



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.

This means, firstly, that if unexpected bills come in there is very little flexibility to deal with them, and secondly, that the school cannot pay for some of the "nice to have" items that can so help to enrich the children's education as they progress through the school.

The school raises some money through lettings and other initiatives, but one important source of additional funding is the Governor's Fund which, through parents' contributions, helps to pay for some of these costs.

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, through purchasing of computer equipment and landscaping work around the school.
- Repairs to the building, including boiler works and emergency roof repairs.
- Half the cost of the new school minibus.
- Improved safety measures for the children including computer security and new gates and fencing for the school perimeter.
- One-off recruitment costs to ensure all classes are fully staffed.

The school also needs to make a contribution of at least 10% towards any capital expenditure, for example new building work. This would also come out of the Governors' Fund.

In the future we anticipate the money will be spent on essential maintenance to the fabric of the building (including carpets, blinds, doors, etc), a rolling programme of replacement and additional ICT equipment, and of course those unexpected emergency items that come out of the blue!

Without the Fund, these expenses would inevitably and regrettably either have to come out of the schools teaching budget, or done without.

How do parents contribute?

Contributions to the Fund are entirely voluntary, but if you feel you can afford to help please do complete a standing order form.

There is no set amount and it is up to you to decide what you believe is appropriate – however if every family in the school made a regular monthly contribution of £5 or more it would make a substantial difference to the school's ability to fund these important extras.

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 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. It will go towards ensuring that each and every child gets even more value from their time here.

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