



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents

Over the last few years austerity measures have meant that school budgets across the country are being squeezed tightly, leading to real-term funding cuts, and unfortunately Cardinal Newman is no exception.

Thanks to the hard work put in by Mrs Burnham and her staff I am pleased to say that the school is operating within budget, however in order to do this the school has to focus on the essentials – the "need to have" expenditure. There is no surplus.

The school raises some money through lettings and other initiatives, but one important source of additional funding is the Governor's Fund, which is funded by parents' contributions.

As a Catholic school in the Xavier Multi Academy Trust (MAT), the Governors Fund must contribute 10% of the cost of any capital projects, such as building and general site repairs and improvements. We are currently in the process of a major capital project (approx. £500K) to extend our school hall which will allow us to accommodate the whole school, use the space more flexibly, and generate future revenue by opening it to evening and weekend lettings.

What is the Governors' Fund at Cardinal Newman?

The Governors' Fund is made up of voluntary donations from parents of children at Cardinal Newman, for the benefit of the children at the school.

What is the Fund for?

In recent years, parents' contributions have been used to benefit the children by funding:

- Improvements to the learning environment, including computer equipment and funding landscaping work around the school.
- Repairs to the building, including boiler works and emergency roof repairs.
- Half the cost of the new school minibus to enable participation in sporting competitions and local trips
- Improved safety measures for the children including computer security and new gates and fencing for the school perimeter.

Without the Fund these expenses would inevitably and regrettably either have to come out of the school's teaching budget or be done without.

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How do parents contribute?

Contributions to the Fund are voluntary, but if you feel you can afford to help please complete a standing order form. There is no set amount however if every family in the school made a regular monthly contribution of £10 or more it would make a substantial difference to the school's ability to fund these important projects.

Gift Aid – extra money to the school at no cost to parents.

If you are a UK taxpayer, Cardinal Newman is able to benefit from Gift Aid on your donation. The Government will pay the school 25% of eligible donations. This means that if you have completed a Gift Aid form, for every £10 donated by you, the school will receive £12.50 - with no additional cost to you!

I have no doubt that as your child progresses through their time at Cardinal Newman School, they will enjoy an excellent education provided by this fantastic school and its wonderful staff. If you feel you can make a contribution – thank you.

To make your contribution, please complete the enclosed standing order form, and if applicable the Gift Aid declaration, and return to me via the school office.

Thank you once again for your support - it makes a real difference to your child's education.

Very best wishes,

Tom Bray

Treasurer, School Governors' Fund