

Talking about Great Ormond Street Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity

Here are some key facts and figures about Great Ormond Street Hospital to use when speaking about us with students. At the end you'll find some suggested discussion points which you might like to share with your class to get them thinking about the impact that Great Ormond Street Hospital has on the lives of our patients and their families.

The hospital's history

In 1852, Dr Charles West opened The Hospital for Sick Children on Great Ormond Street. It only had 10 beds and was the first and only hospital in the UK to offer dedicated inpatient care to children.

In 1858, Charles Dickens wanted to help the hospital treat more children. He gave a public reading of his book A Christmas Carol and raised enough money for the hospital to buy the house next door and expand the number of beds to 75.

Great Ormond Street Hospital now has over 330 beds and is one of the world's leading children's hospitals.

If you or your pupils would like to learn more about the history of the hospital our website has lots of information and an interactive history timeline.

Visit gosh.org/about-us/our-history

Peter Pan

Great Ormond Street Hospital and Peter Pan have been linked since 1929. The author of the story, JM Barrie donated its rights to the hospital. There's a Peter Pan statue outside the main entrance of the hospital.

If you or your pupils would like to learn more about Peter Pan, please visit gosh.org/get-involved/schools-fundraising/peter-pan-schools

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 Great Ormond Street Hospital has a school onsite so that patients can keep up with their work. If a patient is too unwell to come to the school then teachers will go and sit with them in their rooms instead.
- 2 32 per cent of Great Ormond Street Hospital's patients are under four years old.
- 3 Around 50% of the hospital's patients come from outside London.
- 4 Every day, around 750 seriously ill children and young people are seen at GOSH from all over the UK. 72 of these children have never been treated at GOSH before.
- 5 Every day, 336 operations are performed at GOSH.
- 6 GOSH has 63 specialised services, the widest range on any one site in the UK.

*Source: based on known data for 2021/22 financial year.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

- 1 A lot of the patients at Great Ormond Street Hospital are too unwell to run around and play with their friends. How would you feel if you couldn't play your favourite games? What would you like to do instead to keep you busy?
- 2 Why do you think it is important that Great Ormond Street Hospital has its own on-site school?
- 3 If you had to go and stay in hospital, what would you take with you? What are your favourite toys, books, games etc?
- 4 Why is it important to support a charity like Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity?

Money raised by the charity is used to support four different areas:

Improving the hospital – part of the hospital was built in the 1930s, which makes it one of the oldest clinical buildings in the UK. The money raised by schools like yours is helping to build bigger wards, where children have more space to get well. There's also more room to play – this is a welcome distraction for children and is also shown to help them to relax and get better more quickly.

Buying better equipment – the hospital needs important equipment which often has to be designed especially for children. This is vital in caring for the patients, but some of this can be extremely expensive.

Supporting patients and their families – as well as doctors and nurses, the hospital also has a team of play specialists who work with patients (and often their siblings). They explain medical procedures and treatments through play, helping to prepare children for them. The charity also pays for accommodation for parents so that they can be near their child at all times during a hospital stay.

Research – the ground-breaking research pioneered at the hospital has the potential to improve the lives of children in the UK and beyond through better diagnosis, treatment, improved care or cures.

If you or your pupils would like to find out more, visit gosh.org/what-we-do

Why do we need your help?

Your support means that Great Ormond Street Hospital can remain a world class hospital, providing the best possible care and facilities to patients and families, and carrying out pioneering research into rare diseases.

Thank you.

Please do pass on our thanks to everyone at your school for supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. The money you raise will make a huge difference and every penny really does count.

You may also like to make use of our helpful resources designed to support your teaching and fundraising, whilst supporting GOSH.

If you have any queries regarding supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital at your school or would like access to our resources, please contact us at schools@gosh.org to find out more.