

YOUR STORY MATTERS

Your story is powerful. It can inspire others, break down barriers, and show the real impact of mentoring. We know sharing personal experiences can feel like a big step, but we're here to support you every step of the way.

WHY WE SHARE STORIES

Stories help bring our mission to life. They show how mentoring changes lives and help others understand the challenges young people face. By sharing your journey, you can:

- Show the real difference mentoring makes
- Help others who might be in a similar situation
- Inspire more mentors to get involved
- Encourage support so we can continue our work

HOW YOUR STORY MIGHT BE USED

We might share your story in:

- Fundraising campaigns to raise money
- Social media, our website, and newsletters to spread awareness
- Reports to show our impact to funders and supporters
- Media stories to reach even more people


WHY YOU ARE THE BEST STORYTELLER

This is your story—only you can tell it in a way that's real and meaningful. It doesn't matter if your mentoring journey has just begun, if you're in the middle of it, or if it's been years since it ended. What matters is how the experience has shaped you and what it has meant to you.

OUR PROMISES TO YOU

When you share your story, we promise to:

- Keep things simple and real—no overcomplicated words or edits
- Share only real, authentic experiences
- Tell your truth with honesty and respect
- Focus on small details that bring your story to life (but only what you're happy sharing)

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- Talk about challenges but also how mentoring helped overcome them
 - Respect your privacy and use your own words whenever possible
 - Never use stereotypes or generalisations
 - Only share your story with your permission
 - Keep your identity private unless you want to use your real name (18+ only)

HOW THE CONSENT PROCESS WORKS

Before we use your story, we will:

- Explain where it might appear (e.g. social media, fundraising, reports)
- Ask for your written or recorded consent
- Get additional consent from a parent or guardian if you're under 18
- Give you a chance to review your story before it's shared
- Respect your right to change your mind at any time

WHAT WE CAPTURE IN STORIES

Every story is unique, but these are the kinds of things we might ask about:

- **Your Journey** – Where your story started, what challenges you faced, and how mentoring helped
- **The Impact of Mentoring** – How it changed things for you (confidence, school, career, personal growth)
- **Your Voice** – Your words, your experiences, your emotions
- **Looking Ahead** – How you feel about the future now
- **Making a Difference** – Inspiring others to get involved

HOW WE COLLECT STORIES


We find stories in lots of ways:

- Through mentors, school staff, and coordinators
- At MCR Pathways events
- From social media posts or messages
- Directly from young people who sign up to share
- Through alumni, colleges, universities, and business partners

If we reach out to you, we'll make sure the process feels comfortable and at your pace.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. **Reaching Out** – We'll get in touch to see if you'd like to share your journey.
2. **Interview** – If you're interested, we'll have a relaxed chat (in person, online, or by phone).

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3. **Storytelling Process** – We'll write up your story and share it with you for review.
 4. **Final Consent** – You decide if you're happy with the final version.
 5. **Using Your Story** – If you agree, we'll use it to inspire others and help keep mentoring going!

CAN I CHANGE MY MIND?

Yes! If you ever want to withdraw your story, we'll do everything we can to remove it from our platforms. However, here's what we **can** and **can't** do:

✓ What We Can Do:

- Remove your story from our website, social media, and internal platforms
- Stop using your story in new materials
- Keep you updated on the process and any challenges

✗ What We Can't Fully Control:

- Printed materials already in circulation
- Stories shared by external media or partners (but we can request removal)
- Stories that were part of legal agreements (we'll discuss what can be done)
- Complete erasure if copies have been shared elsewhere

We will always be open and honest with you about what's possible.

ARE YOU READY TO SHARE?

Your story could inspire more young people to seek support, more mentors to step forward, and more donors to help make it all possible. We hope you feel reassured that you are in control, and we'll respect your choices every step of the way.

If you'd like to share your story or have any questions, please get in touch—we'd love to hear from you!

