



## Chair's Report, Autumn 2023

The purpose of St Aidan's PSA is to raise much-needed money to enrich our children's education and to enhance their school experience. Last year was the first full school year free from the restrictions associated with the pandemic, so the PSA was able to run a full calendar of events. We try to achieve a good balance of fundraising events and activities, as well as regular cost-free enrichment for the children: In addition to our three fundraising events last year (two fairs and a quiz evening), we also organised a free play-street event and the Big St Aidan's Book-Swap to enhance the school's participation in World Book Day.

### What we fund

This year, the PSA has funded the refurbishment of the toilets in nursery, the provision of the school counsellor, whole-class instrumental tuition (WCIT) for Y4, ICT support, and subscriptions to Mathematics Mastery, Target Tracker, and the Islington Educational Library Service. In addition, the PSA also gives an annual grant of £6,200 to the school, which covers fruit, books and other needful materials for each class, sports equipment and items for the school garden. The PSA also funded other annual school expenses including the replenishment of school reading books, music resources, staff training, and subsidies for class trips, to the tune of c.£48k.

### The financial position

In 2020 the PSA Chair reported that for the first time in many years, St Aidan's had formally declared a budget deficit due to the shortfall in Government funding. The official predicted deficit for this year is c.£170k. The message from the Chair of Governors is that the school's finances are extremely challenging: the combination of rising energy prices, costs rising with inflation not matched by funding increases, and cuts to public services, means that the situation is not going to improve. We all recognise how very challenging things are for our families and that many families may not be able to contribute, but any financial support will help.

### Last year's fundraising

During the 2022/23 academic year the PSA put on several fundraising events.

Christmas party and disco in 2022 raised £5,397

Christmas card project raised around £810.90

Quiz Night and raffle in February 2023 raised £1,486.23

Summer Fair and auction in June 2023 raised £13,132.23

Additional funds were generated by class cakes sales, plant & produce sales from the school garden, and second-hand uniform sales. These events involved a huge amount of dedication and effort, and we are extremely grateful for the enthusiasm, engagement and generosity of the school community.

We are also grateful for all donations from individuals, whether one-off or regular, and the ongoing sponsorship of David Andrew estate agents.



### Ongoing fundraising

In addition to our various fundraising events we are continuing to request voluntary donations from parents and carers. These can be made by Direct Debit, or through our JustGiving page. We are hugely appreciative of all such donations, and we maximise their impact by claiming Gift Aid and by registering with Just Giving and the Charitable Aid Foundation (CAF).

Our Gift Aid reference is EW81656

Here are the links:

[www.justgiving.com/staidansschoolpsa](http://www.justgiving.com/staidansschoolpsa)

[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), and find us there as 'St Aidan's N4 Parent School Association'

And our bank details:

Bank: HSBC

Acct Name: St Aidan's N4 Parent School Association

Sort code: 40 01 06

Acct No: 41880837

### Match-funding

The PSA is also very keen to release funds that might be available through any corporate match-funding schemes, whereby companies benefit from tax incentives by matching the amount raised by employees for their chosen charity.

### Thanks and succession planning

Thanks to our outgoing officers, Ali O'Dell (Secretary), and David Sansom (Treasurer).

This year we will also need to replace Kerryn Rossander as Assistant Treasurer, and me as Chair.

### Future plans

Our goals for the new academic year are to optimize our fundraising activities, and to find new fundraising opportunities (any ideas welcome). We have some exciting ideas for events in the coming year, through which we hope to fulfil the PSA's objectives as a registered charity, which 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, and a more effective level of parent involvement.'*

Susie May

Chair, St Aidan's PSA