, covid-related costs, falling primary pupil numbers, the National Insurance increase, and pressures due to significant underfunding of SEND.

The most significant impact on cost during this period, which most schools had insufficient fiscal headroom to manage and offset, and some schools are still recovering from, was Covid-19-related spending.

**In a report by the [Nuffield Foundation](#) in collaboration with ASK Research on the cost-of-living-crisis: impact on schools, the report highlights "how cost-of-living pressures have increased both the number of pupils requiring additional support and the level of need among these pupils, including well-being and mental health needs".**

Specific types of schools including small schools and maintained nursery schools remain under extreme financial pressure and many are facing the real risk of closure. This is a huge concern and affects all parents!



# How can Your School Lottery help schools raise money?

We're extremely passionate and equally proud of the huge impact of such a simple yet effective tool for raising funds and supporting the school community. As parents of school aged children, we're dedicated and committed and understand both the problem and the solution.



A school lottery might not be your only source for generating income. We know just how much children and parents love and enjoy playing an active part by attending school fairs, discos and bake sales. **What a school lottery enables is an additional funding stream, an all-year funding stream and an effortless funding stream.**




## Playing to win – the battle for adequate funding

Schools that sell 50 tickets a week, raise over £1,000 a year, and their supporters have a chance to win the £25,000 Jackpot, a bonus prize in our monthly Super Draw, as well as a guaranteed cash prize for someone in the school, every week!

In 2024, many schools raised between £5k – £9k.

*THAT'S AN ASTOUNDING AMOUNT AND CAN MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.*



### Tickets

Our tickets have not changed in price for over a decade, **we've kept them at £1!**

We know that affordable entry is key to success in fundraising.



### Prizes

YSL has given out **£10.5 million in cash prizes**, along with additional prize wins such as:

- ✓ Super draws
- ✓ Jackpot winners
- ✓ Weekly winners



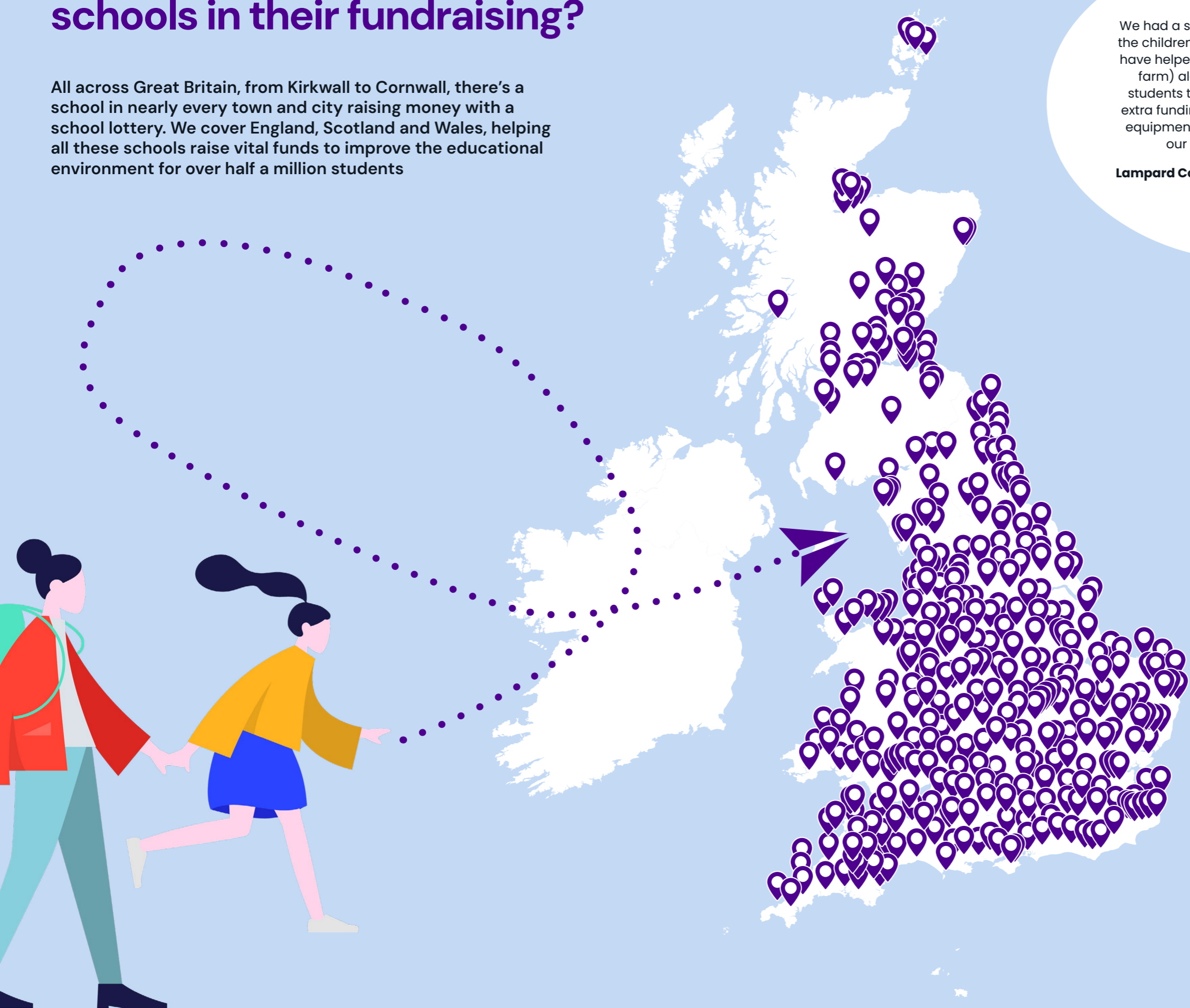
### Schools

With over 2,600 schools registered with Your School Lottery, we are the **number 1 choice in the UK for school lottery fundraising.**

Rated 'Excellent' by PTAs and parents ★★★★★

# What areas of the UK do we support schools in their fundraising?

All across Great Britain, from Kirkwall to Cornwall, there's a school in nearly every town and city raising money with a school lottery. We cover England, Scotland and Wales, helping all these schools raise vital funds to improve the educational environment for over half a million students



“

We had a space dome come to school for all the children to experience being in space. We have helped fund our outdoor area (garden/farm) alongside many activities for the students that wouldn't be possible without extra funding. The money is also used to buy equipment for the playground, for example our outdoor table tennis table.

**Lampard Community SEN School, Barnstaple**

“

The Friends of Redlands have funded fantastic projects like Friendship Bench and Rainbow Benches, Stubbington trip postcards, and Mental Health Boxes - making school a happier and more supportive place for all students! Your School Lottery is one of our biggest funding sources, helping us make these wonderful additions possible.”

**Redlands Primary School, Fareham, Hampshire**

## Don't take our word for it

What do just a handful of parents and schools say about us?

More inspiring ideas from schools and PTAs on how money raised from their school lottery was utilised and the impact it made:



"You've literally got nothing to lose – it's just so easy for us as a PTA, and the school and players can only benefit.

It makes our lives easier, it was easy to set up, easy to maintain and run, and when someone wins a prize, it just goes into their bank account automatically – it's 'faff-free! We've even had some people donate winnings back to the school!"

As well as all the usual PTA events, school supplies, and equipment, Leigh North Street is lucky to have a swimming pool – a wonderful facility for the school and the wider community, but an expensive one! Much of their fundraising goes towards the upkeep of this fantastic feature.

**Read Leigh North Street School's Story**

A major blow to schools, but more importantly, to pupils, was the impact of budget cuts on critical resources such as instruments and music tutoring and the provision of basic life skills such as swimming lessons. Children of all abilities and backgrounds should be granted free and easy access to developing essential life skills. Only then will we see communities thrive!

“

We've managed to keep swimming on for the children, which is a 7 mile bus ride away (joys of being a rural school!) We've also managed to have some pop up items for the whole school. The other week we had a planetarium which all the children enjoyed!"

**Crossgates CP School, Powys**

“

Learning resources for homework, for example online maths lessons to do as homework.”

**Woodley CofE Primary, Reading**

“

Money raised from the lottery has helped the PTA to fund a music trail, IT equipment, library books and workshops for the children.”

**St Nicholas CofE Primary School, Harpenden**

“

We gifted each class presents at Christmas time. Each teacher put forward suggestions and the class voted. Items ranged from games to bean bags to art equipment.”

**Oakfield First School, Windsor**

“

Books for our library, furniture, equipment, travel passes, food items for families in need, clothing for children in need of winter coats and emotional support resources.”

**Meols Cop High School, Southport**

“

Anemometers for geography, water baths for chemistry, music stands, books for the library....we ask the teachers for their 'wish list' – things they'd love to enrich the education, but they know the reduced funding won't stretch too.”

**Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton**

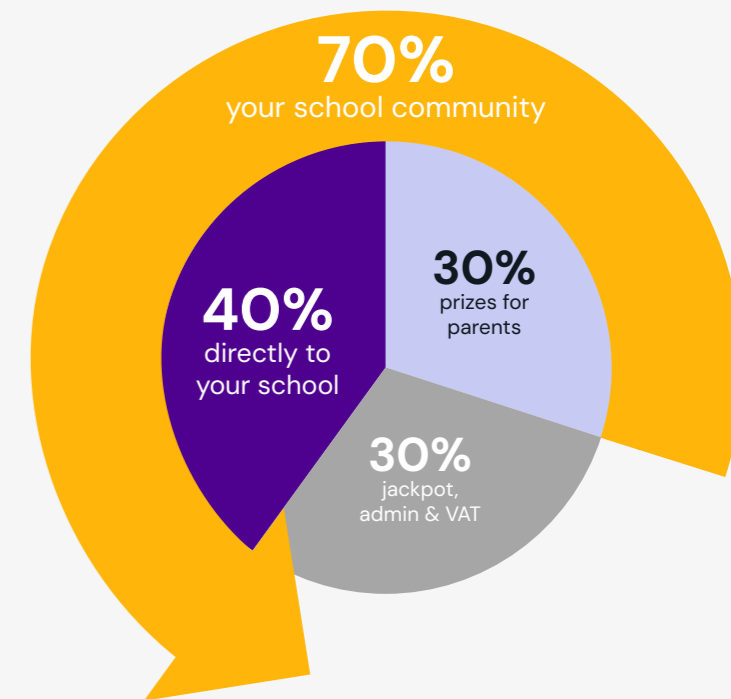
# A community that unites is a community that thrives

Your School Lottery is all about community fundraising. Schools and students benefit directly from money raised but parents, family members and friends who are the primary supporters of the school's lottery, also benefit – both directly and indirectly.



## Tickets to play the lottery cost just £1 per week.

The way we split the pound works as follows: 70% is allocated to your school community, in the form of 40% directly as funds, and 30% as a cash prize to a supporter, every week. The remaining 30% covers Jackpots, our running costs and VAT. Plus we provide additional Super Draw prizes every month.



“

I started doing Your School Lottery in October. I never really expected to win anything but was just happy to help raise money for my children's school. I am a teacher myself and know the difficulty many schools face with budget constraints.

Winning the Super Draw has come at a brilliant time before Christmas so will be able to host the whole family and give them a few extra treats. I managed to get a charity place in the London Marathon this year and will be raising money for Cancer Research and it will be great to be able to top up the donations to reach my fundraising target.”

[Read Super Draw winner Rosie's story](#)

## With Your School Lottery, parents also win!

In 2024, some lovely supporters who won in their school's lottery, donated their winnings back to the school!



### 21%

of winners donated their winnings BACK to the school!



### 17%

of total winnings given back as additional funding for those schools

Your School Lottery creates lots of winners. As well as over £100,000 in weekly cash prizes, December saw us award a record 3 x £25,000 Jackpots! What a year it's been for the Your School Lottery community!

# Our values and commitments

When we set out to build a school lottery platform 12 years ago, our vision was to empower the community by providing PTAs, parents and schools with an online fundraising resource that is easy, fun, safe, and requires minimal effort to manage. These values highlight our commitment and an ethos of community, trust, simplicity, impact, and inclusivity – all the reasons why

## WE ARE STILL THE NUMBER ONE SCHOOL LOTTERY PROVIDER IN THE UK.

### Empowering communities

We believe in the power of communities coming together to create meaningful change. Running a school lottery alongside other fundraising initiatives is an effective and rewarding way to unite parents, teachers, and students to support the needs of the school community.

### Simplicity and support

Fundraising doesn't have to be complicated which is why the Your School Lottery platform is simple, easy, and requires minimal effort. Our team is as invested as you are which is why we offer dedicated support to ensure your experience is enjoyable and rewarding. Whether you're an admin or supporter, we want everyone involved to feel supported and valued.

### Inclusive and engaging

We foster an inclusive fundraising environment where all voices are heard. Whether you're a parent, teacher, or PTA member, our approach ensures everyone is engaged and motivated to contribute to the school's success.

### Transparency and trust

We prioritise transparency in everything we do. Being open and transparent about how funds are allocated is key to the success of your school lottery. We take every step to ensure our goals and objectives are aligned with yours and that every contribution is directed where it matters most, giving you peace of mind that your efforts are making a real difference.

### Maximising impact

Our mission is to help schools achieve their fundraising goals and maximise the positive impact on their students' learning experiences. Because our funding model serves a dual purpose – to build a consistent revenue stream for schools to enhance students' education, as well as to reward parents who give to the cause, we help unlock the full potential, creating a thriving school community.





**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)  
[support@yourschoollottery.co.uk](mailto:support@yourschoollottery.co.uk)