

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Gomel Special School No 5

In 2003 we put ramps and accessible toilets into Special School No 5 in Gomel, enabling them to set up a class for children in wheelchairs, who would otherwise have stayed at home.



We brought the School Director, Aleg Baikachov, to Britain to look at special schools here and funded extra help in the class for the first year.



We also provided a minibus and driver to bring the children to and from school and continued to do this until 2015 when we gave a minibus to the school.

When we set up the class there was nowhere in Belarus where a child in a wheelchair could go to school. Over the years, excellent special centres have been set up where children with a variety of disabilities including physical, can be educated. But there are still very few schools where children in wheelchairs can attend. So in 2011 a national seminar was held at the school to show the progress of the children.

We have supported the school in many other ways, sponsoring an extra teacher to do individual work with children with autism or complex needs for several years and then more recently funding an experienced psychologist to work with children from problem families.



When we first worked with the school many of the children had quite mild learning disabilities. But those children have gradually been integrated into mainstream schools, and the children who attend School No 5 now tend to have more serious disabilities, and many of them have autism. We have delivered many training sessions at the school in working with autistic children and Deputy Head Natasha Bukhavets has visited the UK.

Symbol communication is now widely and effectively used in the school and in early 2018 a National Seminar was held there.



Our partnership with the Manchester and Minsk based company 'Godel Technologies' has greatly benefited school No 5. They only possessed a handful of ancient computers, most of which were not working at all. With funding from Godel we have been able to fully equip an I.T. room, provide 8 new computers and get them online.

