

St Francis' Catholic Primary School



Station Road
Nailsea, North Somerset
BS48 4PD
Tel: 01275 855373



Head teacher:
Mrs Catherine Hunt

Ensuring for all an excellent child-centred education within a Christ-centred philosophy

Dear Parent/Carer

Voluntary Aided Status

I am writing to you to explain the funding arrangements that are in place for capital projects for St Francis' school and to seek your support in meeting our responsibilities as a school community. As you will be aware, St Francis' School is a Voluntary Aided school which means that the school's governing body has more responsibilities than governors in other state schools. These extra responsibilities include:

- ensuring that Catholic teaching is part of the curriculum
- determining the school's admissions policy
- being the employer of school staff
- owning and managing the school buildings including paying for maintenance and structural improvements.

Being Voluntary Aided helps the school to achieve its vision of ensuring an excellent, child centred education for all, within a Christ-centred philosophy. However, it places a financial burden on the school as it needs to fund 10% of all capital works carried out within the school.

Recent Improvements

Over recent years we have been able to deliver a number of improvements:

- extension to the Reception and Year 1 Classrooms and the creation of a new covered outdoor learning and teaching area for both classrooms
- refurbishment of all boys and girls toilets
- replacement of boiler
- installation of lighting at the front entrance
- installation of new front gates and security system
- upgrade to the fire alarm and security systems
- replacement of cold water tank
- improved lighting to the school hall.

Last year, we successfully bid to improve the exterior security lighting and CCTV cameras and this work has recently been completed, resulting in a much safer environment both during school hours and when the site is closed.

The Friends of St Francis

The Friends of St Francis' have been supportive over the years in delivering a number of important projects such as the hall staging, the outdoor stage and the regeneration of the pond and wildlife area.

Email: office@stfrancispri.org
Website: www.st-francis.n-somerset.sch.uk

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Most recently, they have developed an active play area for the children in KS2. Their continued support will be invaluable, but they are not able to assist towards providing the school's 10% capital funding contribution.

How you can help unlock money from Government funding

Raising £4,500 through voluntary contributions and gift aid from parents can release over £40,000 of funding for additional projects.

The Governing Body therefore asks parents/carers of children attending the school to make a voluntary contribution of £24 per child per year (equivalent to £2 per child per month).

Contributions can be gift aided provided you are a tax payer and return the gift aid declaration. This will allow us to reclaim tax you have paid, increasing the value of your gift at no extra cost to you. Payments can be made by standing order, cash or cheque. Enclosed with this letter are:

- A standing order form. This should be completed and returned to your Bank or you can set up the standing order online if you are signed up to internet banking.
- Tear-off slip to return to school if you prefer to contribute by cheque or cash. Cheques should be made payable to "St Francis School, Special Projects Fund".
- The gift aid declaration for completion and return to the school.

The governing body recognises family budgets can be tight and not everyone can afford £2 per month. If this is the case, please feel free to make out the form for any sum which is within your capability. I would stress that all donations are, of course, voluntary.

The governors will strive to continue to make improvements to the school to ensure your child gets an education of the highest standard in an environment he or she deserves. Your contribution is an investment not merely for your own children but for the many children yet to come to our school.

How to contact the governors

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. I would like to thank you in anticipation of your generous assistance.

Yours sincerely

Ann Tarr
Chair of Governors

Email - cog@stfrancispri.org

Email: office@stfrancispri.org
Website: www.st-francis.n-somerset.sch.uk