



School Funding Parental Forum:

You asked, we said...

In the past we have been asked for £25 for food/art resources does this mean we now had to pay £55 per child?

No – the £30 contribution will go towards these resources so you will not be asked for a further £25

Is the contribution compulsory?

No – it is as stated a donation

What will you use the funds for?

Some of the funding will go towards curriculum support i.e. Food/Art/Sports, depending on how much is contributed we would also like to improve the outside learning areas, fund transport to STEM/Sports/Cultural/wider enrichment activities that at present the school does not attend/cannot offer.

Why aren't you looking at other ways to raise money?

We are, we are very keen to set up a PTFA which will raise funding for the school. If we do this we can gain charity status which means we can apply gift aid (25%), we can also investigate setting up a school lottery that will also bring funding into the school

Why don't you do adult learning any more?

Adult learning cost the school more to run that was brought in as income. However we will continue to investigate community funding streams to see if this can be an option in the future

Why aren't you asking businesses for help?

We are – over the next 12 months the Head and the Governors will be working hard to strengthen/create partnerships with local businesses to improve resources i.e. sponsorship, volunteer support with reading in school, ICT equipment etc

Why do you need to ask for this contribution – is the school at risk?

We have worked hard to set a balanced budget for the next three years which protects staffing and the curriculum. However the budget is incredibly tight and it means we have to make tough decisions about what extra enrichment we can support as a school. Last term the school restructured the staffing and several cuts were made from the staffing group. The budget is efficient, as a result of restructure all staff in all areas of the school are taking on greater responsibility and

workload. We are managing this well and will continue to do so. We want a school offer that goes beyond qualifications and that 'lights fires' and inspires our children – that give our children memories, experiences, confidence as well as high quality qualifications.

Are lockers part of this contribution?

No – this parental choice in any case so to secure a locker £5 deposit will still be required

Can we not have help from local supermarkets?

We have already spoken to them however they can only offer a 10% discount on shopping in store. We will continue to explore this avenue however

Can we just communicate digitally/electronically to save costs?

We do use social media, school website, parental emails and text messages however there are a number of parents who do not access emails etc so have to ensure that information goes home via letter as well. We will continue to develop our systems to improve this communication however.

Are you accessing funding from Sport England?

Yes we are already part of a Cheshire EAST Sport England bid around sport and mental health. We continue to review bids annually to access funding

Will you tell us what you have spent the money on and how much you raised?

Yes we will write to all families to outline how we have used money and to thank the community for the voluntary donations, we will also recognise any other donations e.g. time/resources from the community

Do any other schools ask for a contribution?

Yes, several schools at both Primary and Secondary levels have asked for contributions for many years now. This is also common nationally and in the past MHS also asked for a contribution.

Will this money be used to fund staff hospitality/staff celebration events?

No. We take the well-being of our staff seriously but we would not use school fund for any staff event.

Thanks to all families who have engaged with the school either by attending this meeting or by communicating directly with the Head, we do hope this clarifies any queries/concerns you may have had.

Regards,

Heidi Thurland Headteacher

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