

## Letter from the Governors about funding for St Adrian's Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome your family to the St Adrian's Catholic Primary School community. You may not, be familiar with how a Voluntary Aided school, such as St Adrian's, is actually funded. We would, therefore, like to clarify how the governors receive funding for different aspects of school provision and ask you to consider whether you are able to contribute to the upkeep of the school.

There are broadly two funding methods for state schools. The majority of schools are either part of Academy chains or are Community Schools owned by the Local Authority (LA). Since 2010, there are also some Free Schools. All these types of schools are totally funded by the government. However, a Voluntary Aided school may be defined as 'a state-funded school in England and Wales in which a foundation or trust (usually a religious organisation), contributes to building costs and has a substantial influence in the running of the school. In most cases the foundation or trust owns the buildings. The responsibility for work to VA school premises is shared between the school's governing body and the LA'.

There are therefore two streams of funding to VA schools. This means that in the case of St Adrian's, being a Voluntary Aided School, the school building belongs to the Westminster Diocese. Any Capital funding for new buildings, or maintenance of existing buildings, is provided through the Diocese or via Devolved Formula Capital (DfC) and requires the school's governing body to provide 10% of the total cost of the work. While finance for salaries, provision of the furniture and equipment and learning resources for the statutory curriculum is provided by the LA through Revenue funding.

You will be aware from the media that school funding has faced real term cuts for some years now and schools have had to make very difficult decisions in order to provide education for all their children. St Adrian's was fortunate to have built up funds over a number of years thanks to the generosity of parents, parishioners of St Bartholomew's and parents of former pupils. Some of these funds have been used during the 'lean' revenue funding years to boost the budget allocated by the LA.

The last two difficult years of the pandemic and the amount of support that has had to be provided for the large capital projects we have been allocated by the Diocese during the last 2 years have drained most of our funds. The projects are for the upkeep of the school building and to maintain a safe school building and include the new safe entrance to the school, security monitoring systems, CCTV and fire safety systems. Further projects have been approved to help maintain the school building. The school has or will have to pay 10% of each project cost. If you are able to begin making a regular donation or to increase your current donation to the Building Development Fund please complete the standing order form and return it to the office. Please also consider completing the attached gift aid form for any ongoing contributions as this enables us to reclaim additional funding in relation to tax at no cost to you.

Whatever you may be able to contribute will be gratefully received. With thanks for all your support for St Adrian's.

Yours faithfully

Martha Moroney Eleanor Christie Chair of Governors Chair of Governing Body Finance Committee