



Welcome to the PSA

(Parent School Association)

What is the PSA?

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

Who is in the PSA?

As parents and carers of children attending the school, you are automatically members of the PSA, along with the school staff.

Organisation

The St Aidan's PSA is organised as follows:

- We have an elected Committee, consisting of the Chair, the Treasurer, the Secretary (all of whom are parents), two staff representatives, at least one school governor, and...
- Each class has one or more Class Representatives, who attend PSA meetings and liaise with parents and carers to share information and to help make things happen.
- All parents, carers and staff at St Aidan's are automatically members of the PSA and are welcome to attend all meetings and events. It is, however, your choice how much you contribute in terms of time and donations. You can do as little or as much as you want with no pressure. For fund-raising events, we like as many parents and carers as possible to be involved, as requested and guided by Class Reps.

The Committee is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting, which takes place in the first half of the Autumn term.

Class Reps are responsible for organising a class cake-sale once a year and coordinating thankyou cards for teaching staff at the end of Christmas and Summer terms. They encourage and organise parents and carers to volunteer at our various fundraising events throughout the year.

If you have any fundraising ideas, or would like to organize a particular event or initiative, please don't be shy or wait to be asked! You don't have to be a Class Rep to be involved. Make yourself known to your Class Rep, or to the Committee (see our contact details below). Our Christmas card project operates on this basis, for example.

When does the PSA meet?

Meetings take place once every half a term, in the school hall. It's usually just Class Reps who come, but meetings are open to everyone, and it's a great way to find out more about what happens behind the scenes at school and how you can be involved. Dates and times for the meetings are posted in the fortnightly Headlines newsletters as well as on the school noticeboard at the front gate.

How will I hear from the PSA?

St Aidan's is a green school, so we try to keep communications paperless where possible. Most PSA news will be published through the fortnightly Headlines, and also on our noticeboard by the main gate.

Fundraising

Cuts in state funding mean that the fundraising efforts of the PSA are more important than ever. It's a sad reality that the sorts of things that the government once funded through the local authority (and which many people think are still government- or council-funded) are now in fact funded by the PSA.

In 2020 the PSA Chair reported that for the first time in many years, St Aidan's (not the PSA itself) had formally declared a budget deficit due to the shortfall in Government funding. The predicted deficit for this year is c.£170k.

So the school's finances are extremely challenging. State funding is given to the school per pupil, but pupil numbers are falling nationally, and not all the classes in St Aidan's are full. Combine this situation with rising energy prices, costs rising with inflation not matched by funding increases, and it's clear 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. We're very lucky to have an enthusiastic and engaged parent-carer community, and we welcome participation – both financial and practical – from everyone.

How is the money spent?

Last year, the money raised by the PSA through donations and several fundraising events helped to fund the refurbishment of the toilets in Nursery, the provision of the school counsellor, whole-class instrumental tuition (WCIT) for Y4, ICT support, items for the school garden, and subscriptions to Mathematics Mastery, Target Tracker, and the Islington Educational Library Service.

More recently, we have funded the refurbishment of the Orange class toilets, and this coming year we hope to provide around £24,000 in order to continue the provision of all the services that we funded last year.

If you'd like to look at our annual accounts, you can find them on the Charity Commission website using our charity reference number: 1131828.

How to donate

In addition to our various fundraising events we are continuing to request voluntary donations from parents and carers. 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).

Donations can be made by Direct Debit:

Bank: HSBC

Acct Name: St Aidan's N4 Parent School Association

Sort code: 40 01 06; Acct No: 41880837

...or through our JustGiving page, which takes advantage of an additional 25% contribution form HMRC for all UK taxpayers: www.justgiving.com/staidansschoolpsa

Free money!

Matched funding

This is a scheme whereby some companies will match and donate the amount raised by your fundraising efforts for St Aidan's PSA.

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. Many have a yearly budget to spend on charitable giving. Our school and PSA events will be of interest to many businesses as they are local, education-based and run by the community, thereby fulfilling many of the criteria for their corporate tax incentive.

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. We can provide a template email for you to forward to the necessary people if it makes life easier.

St. Aidan's is a registered charity:

Ref no: 1131828

Name: St Aidan's N4 Parent School Association

Fundraise as you spend

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Register on this website and a percentage of your spending with the participating retailers (too many to list here) will be donated by the retailer to the PSA. It costs you nothing!

On the website, go to 'find a cause', and type in '**St Aidan's Voluntary...**' We will come up as 'St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Stroud Green'. From that point it's easy to create an account. The site will offer you the 'donation reminder bar', which helpfully pops up when you're shopping on a site that donates.

David Andrew Estate Agents

We are delighted that this year we are once again working in partnership with David Andrew. This independently-owned estate agency, based in North London, was established in 1994 and has a network of four offices, including a local branch at 167 Stroud Green Road. Over the last decade, they have kindly supported our PSA events (including the Summer and Christmas fairs) and helped all our fundraising efforts.

Over and above their sponsorship of the school, David Andrew also pledge that they will donate 10% of any fee they receive from an instruction via a direct recommendation to sell or let/manage a property belonging to a staff-member, parent/carer or anybody connected to St Aidan's.

Obviously, this could be of enormous financial benefit to the school, so if you, or anyone you know, is looking to sell or let their property, please get in touch with David Andrew by calling Mark Campbell on 020 7281 2000 to arrange a free valuation.

"The St Aidan's Primary School PSA have been delighted to continue our decade-long partnership with David Andrew Estate Agents, and have especially valued their local, friendly and community-minded approach. My own family had very positive experiences both selling our previous house and buying our current house through David Andrew, so I am pleased we have been able to maintain this relationship through the agency's sponsorship of the school's PSA events."

Laura McGill, ex St. Aidan's Parent.

David Andrew
167 Stroud Green Road
N4 3PZ

020 7281 2000
MARK@DAVIDANDREW.CO.UK



The School Garden

If you are relatively new to the school, you might not be aware of the garden, which is behind the ball court, to the left of the school building as you enter the front gate.

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. Unless regularly tended, the garden becomes wildly overgrown and unusable. The children are not allowed in the garden unless under adult supervision, 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 general wellbeing.

Classes sometimes use the garden for lessons relevant to their term's curriculum. Whole-school projects over the last couple of years have included a squash-growing competition, a sunflower competition, and planting a rainbow of spring bulbs in each class colour along one of the long beds. The quiet space on the top level of the garden is also used for breakout sessions, meetings, and an extra space for staff to enjoy their lunch breaks.

Currently, a team of parent volunteers runs a gardening club for KS2 children on a Friday lunchtime. The children come in to dig, weed, prepare beds, sow, tidy, water and harvest their crops. The school kitchen uses their produce, including salad leaves, herbs, radishes, potatoes, squashes, courgettes, onions, leeks, tomatoes, cucumbers and raspberries in the school meals. Other parent volunteers who aren't available on Friday lunchtimes come into the garden at other times to carry out various tasks.

Volunteering involves about an hour a week. The more volunteers we have on any given Friday, the more children can attend the club. (We sadly sometimes have to turn away some eager young gardeners when we can't provide adequate supervision.) 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 Liberty Mosse if you'd like to help.
Libertymosse@yahoo.co.uk

PSA committee members 2023/24

Susie May	Chair	susie.m.may@gmail.com
Nanna Soenya	Joint Secretary	
Jen Paker	Joint Secretary	
Niamh Riddell-Carre	Treasurer	
Another great volunteer	Assistant Treasurer	

RED CLASS REPS

Clare Plested

Nicola Dyball

Caia Daly

ORANGE CLASS REPS

Nanna Soenya

Rosie Bradford

Jo Gate-Eastley

YELLOW CLASS REPS

Jen Paker

Sharon Rubin

Kim Greaves

GREEN CLASS REPS

Henry Mance

Nic Stacey

Sarah Harkins

BLUE CLASS REPS

Katherine Bell

Lucy Lorraine

Leah Woodburn

INDIGO CLASS REPS

Lina Burduk

Simon Vacher

PURPLE CLASS REPS

Cas Goldson

Giles Massie-Taylor

Glossary 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 known as 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 from 7.30–8.30pm

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

The PSA noticeboard is on the outside railings next to the school entrance on Stapleton Hall Road.

Cake sales

Each class has one cake sale per year, for which 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. The activity is chosen by the teacher. Previous activities have included class bowling outings, subsidized trips to the theatre, and visits to the park with ice creams.

Lost property

Lost property is put in the trunk by the front door to the school, so that you can look for lost items at any time.

Summer Fair

This is the PSA's main fundraising event of the year, and is an enormous – and joyful! – collective community effort. Parents of each class group are given the responsibility to run particular stalls or attractions, for which your class reps will recruit volunteers.

School uniform

You can buy school uniform and PE kit on SchoolMoney, and collect it from the school office. There are also second-hand school uniform sales throughout the year.

Volunteering

The school is always delighted to have volunteers for one-to-one reading sessions with children, help in the garden, or to help on school outings (your class teacher will ask when these are coming up). Please contact your class teacher if you can help with reading once a week.