



A letter from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about the funding of St Michael's School. As a voluntary-aided school St Michael's is only partly financed by the Local Education Authority (LEA) and therefore relies heavily on the Governors' Fund to support many important aspects of school life.

What is the Governors' Fund?

The Governors' Fund is the money held and managed by St Michael's governing body to support the running of the School. It includes some rental payments from Highgate School for its use of the lane leading up to St Michael's but the majority of the Fund is generated from parental donations. It is operated entirely independently of the SMSA whose fundraising activities also play an important part in supporting the School.

Maintaining the School buildings and grounds

Because the School is owned by the Church of England we receive no money from the LEA for the maintenance or improvement of the buildings and grounds. Neither does the Diocese help fund this on a regular basis. At St Michael's we are blessed with exceptional facilities including a Grade 2 listed building and five acres of grounds. These contribute to making St Michael's a special school but also mean that the



regular upkeep of the fabric of the School alone costs about £80,000 a year.

We contribute to a common insurance fund run by the London Diocesan Board for Schools to cover emergencies and we also apply for Diocese funding for specific capital projects when necessary but in general the vast majority of the maintenance is financed from the Governors' Fund.

Over the past few years, in addition to this regular maintenance, the Governors' Fund has been able to pay for the following major projects:

- refurbishment of pupil toilet areas and cloakrooms (£80k)
- installation of the new school kitchen (£200k)
- replacement of the junior playground 'cage' (£120k)



Supporting other aspects of school life

When possible the Fund pays for other projects such as providing all classrooms with an interactive whiteboard at a cost of £45k.

This year, for the first time, the Fund is paying to improve the School's IT infrastructure – we have a rolling programme in place to renew PCs and upgrade software which will cost about £20k each year. In the past the LEA has funded this but the recent local authority spending cuts has meant that the whole of our LEA money will be taken up completely by paying for the staff salaries.

Going forward the School has a number of projects it would like the Governors' Fund to pay for. These include:

- upgrade of site security, safety and access
- improvements to the layout and facilities of the top playground
- redesign of the foundation year classrooms and outside play area



What the Governors' Fund does not pay for

It is not part of the Fund's mandate to pay for staff salaries - these are funded entirely by the LEA. Also, the Fund is generally not used to pay for smaller items the teachers need to operate their classrooms such as extra reading books and equipment. These items are funded by events run by the SMSA which raises around £30k each year.



How can you help?

We would like to thank all those parents who already make a donation to the Fund and also those who generously give their time to support the School. We warmly invite all parents to review how they want to donate to the School in the future.

The Governors' Fund is a vital element in ensuring that the School is a safe, well-equipped and pleasant environment for the children and staff. It is likely that it will have to be relied on even more heavily in the future given the recent cuts that have been made to the LEA's budget. We believe that when you accept a place for your child you are also making a commitment to support the School in a manner that you feel is appropriate. Given the School's voluntary-aided status contributing to the Fund at any level is an important part of this commitment.

All donations large or small are hugely appreciated but a suggested amount, based on past parental donations and the amount needed to maintain the School, is £15 per child per month.

If you would like to make a regular donation please could you complete the form overleaf. The form gives the option of Gift Aid which, if you are a UK taxpayer, will increase your donation by 28%. All information regarding donations will be treated confidentially.

If you have any questions regarding the Governors' Fund please contact:

Sarah Rayment – Governors' Fund Treasurer
(sarah.rayment@bdo.co.uk); or

Karen Revel-Chion – Chair of St Michael's Finance Committee
(karenrc@blueyonder.co.uk)

Yours faithfully,

Jeremy Wells

Vice Chair, on behalf of the Governors

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL GOVERNORS' FUND
Registered charity 312451

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Dear St Michael's,

Thank you for your letter. I am writing to confirm as follows:

- I have completed the new / increased standing order form on the right.
- I enclose a donation for this year: £
- Other:

*Please make cheques payable to St Michael's C of E School, Highgate.
 If you pay UK tax, please complete the Gift Aid form below and return it to
 Sarah Rayment, Treasurer, St Michael's Cof E School, 38 Crouch Hall Road,
 Crouch End N8 8HJ*

GIFT AID FORM

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Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. **Please ensure that this is signed by the tax-paying donor, NOT another family member**

I want all donations I've made since 6 April 2000 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.
 To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Name and initials:	
Names of Children	
Address & Postcode	

BANK STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Please make the payments detailed below, debiting my / our account until further notice.

Please cancel any previous standing order to "St Michael's C of E School".

Lloyds TSB	Highgate Village	30-14-00	St Michael's Church of England School - HICA	Account Number 0205036
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Payment reference:	F	
Your bank sort code:		
Your bank account number:		
Date of first payment:		
Payment amount:	£	
Payment frequency:	Monthly	
Signature & date:		
Donor's name & address:		Bank name & branch address:

Please return the completed and signed bankers order to:

Sarah Rayment, Treasurer, St Michael's Cof E School, 38 Crouch Hall Road, Crouch End N8 8HJ

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THIS DIRECT TO YOUR BANK