



Smallshaw-Hurst
Children's Community



KEY IMPACT AREA

Education and Youth Development

Case Study

Mia, 9, plays football during school holiday activities, supported by the Smallshaw-Hurst Children's community in Greater Manchester
Credit: Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children.

Investing in education and nurturing the holistic development of young people yields invaluable, long-term benefits. Through collaborative effort and innovative approaches, we can catalyse positive change within our communities. Our partnerships with schools and colleges have spurred creative solutions tailored to address the diverse needs of our children and young people.

Key Statistic

Across England, 45% of young people achieve Grade 5 or above in GCSE English & Maths KS4 but in Smallshaw-Hurst it's only 27%. This attainment gap is something we are committed to bridging.

Empowering Young Minds Through Education, Creativity and Literacy

The Smallshaw-Hurst Children's Community is dedicated to fostering a supportive and enriching educational environment. By collaborating with schools, parents, community partners, and organisations like Tameside MBC and Ashton United Football Club, we strive to overcome educational barriers and promote holistic youth development.

Initiatives

Finding Confidence Through the Arts


Finding Confidence through the Arts: Meet Amy, a 13-year-old student whose journey embodies the transformative power of arts education. Alongside her peers in Year 9, Amy grappled with self-esteem issues and disengagement from traditional learning methods. However, our Arts Award Initiative, conducted in partnership with local Cultural Services and the Community Safety team, provided Amy and her classmates with a platform to express themselves through dance, art and music. Through this initiative, students not only built confidence but also forged meaningful connections with mentors, fostering personal growth and empowerment.

Kindness Through Art Workshops

In response to insights gleaned from our Pupil Perception Surveys, our primary schools recognised the urgency of addressing bullying and nurturing empathy within our school communities. Collaborating with an arts organisation, we launched anti-bullying workshops tailored for children aged 6 – 11. These workshops provided a safe and creative space for students to express themselves and cultivate empathy. As a result, 'Kindness Ambassadors' emerged, empowering students to champion positivity and inclusivity at school.

Unlocking Literacy with 'Literacy Kicks'

In our ongoing commitment to educational empowerment, we partnered with Ashton United in The Community to introduce 'Literacy Kicks', a bespoke sports journalism course for students aged 9 – 13. Led by a seasoned sports journalist, these sessions offered a dynamic approach to literacy development. Over six weeks, students immersed themselves in writing match reports, vlogs and social media pieces while exploring captivating topics such as the Paralympics and the Lionesses' success. The impact was profound, with students reporting increased confidence, enjoyment of reading and writing and aspirations for the future.



Noah, 2, makes art during school holiday activities, supported by the Smallshaw-Hurst Children's Community in Greater Manchester
Credit: Jonathan Hyams/Save the Children.

Impact and Learning

Through these collaborative programmes, we witnessed the transformative potential of creativity, empathy and literacy. Pre-and post-surveys revealed significant improvements in student confidence, engagement and aspiration. Teachers noted enhanced enthusiasm for learning and increased participation in class activities. Moreover, students embraced newfound possibilities and career paths, recognising literacy as a gateway to endless opportunities.

These initiatives underscore the immense potential for positive change when schools, children and communities unite to pursue educational empowerment. By fostering collaboration, creativity and empathy, Smallshaw-Hurst Children's Community equips our partners and students with the tools to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. As we continue our educational journey, we remain steadfast in our commitment to creating an inclusive and empowering environment where every child can be the best version of themselves.