

RAISING ASPIRATIONS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



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Funder Report for the Sail Training Trust
Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Trust
£1,500 of core funding



Young people completed accredited and developmental courses including RYA Keelboat Stages 1–3, Powerboat Levels 1-2, RYA First Aid, RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance, paddle sports, climbing, archery, watersports taster sessions, including windsurfing and foiling, sustainability sessions and Swim Safe sessions.

In terms of outcomes, both student and teacher reporting show the programme continues to deliver strongly against core targets for confidence, resilience, communication, and career awareness.

In 2025:

- **87%** reported increased awareness of maritime sector opportunities
- **91%** reported increased resilience
- **91%** reported increased confidence
- **90%** reported improved communication skills

Attendance has also been the strongest it has been in recent years, with groups consistently attending at **85% capacity or higher**.

We are extremely grateful to the *Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Trust* for your grant of £1,500 towards our core costs for 2025 and 2026. Your support has enabled Sail Training Trust (STT) to deliver a record year of activity and impact for disadvantaged young people in Portsmouth and Portland.

This report summarises the activity delivered in the past year, the difference it has made, and our plans for the year ahead.

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Activity Delivered in 2025

In 2025, STT delivered one of its strongest years to date:

- **128 young people supported**
- **446 sessions delivered**
- **Over 12,000 hours of maritime education**
- **557 certificates awarded** – a record-breaking year
- STT worked with **10 groups across 9 schools** in 2024/25
- A **new school group** joined for 2025/26

Each participant accessed approximately **100 hours of structured sailing and maritime education** across the academic year, working towards nationally recognised qualifications including:

- RYA Keelboat Stages 1 to 3
- RYA Powerboat Levels 1 to 2
- RYA First Aid
- RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance
- Start Yachting and sustainability modules
- Swim Safe
- Sustainability module.

Attendance has been the strongest in recent years, with groups consistently attending at **85% capacity or higher**. This is particularly significant given many of our young people struggle with attendance and engagement in school.

Alongside weekly sessions, young people accessed:

- A highly successful **Careers Day (March 2025)** - [See this video of the 2025 Careers Day.](#)
- 2026 Careers Day was held 11th March 2026 – [See this video of the 2026 Careers Day.](#)
- A record-breaking **Summer Regatta**, attended by families and stakeholders. The next regatta is planned for 10th July 2026.
- Site visits to organisations including Portsmouth International Port and Lockheed Martin UK.
- Work experiences in a variety of maritime organisations, such as SERCO, BAE Systems.

In July 2025 we also launched the **Mariners Club**, an after-school progression programme which has grown from 7 to 12 regular attendees and offers advanced sailing, navigation, engine skills and further qualifications. Unusually, the majority of our attendees are female.

Our goal is to grow this club and run it every week, instead of bi-monthly.

The Difference It Has Made

STT works primarily with young people facing significant disadvantage. Around 90% come from low-income families and/or exclusion settings.

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Many experience low self-belief, behavioural challenges, home-life challenges, dealings with the police, learning needs, SEND and risk of becoming NEET.

The impact of the programme in 2025 has been significant and measurable.

Teacher surveys report:

- **87%** increased awareness of maritime career opportunities
- **91%** increased resilience
- **91%** increased confidence
- **90%** improved communication skills

Schools consistently describe STT as one of their 'most effective interventions for vulnerable pupils'.

At Miltoncross Academy, one student with significant SEN needs who had previously only accessed the inclusion unit is now attending mainstream lessons and making academic progress since joining the STT programme.

At Waterloo School, a young person who initially refused to engage now confidently participates in helming and sail handling, which is a major personal breakthrough.

Beyond personal development, we are seeing tangible progression outcomes:

- A former STT student, Millie and now STT instructor has been accepted into the **Royal Navy**.
- A graduate from the programme last year, and previously disengaged school student, Horatio, has just secured a **BAE apprenticeship**.
- Another participant from the Portland programme, Jack, who struggled significantly in school has now secured an **apprenticeship in construction**.

These examples demonstrate the long-term difference core funding makes; not simply enabling activities, but creating pathways into employment, further education and positive futures.

Feedback

Over 2025 and 2026, we have gathered incredible feedback, showing the outcome and impact of the STT programmes on our young people and their families.

Parent Feedback

Oscar's Mum, Portland: *"It's so lovely to hear how he is getting on, it really has been a lifeline for him to go there – he is so invested in it, I would go so far as to say it really is life changing for him to feel he is doing something he loves and gaining confidence so thank you all so much!
Work experience would be great so thank you for having him.
I'm not sure you realise what an impact you and the team have had on him and subsequently us!"*

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Tai's Mum, Portsmouth: *"Tai is massively more confident; he has come out of his shell and is now showing to be very nurturing and encouraging of other young people that attend in a mini mentor kind of way. Tai is much calmer and settled when he is on or around the water and he when he has attended his weekly sailing sessions, he doesn't need to take his sleeping medication that night as he is naturally sleepy which is a huge bonus for us as his parents.*

Tai would love to work on super yachts starting as a junior deck hand and working up to captain. The instructors are all absolutely incredible, they know and understand Tai and instead of seeing Tai as limited by his challenges (diagnosis autism and ADHD) they build him up to challenge himself to do more than he believes he can. We are massively grateful to you all at the trust. Thank you".

School Feedback

Miltoncross Academy

"One of our year 10 students who has significant SEN needs now only accesses our inclusion centre when we go sailing. The rest of his time he accesses all lessons and is making significant progress in nearly all subjects.

"The programme has had a hugely positive impact on so many students from Miltoncross for many years. It has been our best intervention to engage with some of our most vulnerable students".

Trafalgar School

"Most students from Trafalgar are chosen to attend sailing due to SEMH needs. They all now have increased confidence and really look forward to it every week. We have had a higher attendance in sailing this academic year. A few students that I think have benefited the most are Roxy, Dottie and Tommy.

All students and I enjoy ending our week with our sailing session".

Priory School

"Pupil premium students are chosen who initially showed an interest to be chosen and both themselves and school have committed to attending the program. As an alternative curriculum provision, confidence, communication skills, attendance and social interactions have all been noted as improving. In previous years this has continued through to GCSE grading with marked improvements being shown".

Sorry but no feedback to improve. The pupils love it and, as a teacher who sees the knock-on effect of this course, so do I. The teaching team are amazing!

Waterloo School

"One particularly challenging student initially refused to engage with the programme. But now, a few months in, regularly communicates and participates fully, including steering and assisting with sails, dropping the rudder etc. This is such an achievement for this young person.

The instructors have a great understanding of our children's needs - Thank you".

Henry Cort Community School

"All of our students have benefited from the programme. They are taking part in activities out of their comfort zone. They have grown in confidence and learnt new skills.

The programme is great! Our students really benefit coming and experiencing new skills. It massively helps to re-engage them back into school, and has certainly helped them with their grades and attendance".

Changes and Developments This Year

While the programme has remained aligned to its core model of weekly structured delivery, there have been some adaptations in response to school pressures.

- One partner school, Bay Tree School, has this year moved to a rotational model, sending four classes across the year rather than one fixed cohort. While not our original design, this has enabled greater overall engagement with a school supporting particularly high-need pupils.
- Where attendance dipped in one group, we worked directly with the school to reset expectations. We attended the school, spoke with the students and teachers, resulting in significant improvement in attendance and behaviour.
- We have also strengthened follow-up and alumni tracking by introducing the Salesforce CRM, allowing us to maintain contact with families and past participants, something we previously lacked capacity to do.
- Operationally, we continue to manage the wear-and-tear associated with daily marine delivery, including maintenance of boats, sails and transport, by securing funding to help maintain them. For example the Partnership Foundation granted STT £500 to service and add UV strips to our Hawke 20 sails.

Plans for the Year Ahead

Demand for the programme continues to grow, with waiting lists in Portsmouth, Portland and interest in new locations, such as Plymouth and Birmingham.

In 2026 and 2027 we aim to:

- Grow the Mariners Club to provide deeper progression opportunities
- Expand the Careers Day into a larger careers fair
- Maintain record levels of qualification achievement
- Continue strengthening alumni tracking and progression monitoring
- Secure funding to maintain and replace essential equipment
- Secure funding to grow the Portland programme from 8, ideally to over 20 young people.

Our ambition remains to provide sustained, high-quality maritime education to those who would otherwise never access the sea, while building stronger employment pathways into the maritime sector.

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Closing Thanks

Worshipful Company of Shipwrights Trust 's £1,500 grant has been vital in sustaining our core programme in 2025/6. Your support has enabled 128 disadvantaged young people to access over 12,000 hours of maritime education, gain 557 qualifications, and develop the confidence, resilience and aspiration to shape their futures.

Most importantly, it has enabled young people who face significant barriers to experience success, responsibility and belief in themselves.



Raising aspirations through sail training