

## **Governors' Fund**

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **Is it mandatory to contribute to the Governors' fund if my child/children attend St. Joseph's?**

No.

All contributions to the Governors' fund are voluntary. It is fully acknowledged and appreciated that parents/carers contribute to the school in a huge variety of ways.

#### **Is the Governor's Fund a charity?**

Yes, the Governors' fund forms part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan charity (registered charity number 233699). All donations to the fund can only be used for the benefit of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

#### **Does the school claim a tax credit on my contributions?**

Donating through Gift Aid means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It won't cost you any extra if you are a basic or higher rate tax payer. The school office can provide a gift aid declaration if you have not already completed one. If you pay tax above the basic rate you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and basic rate on your donation.

#### **Can I contribute via my employer or can the employer match my contributions to the Governors' Fund?**

Yes, a number of employers run matched giving or payroll giving schemes.

Payroll Giving donations are deducted before tax so for every £1.00 that you give it will only cost you 80p, and if you're a higher or additional rate tax payer it will only cost you 60p or 55p. For higher rate and additional taxpayers this is the only way to pass on your 40% or 45% tax to charities.

In addition to potential increase tax benefits for the Governors' Fund if your employer operates a matched giving scheme then this will provide another increase to your contribution.

The Governors are aware that a number of employers will not operate matched giving where the charity concerned is a religious charity. If this is the case we would ask you to consider directing your contribution to the School Association which again is a charity but is typically not viewed as a religious charity.

If you decide to donate in this way please let the school office know. Your employer will use a government approved payroll giving agency to make the contribution to the Governors' Fund and to avoid any errors in payment the school office needs to be ware of your contribution.

#### **What is the difference between the School Association and the Governors' Fund?**

The School association and the Governors' fund both raise money for St. Joseph's. The money raised by the School Association typically comes from the events that they run. Donating regularly to the Governors' fund provides governors with visibility on future contributions and allows planning for the future.

**Can the money I donate to the Governors' fund be used for a purpose I specify?**

No, all monies donated to the Governors' fund are used for the benefit of all the children at the school. The Governors' in consultation with the Head approve the use of the funds collected.

**Can I stop my contributions?**

You are free to stop, decrease or increase your contributions at any time. It is fully understood that your circumstances may change, all we ask is that if you are making a change please let the school office know. This will help them when ensuring that all your contributions are received and not misdirected.