



Context

Over the past year the staff and governors at St Peter's have worked hard to ensure that the quality of education for your children is of the highest standard, against a challenging financial backdrop.

Whilst we have again managed to deliver a balanced budget for 2017/18, it is becoming more challenging to do this and also balance the upkeep of the school, investment in tools to deliver a broad curriculum, and ensure we have the right staff structure in place.

At our most recent parent-governor forum you said that it would be useful to understand more about this, and so this report is intended to highlight some of the things that we feel would be helpful for parents to be aware of.

The vast majority of St Peter's revenue funding is calculated based on pupil numbers and the amount of funding per pupil provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency remains the same irrespective of inflation. This means a basic entitlement of funding per pupil must support increasing costs, and also deliver the school's development plan.

Some other funding is received, but this is ringfenced to provide for certain policies including; raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils & closing the gap with their peers, and to support pupil specific Education, Health and Care Plans.

Your support, for example in all of the fundraising events through the Friends of St Peter's, are therefore incredibly important to the school and their impact should not be underestimated.

The school has been the subject of extensive works to improve the heating and fire systems together with replacement of windows in many of the classrooms. These improvements have been made possible due to our being part of the Yorkshire Causeway School Trust, and thankfully we now have a building which is much more fit for purpose.

The FOSP fundraising is enabling our next project - the construction of a first aid & hygiene room, due to be installed in the coming year. We will also be working with the trustees of the Yorkshire Causeway School Trust as they develop a buildings management programme for the future, and we will look to secure more funding to further improve the school buildings through this process.

That said we cannot rest on our laurels. Finance will continue to be difficult I am sure for a good few years to come, and we all have to continue striving to improve the environment that your children are educated in. There are some areas here where you can help.

Please ensure that payments for school dinners are made promptly, we currently have £1,074 outstanding in respect of school dinners, and the school simply doesn't have funding to cover this. In addition, valuable staff time – and the associated cost of this time – is spent chasing these payments up when it should be used to improve outcomes for children.

No funding is provided by either the government or local council to fund school trips. Funding comes from parents who are asked to make voluntary contributions, and the school is very grateful to all those parents who do contribute the amounts that the school requests. However, over the past two years the school has had to fund almost £5,000 in respect of children who attended trips based on parents agreeing to contribute, but where no contribution was received.

We recognise that in the current economic climate, for some families making the contributions that the school requests are sometimes difficult and the school is committed to ensuring inclusivity. If you are unable (or unwilling) to pay the cost of a trip, then please speak to Mrs Collins in advance so that appropriate provisions can be made.

Unfortunately, if insufficient contributions are raised to fund a trip then it will have to be cancelled and so without parental support in this area St Peter's will not be able to continue to offer the number & variety of trips that it has in recent years.

Finally, please do continue to support the Friends of St Peters and the hard work they are doing to make the school a better place for all pupils.

I hope you have found this useful, as Governors we have a responsibility to work with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and staff to provide an exciting and vibrant learning environment for the pupils at the school and we very much appreciate your continued support as parents in doing this.

Ant Barker (Finance Governor)