

# Pupils aim to cross out child poverty



From left, St Fillan's Georgina Ronalds, Paul Murray, Maria McNeil, Eilidh Stevenson, Aiden Boyle and Lawrence Conway help Glasgow the Caring City launch Cross Out Poverty, on St Andrew's Day  
Picture: Nick Ponty

Charity launches campaign to end social deprivation

By DEBORAH ANDERSON

SCHOOL pupils have helped a charity launch an ambitious bid to stamp out child poverty in Scotland.

Pupils at St Fillan's Primary donned their kilts to spread the word about Glasgow the Caring City's Cross Out Poverty campaign.

The drive, which has been backed by First Minister Alex Salmond, was unveiled on St Andrew's Day as dozens of blue and white balloons were released by the school pupils on Monday.

The charity's Cathcart Declaration, which is a mission statement for the movement, hopes to bring about the end of child deprivation.

The declaration states: "We believe that no society can be truly at ease with itself while significant numbers of children live in poverty."

"We believe that the

elimination of child poverty must be a priority for us all - for politicians, community leaders and every member of society."

A host of names has been added to the statement including politicians from the west of Scotland and school children who have been involved in fundraising.

Mr Salmond said: "The Scottish Government is determined to address the challenge of child poverty and we are already making headway."

Schoolchildren who have worked with the Caring City on projects were involved in the launch. At King's Park Secondary school a heated

debate was held with senior pupils on child poverty.

The charity also hosted Cathcart Conversations, which brought together people from all walks of life to discuss child poverty and put their names to the declaration.

Rev Neil Galbraith, chief executive of Glasgow the

Caring City, said: "The key thing is to get the awareness message out there. Involving young people at this stage means they can carry it on and hopefully be the driving force in years to come."

For more information visit [www.crossoutpoverty.org.uk](http://www.crossoutpoverty.org.uk)  
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