

SCHOOL FUND

Hillcross Primary School

What is the School Fund?

Our school fund is used to finance activities that are not generally supported by funding from the Local Authority. Income to the fund is obtained from fund raising and voluntary contributions. The purpose of the school fund is to provide additional materials and opportunities to enhance the learning experiences of children.

The realities of school funding

Each year we identify essentials that the school can afford to provide from the main school budget and other funds direct from government sources. Unfortunately we have seen a reduction in funding over the last few years and we do not have the resources to pay for many of the additional resources and experiences we have been able to provide in the past. The reduction in funding is likely to continue and contributions to school fund will become even more crucial to the on-going improvement of the school.

How have we used School Fund this year?

We have provided exciting learning opportunities such as visits from the Quantum Theatre Company—to enhance children’s grammatical understanding at an age appropriate level and the Little Stories Theatre Company—promoting children’s understanding of how to keep themselves safe. We have also been able to update the Junior Librarian system and to buy cooking ingredients, equipment for lunchtime play and resources for our whole school science day and e-safety week.

Giving children access to the right opportunities and providing high quality resources can make a real difference to their progress. We will need to work together if we are to continue to ensure the children at Hillcross have access to excellent equipment and a range of inspiring and memorable experiences that will enhance their learning and development.



What else does school fund pay for?

- High quality reading books – children of all ages need a constant supply of attractive books in order to become motivated readers.
- Science and technology resources – teaching topics such as electricity, magnetism and control technology requires expensive resources, particularly if we are to have enough for whole class participation.
- Investment in technologies (ICT) – to support learning in the classroom we need to invest at least £10/20,000 per year in developing and maintaining suitable software and hardware resources for ICT.
- Playground play and sports equipment
- Maintaining the trim trails

As school funding tightens further we are also going to become more dependent on the school fund, PTA and parental contacts to support larger scale projects such as those listed on the next page.

What else could the school fund contribute towards?

The children, staff and governors at Hillcross are continually looking at ways to develop and improve the school and we have a rolling programme of projects to continue the development of our school and enhance learning even further. Specific ventures include:

- Ensuring teaching and learning resources are replenished and updated to enable coverage of the new National Curriculum e.g. dictionaries/Thesauruses (English) and portable cooking equipment (DT). **Estimated cost £20,000.**
- New playground markings. **Estimated Cost £15,000.**
- Developing additional learning spaces in the internal quad areas outside the gym. **Estimated cost £5,000.**
- Putting up a canopy in the year 1 playground. **Estimated cost £20,000**
- Further developing the outside environment to include a pond, an outdoor classroom, erecting shade sails, planters and erecting new permanent play equipment. **Estimated Cost £80,000** – we will be taking this one step at a time!!

Less exciting projects but those that will make a huge difference to the environment and promote teaching and learning include:

- Replacing blinds in the existing school building. **Estimated cost £5,000**
- Replacing worn classroom carpets in the existing school building. **Estimated cost £10,000**
- Continuing to improve storage around school. This doesn't sound exciting but it makes a huge difference to the environment and keeps our resources in good order. **Estimated cost £10,000**
- Buying new classroom furniture to replace old and broken desks, chairs etc. **Estimated cost £10,000**
- Signage to make access to and within the school building clearer. **Estimated cost £5,000**

How can I make a contribution?

There are a number of ways you can voluntarily contribute to our school fund:

- Parentpay – we suggest a donation of £30 (£10 per term) per child, although the amount given is up to the individual.
- Monthly Standing Order - we suggest £5 (per month, although the amount given is up to the individual.
- Cash/cheque

Of course, families are free to donate a larger amount if circumstances allow. Anyone who is unable to make the suggested level of donation is welcome to make a smaller contribution and/or perhaps give their time to help in school or at PTA fund-raising events - our PTA works hard to fundraise for specific projects.

The School Trust Fund is a registered charity and we are therefore able to claim Gift Aid back from the Inland Revenue on eligible donations: if you are a tax payer and complete a Gift Aid declaration, every pound donated by you is worth £1.25 to the school, making your donation go even further!

The names of contributing families and the amounts of individual contributions are kept completely confidential. Whether a parent contributes or not will in no way affect the way any child is treated at school.

Many thanks for your support, by making a contribution you can make a real difference to our school.

You can also show your support by getting involved in PTA fundraising events and activities and by letting us know if you have contacts or experience relevant to any of the projects mentioned above. Please contact the school office if you or someone you know may be able to help by calling 0208 542 6936 or emailing info@hillcross.merton.sch.uk