



Welcome to the PSA!

(Parent School Association)

St. Aidan's is a registered charity:

Ref no: 1131828

St Aidan's N4 Parent School Association

What is the PSA?

The PSA (Parent School Association) is a parent-led charity, which works closely with the school by fundraising to provide additional resources for the children of St Aidan's.

Our aims and objectives as stated on the Charity Commission website:

"The objectives of the Charity are to support the school and to raise funds to provide additional resources to improve the learning environment and to bring to St Aidan's a stronger sense of community, a more effective level of parent involvement.

To advance the education of pupils in the School in particular by: Developing effective relationships between the staff parents and others associated with the school; Engaging in activities or providing facilities or equipment which support the School and advance the education of the pupils"

The last 2 years we have faced significant challenges to our usual program of fundraising events due to Covid. But through hard work and a great community spirit we have managed to maintain the level of funds available, a fantastic result.

Just as an example, in the last year alone we have funded the outside toilet refurbishment at around £20,000, as well as continuing to cover the costs for whole class instrument teaching (yr4) and paying for the school to employ a Counsellor.

We also provide an annual grant to all classes to enable teaching staff to buy teaching materials and books as well as funding fruit for key stage 2 children. Additional annual grants are provided to the school garden and school council as well as monies for after school clubs and music resources. All of this is funded by money made from parent-led activity.

The cuts in state funding mean that the PSA is more important than ever. We're very lucky for the enthusiasm and energy of the parent/carer community and we welcome participation from new parents to the school. This year we will be sending out a survey to all parents to gauge opinion on whether the PSA should help to pay for curriculum and other core educational needs. Historically we have made a conscious choice not to step into this area of funding, but the current financial position of the school and inadequate financial aid from local government means we may need to help the school in other ways.

More detail on this to follow soon.

Class Reps

Each class has several representatives who help communicate PSA activity to the rest of their class's parents and carers. Most groups communicate by either WhatsApp or via email.

Apart from participating in the decision making at PSA meetings and passing on information to parents, Class reps are usually responsible for organising a cake sale once a year and coordinating thank you cards for teaching staff at the end of Christmas & Summer terms. It also involves encouraging parents and carers to volunteer at fundraising events such as the Summer and Christmas Fairs.

If you would like to attend the PSA meetings you are more than welcome. Meetings take place once every half a term – please do come along, it's a great way to find out more about what happens behind the scenes at school and generally meet and chat to other parents.

Dates and times for the meetings are posted in fortnightly Headlines newsletters. We also post notification on the PSA noticeboard at the school entrance.

Current PSA committee members - 2021-2022

Anne-Louise Craven	Chair (out going)
Alexandra O'Dell	Secretary
David Sansom	Treasurer
Kerryn Rossander	Assistant Treasurer

Anne Etchells	Trustee
Jetta Norton	Trustee
Elaine Gutzmore	Trustee

RED CLASS

Polly Akeroyd

Jo Johnston

ORANGE CLASS

Sophie McCullagh

Susie Braun

Will Davies

YELLOW CLASS

Linda Von Naree

Alison Moriarty

Laura McGill

GREEN CLASS

Ela Karel

BLUE CLASS

Lucy Lorraine

Tom Way

Sandra Mai Hamilton

INDIGO CLASS

Anu Liisanantti

Hannah Robson

PURPLE CLASS

Jessica Wilson Davies

Juliet Thornback

Matched Funding

Matched funding allows companies to benefit from tax incentives by matching the amount raised by a stall or an event within St. Aidan's. Not all companies support matched funding – but yours might. It means that the PSA, as a registered charity, effectively receives much more than the amount it actually takes on the day of a fair.

If you work for a plc, they will probably have a provision for this in place. Some companies will simply donate a discretionary amount to charitable events. Our school and PSA events will be of interest to many businesses as they are local, education-based and run by the community, so fulfilling many of the criteria for their corporate tax incentive.

Many companies have a yearly set budget that they have to spend on charity. This is free money for us and goes directly to St Aidan's. Contact your Human Resources department and find out how they can help.

An example email is available that you are welcome to forward onto the necessary people if it makes life easier. Please contact the PSA chairs if you would like a copy of this email.

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Voluntary donations to St Aidan's

If you wish to make a voluntary donations to St Aidan's PSA, you can do this via <https://www.justgiving.com/staidansschoolpsa> which takes advantage of a 25% additional contribution from HMRC for all UK taxpayers.

Free Money

Please can everyone take a few moments to sign up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/staidans/

This is a site that donates money to charitable cause via retailers. If you buy anything online, and the retailer is also signed up to **easyfundraising** (many are – John Lewis, Argos, Boden and many more), a percentage of what you spend will be donated by the retailer to our school. It costs you nothing at all.

Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/staidans/ and create an account by going through the very easy, intuitive steps, if you have any problems don't hesitate to contact the PSA chairs.

Another 'free money' opportunity is Amazon Smile. Head to www.smile.amazon.co.uk and select **St Aidan's N4 Parent School Association** as your designated charity, the site will record this and a % of every purchase you make will go to St Aidan's. One thing to remember is to always access Amazon via the www.smile.amazon.uk URL.

St. Aidan's school garden

If you are relatively new to the school, you might not be aware of the massive transformation the school garden went through a few years ago.

This compact space was wildly overgrown, with a few vegetables poking through, but mainly weeds! The teachers found it hard to maintain and the pond was becoming dangerous. As such, the area was kept locked, except to allow the children to fling their scooters in during class time!

Go and have a look at it now – it's a great space! Turn left before the front door of the school and head through the gate behind the ball court.

We have won several awards for our beautiful new space (including winner of "Haringey-in-Bloom" 2013 Greener School Grounds). The children come in to sow, tidy, water and harvest their crops and the school kitchen even uses their produce, including salad leaves, herbs, radishes, potatoes, cucumbers and raspberries in the school meals!

Classes sometimes use the garden for lessons relevant to their term's curriculum and each class maintains their own bed in the vegetable patch. The children learn about wildlife, organic harvesting (no pesticides are allowed in the garden) and lessons are taken under the apple tree in the summer, sitting on the tree stump stools.

The success of this garden relies on parents and carers volunteering - and we're hoping that there are a few new people joining the school who might be interested in volunteering once in a while. The children are not allowed in the garden unless there are enough adults to help, so it's vital that we have a strong team of helpers. The children absolutely love being in the garden and we believe it to be an incredibly important part of their learning and in fact, general wellbeing.

Volunteering involves about an hour a week. You don't need to have any gardening knowledge, you will have a team of people to support you, although support from knowledgeable gardeners is also very welcome!

Please talk to Louisa in the school office or contact any of the parent volunteers on the list below if you think you can help.

Hannah Robson hannahfayrobson@gmail.com

Susie May susie.m.may@gmail.com>

Handy hits for New Parents

A few things that can otherwise take ages to find out if you're a new parent

KS1

Means Key Stage One and covers from Nursery to Year 2. This is also the Infant stage. Nursery and Red class (reception) are also known as the Foundation Stage.

KS2

Means Key Stage Two and covers Year 3 until Year 6. This is the Junior stage.

PSA meetings

PSA meetings are held once every half of term in the school hall, usually a Monday from 7.30 – 8.30pm. dates will be posted ahead of time in Headlines and on the school noticeboard.

School Hall

The school hall is available to hire for parties or gatherings at the weekend, at a reasonable fee that goes back into the school. Please see Louisa in the school office if you're interested.

PSA board

Keep an eye out for notices on the PSA boards situation on the outside railings adjacent to the school entrance on Stapleton Hall Road

Cake sales

Each class has one cake sale per year, where parents (and children) can make cakes to sell in the playground at 3.15pm. The money made from each cake sale goes towards a non-curricular activity for that class or classroom materials (The activity is chosen by the teacher) Previous activities have included class bowling outings; trips to the park & ice-creams or our local Park Theatre.

Lost property

Lost property is generally put out at pick-up and drop off times. You'll find it in a box near the school office. If you need to look for anything urgently, contact Louisa in the office.

Christmas & Summer Fair

The PSA has a limited budget for the Christmas and Summer Fair. Everything else comes from kind donations or is sourced for free.

School uniform

You can buy school uniform and PE kit from the school office. There are also used-school uniform sales throughout the year.

Volunteering

As well as volunteering to help out at PSA fundraising events the school is always delighted to have people who can do a few one-on-one reading sessions with children; help out in the garden, or school outing volunteers (your class teacher will ask when these are coming up). Contact Anne Etchells or your class teacher if you can help with reading once a week.

Facebook Group

You can join up to the St. Aidan's PSA Facebook group where there's information about PSA, events and activities as well as local buying, selling and recommendations.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2844727769097636/>