



St Mary's Church of England School

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is St Mary's Fund? St Mary's Fund is a fund that has been set up allowing parents to contribute monthly or give one-off donations, to help the school reduce its budget deficit in light of continued underfunding by government.

Am I required to pay? No – there is absolutely no requirement for any parent to pay in to St Mary's Fund, it is completely voluntary.

Is there a minimum I can pay? No – there is no minimum payment and all donations are very gratefully received.

Is there a maximum I can pay? No – we are always very grateful when parents make donations to the school. If some parents feel they wish to pay larger amounts then this would be of even greater help. We particularly value regular contributions which allow us to budget effectively.

How much do you need? We have calculated that if the majority of our 450 families donated between £25 and £50 per month, we could significantly reduce our deficit for this year and future years.

How can I donate? You can set up a standing order payment to FOSM, details below:

Account Name: The Friends of St Mary's Church of England Primary School (Twickenham)

Charity Commission Registered Number: 1026779

Account Number: 63497417

Sort Code: 60-22-03

Please label your standing order clearly with the reference **SMF and your surname** so it can be easily located. FOSM then transfer the donations into the school account. Thank you so much for your on-going support.

I already donate through FOSM, why should I donate to the fund? FOSM will continue to play a vital part in fundraising at St Mary's. The money they raise will largely be for specific projects whereas the fund will be used for other essential expenditure. Both benefit the children.

What will the fund be used for? The fund will help bridge the gap between our current funding shortfall and our necessary expenditure. Crucially, the money will not be ring-fenced so will be able to be used across all expenditure items according to the school's needs.

Can the school claim Gift Aid on my donations? Whilst the school cannot, FoSM have altered their charter to enable Gift Aid to be claimed on all donations. Once your standing order is set up, our School Business Manager will be in touch with a form that requires completing which will then allow Gift Aid to be claimed for all future donations, as well as any made since April 2018.

Would payment to the fund be in lieu of other voluntary contributions? No – this fund is completely separate so we would still need parents to pay contributions towards trips, visits and workshops to ensure we can continue to offer exciting opportunities to further enrich the children’s learning.

I don’t agree with this fund – shouldn’t St Mary’s be getting their money from the government? Schools are increasingly having to source alternative streams of funding in order to meet rising costs, to ensure that current pupils are not at a disadvantage. Over recent years, funding per pupil has decreased to what we feel are unsustainable levels, whilst pension and national insurance contributions, as well as cost of living expenses such as utilities, have all increased. This shortfall between funding and expenditure is exacerbated by the extra costs we incur for being a multi-site school.

If we donate, aren’t we reducing the need for government to pay more? In an ideal world, the government would be putting more in the overall education pot, however currently they aren’t. The worry is that it is our children, today, who will feel the impact if we are unable to generate increased revenue.

My workplace offers payroll giving or matched funding – is there any way I can use this for my contributions to the school? Yes – we have attached a list of those firms who provide payroll giving options and/or matched funding. If yours is one of those, please do check their policy to see if your regular contributions to St Mary’s Fund (via FOSM) are eligible. We also know that many firms match the funds raised for sporting events – for example a sponsored swim, walk or run – and that you can use FOSM as the registered charity for this.