

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Governor Fund update

Could you consider giving £10 a month to your school?

As a state-funded Academy we carefully spend every penny of our allocated government budget on staff, resources and paying the bills. There is not much left over for improving the facilities, new buildings or new projects. So, we have to ask families directly; schools in the 21st century need whole communities to support them.

Over recent years many families have been willing to donate money to enable the school to keep on improving its facilities. We are extremely grateful to all of you – THANK YOU.

Our next ongoing project is to add a new, large piece of play equipment called 'Pick Up Sticks' which is estimated to cost £18,500.



Artist's impression of our new the 'Pick Up Sticks' equipment

Starting in September 2021 new parents were asked to consider donating £10 a month and we would like to invite all existing parents to consider doing the same. This is a large leap from what you may remember being asked to consider originally and we know that this is not an ideal time to be asking for money. However, times change and the old amount was set many years ago at a time when government budgets were more generous and we also used to receive a small amount of money from the Diocese per Catholic child. Perhaps your family could consider an increase, or donating for the first time, or a one-off donation? If you pay tax we can claim Gift Aid worth an extra 25p per £1 at no cost to you or the school.

What if I/we can't afford it or don't want to?

No problem at all. We understand that some people cannot give and it is a voluntary donation. We especially appreciate that the cost of living is currently rising dramatically and there are many calls on your money. Please remember that if you ever need financial help then your school community can offer support – for example, we can help you apply for free school meals and we have a hardship fund.

I/we could give a bit more than £10?

Great, thank you! Very much appreciated. But if your income changes you can change the amount or cancel the direct debit whenever you need to.

Gift Aid?

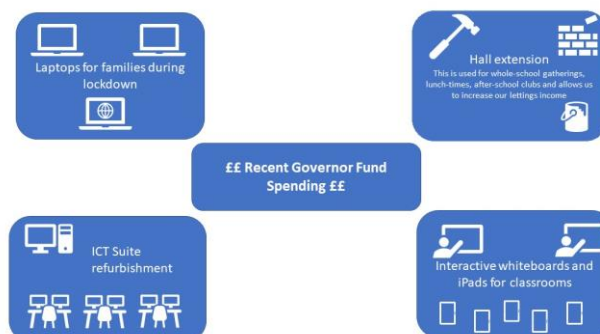
Yes, if you pay income tax we also can get Gift Aid which means the government give us an additional 25% on anything you give at no cost to you or the school. This includes any one-off donations as well as regular ones

Is my information kept private?

Yes. The governors can only see the fund total and cannot see any detail about who the donors are. The School Business Manager keeps records of money coming in and Gift Aid receipts. She keeps your information safe under the General Data Protection Regulations.

Who decides how to spend it?

The governors as a group decide how to spend it. They are guided by school staff in choosing what to prioritise and welcome ideas from parents and the wider community.



What next?

Please fill in the Direct Debit mandate, and Gift Aid form if you pay tax (available from the school office), and return to school addressed to 'School Business Manager'. Or you can set up a Direct Debit using the attached link <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/21374>. This link will also allow you to complete the Gift Aid details so you will not need any other forms.

With many thanks

St Joseph's Local Governing Committee

