

St John's Financial Sustainability Plan and FOSJ+

Schools across the country are facing sustained budget cuts, including St John's. We have managed this pressure for five years, but we are now working towards a long-term sustainable plan. We are committed to ensuring St John's maintains the highest educational standards for our children.

How can parents and carers help?

We know that the school already asks you to contribute to trips, clubs, fundraising and the buildings maintenance scheme. We have explored ways to maximise our fundraising by looking at what other schools do, and we have identified some monetary and non-monetary ways in which we need more help.

1. Financial contributions: FOSJ+

We want to have an enriching learning environment for the children, but there is no longer any money for certain capital expenditure and core curriculum needs, apart from what we raise. Friends of St Johns does a terrific job at fundraising at certain points in the year, like the fantastic recent auction, although such activity is not eligible for Gift Aid.

To expand on the work of FOSJ and enable us to raise money more steadily, we are setting up a new foundation, called FOSJ+.

FOSJ+ will enable people to make regular pledges by standing order, if they choose, and it will allow us to get tax benefits on donations, as these qualify for Gift Aid. Regular contributions help us to plan better than one-off fundraising moments and these funds support the school with core equipment and resources. For example:

- A one-off £50 donation helps buy classroom resources like stationery and textbooks
- £100 or £10 per month helps buy musical instruments, art materials or sports equipment
- £250 helps pay for IT equipment like interactive white boards, apps, software licenses
- £400 buys annual school dinners for a child in other London boroughs – this is what you save by being in Islington, which provides them for free, at roughly £2 per day
- £500 buys one year-group's reading books or phonics training for our teachers
- £3000 buys the school curriculum resources for PHSE lessons (physical, social, health and economic lessons)



We are aware that asking some parents to donate more regularly is a big ask. We understand that not everyone will be able to contribute beyond what they already provide for their children. However, there are other ways to help, for example anyone eligible for free school meals can help St John's get the right pupil funding by ensuring their child is registered with the council. See this link:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/benefits-and-financial-support/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grant/>

2. Time & expertise

Part of our sustainable plan is maximising revenue from our existing assets and creating new channels of continuous income. Could you help? We are looking for people to fill these voluntary roles:

Project lead - St John's ventures

The School and Governing Board is looking to recruit a parent or carer to help with fundraising. StJHV currently receives a small income from renting out its facilities but we would like to formalise the process and increase this amount significantly. We are looking for someone with a bit of entrepreneurial flair who could volunteer some time to lead on researching opportunities, advertising the facilities and negotiating with interested parties. If this is of interest, please email probinson@stjhv.islington.sch.uk.

FOSJ Treasurer

We need someone to be responsible for various ad hoc tasks such as production and independent review of the annual accounts and the completion of the annual return for the Charity Commission. You do not have to be an accountant, but ideally you would have some knowledge of Excel and have some previous financial or book-keeping experience. The new volunteer would be the book-keeper giving regular updates to the Head Teacher and chairs on the financial position of FOSJ. Overall time commitment should not be more than a couple of hours per month on average, although the tasks are ad hoc in nature and hence more likely to be focused at year end. If you think you can help please contact Alison Hamilton (outgoing Treasurer) alisonshamilton@hotmail.com or the joint chairs of FOSJ: Emma McNeely emma.j.mcneely@gmail.com, Becky Osborn beckyandguy@blueyonder.co.uk, Anna Sharp annaesharp@yahoo.co.uk

Gift Aid Administrator

FOSJ needs some help setting up the Gift Aid scheme and also completing the annual gift aid forms once the scheme has been set up. After initial set up, this should be an annual task. No accounting experience necessary - you just need to be organised and willing to help. A few hours will be needed to organise the initial set up and then a few hours each year to complete the annual returns. If you think you can help please contact Alison Hamilton (outgoing Treasurer) alisonshamilton@hotmail.com or the joint chairs of FOSJ: Emma McNeely emma.j.mcneely@gmail.com, Becky Osborn beckyandguy@blueyonder.co.uk, Anna Sharp annaesharp@yahoo.co.uk.

3. General support

We need to raise money any way we can, so we'd like to encourage parents to rent our parish hall (Maberly Hall) for children's birthday parties or other weekend/evening activities. The money we receive from this is a huge benefit to the school, for example, it allowed us to refit the space with cooking equipment for the children that they all now use regularly.

We can reassure you we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to fundraise for the good of all our children. Our priority is protecting the highest educational standards for them. Thank you for your continued support and if you can think of other ways you can help then we are always open to suggestions.

Yours,

Lindsey Hodgson, Acting Headteacher
Harry Oulton, Chair of Governors

The FOSJ+ foundation has been set up to extend the fundraising work of Friends of St Johns (FOSJ). It gives people the opportunity to support the school through regular contributions by standing order, and is eligible for Gift Aid.

It is easy to set up a standing order online with your bank. Anyone who wishes to donate to the FOSJ+ foundation can make payments directly into the dedicated FOSJ HSBC bank account below:

Bank Address:

Lion House
25 Islington High Street
London, N1 9LJ

Account name: Friends of St Johns Highbury Vale
Sort code: 40-03-33
Account number: 51836153

Please note that this is a different bank account to the FOSJ account that people have been used to paying into previously for clubs. We are keeping foundation funds separate, partly to simplify the administration of gift aid, which is applicable to gifts to the foundation but does not apply to all other FOSJ income streams.

Pledge Form

If you decide to set up a standing order it would help us with our planning to know what you intend to give. Please complete the pledge form below and then return this to the School Office with the Gift Aid declaration, if applicable.

Details of your standing order for our records:

Name:

Start date:

Amount of standing order:

Frequency: on the same date each succeeding month/year *(delete as appropriate)*

Until *(date)*/until further notice *(delete as appropriate)*

Or

I cannot commit to an ongoing contribution but plan to make a one-off

donation of:



St. John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School
Conewood Street, Islington, London, N5 1DL

Gift Aid Declaration

Completing and signing this declaration will enable Friends of St John's to reclaim tax on any donations you have made in the last six years or intend to make at any time in the future to the above-named school.

I declare that I wish the Trustees of the Friends of St John's (registered charity no 274172) to reclaim tax on all donations I have made in the six years preceding the date of this declaration or any donations that I make thereafter to the above named school.

I am currently a taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to or more than the tax reclaimed on my donation. I understand that in the event that I stop paying such tax, I will inform the Trustees of the Friends of St John's who will stop reclaiming tax on my donations.

Signature:

Date:

Full Name:

Address:

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Post Code:

Please return this information to the FOSJ Treasurer via the School Office or email to

admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk. Thank you.