

St Bartholomew's Charity Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this fundraising appeal necessary, doesn't the government or church fund capital costs?

The government funding the school receives is an amount per child available to the school to spend over the budget year. Most of the government funding is allocated to teacher and staff costs and the remainder is allocated to provide curriculum resources. It doesn't cover capital or building renovation costs as St Bart's is a Church of England Voluntary Aided School.

Like many C of E Voluntary Aided Schools, St Bartholomew's must by law contribute 10% towards the cost of maintaining its buildings and facilities. Once the school has raised the 10%, it can then apply to church sources (Diocese of Guildford) to provide the remaining 90% required.

The school annually spends c£180,000 on building refurbishments. The church funds 90% of this, meaning the school regularly has to raise 10%, or £18,000 each year.

In the past, we have successfully secured the shortfall from an external charitable trust alongside regular parent or governor donations. Sadly, our regular parent donations have dwindled to only a handful per month, and major projects completed in the last three years are impacting the remaining monies in the charitable trust.

We are now in a position where we have to raise more of this money ourselves, year on year. Hence the urgent need for a regular giving appeal.

Why appeal to parents for the money to maintain school buildings?

The governors of the school are duty bound to ensure the schools funding is sustainable.

With governmental cuts and pressures on funding across the board, the only sustainable way for the school to raise the additional £18,000 a year for building developments and improvements, is to appeal to parents of children at the school to make regular donations.

The predictable nature of monthly donations will hopefully enable the school's management team to effectively plan for necessary capital improvements and repairs.

Setting up a regular donation to the school is entirely voluntary.

We passionately believe that no one should feel compelled or pressured into donating money, rather we want every family to feel inspired to offer support at a level comfortable for them. And to be pleased to have the opportunity to individually give a little, and collectively to achieve a lot.

The monies donated through regular donations will go towards funding capital improvements to benefit all children at the school.

Why is the suggested donation £10 a month?

Fundraising experience and modelling show that in order to reach the £18,000 target, we are likely to need an 'average monthly gift' of £10 per family donating.

This is why the figure of £10 a month has been suggested.

We do however realise that £10 a month is a not an insignificant sum of money.

It is our hope by suggesting the average amount we need, and by making clear that families are welcome to give what they wish - we will achieve target through some families giving more and some giving less.

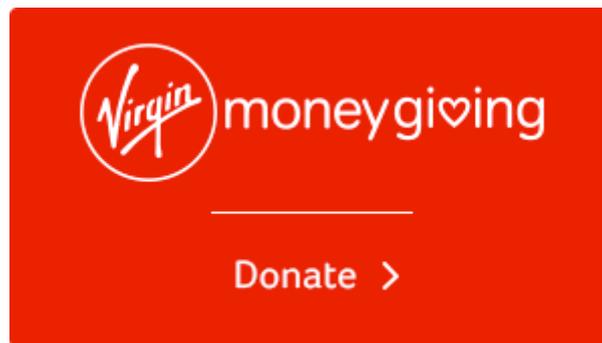
It is important that no one feels compelled or pressured into supporting this appeal, rather we want every family to feel inspired to support the school and delighted with the opportunity to donate a small amount each month, and collectively to join together to help make a huge difference.

Every regular donation, even £1 a month, is valued.

Parents, carers, grandparents, alumni are all welcome to make donations. The more the merrier.

How can I sign up to make a regular donation to the school?

To set up your regular donation to support St Bart's;



Then simply click on 'donate', set a regular donation and follow the logical steps

Please complete the 'gift aid' section if you are eligible – it adds 25% to your donation!

Thank you in advance for your support – this is our preferred means of collecting donations.

A thank you for your donation will be sent each month by us. We shall provide all regular supporters with a bespoke thank you and update in Spring and Autumn.

I am concerned about the Virgin Money Giving Fees; how can I ensure the school receives the maximum possible donation?

We reviewed the most cost-effective ways of gathering school donations and chose Virgin MoneyGiving because for a small percentage charge it enables automatic collection of gift aid on top of your donation (25% is added to your donation). Compared to other online donation providers, Virgin Money Giving helps the school get the maximum from each and every donation. Other providers Governors looked at to replace BT MyDonate were considerably higher in fees. As a result of the switch, Virgin Money also waived the joining fee.

Are there other ways I can donate?

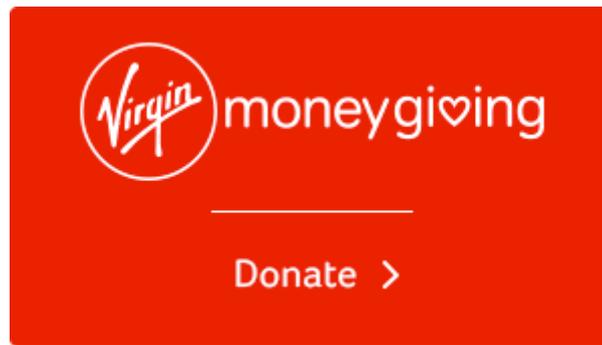
You may set up a regular payment for a sum of your choice directly from your bank account to St Bartholomew's Charity fund at HSBC Bank, Sort Code: 40-23-15, Account No: 91317873. However, this does not enable us to gather gift aid (25% added) on your donation and you will not receive a monthly thank you from the fund.

Are alumni or parents of a child who has left the school, can we get involved?

Yes please! We hope the number of parents, staff, governors and alumni supporting the school through regular gifts will grow and grow.

Helping the school maintain its excellent facilities for future generations, is an ideal way to mark the difference Bart's made to you or your children.

To set up your regular donation to support St Bart's;



What will donations help pay for and what updates will I receive?

The money raised through regular donations will be used to improve and repair the fabric of the buildings. It will be used to ensure the buildings, facilities and grounds of the school are maintained to the level that parents have rightly come to expect.

For example, in 2018/9 the entire central heating and distribution system throughout the school, playground resurfacing and the KS2 toilets will be upgraded. These improvements will benefit all the children.

Over the last three years, we have replaced various flat roofs, upgraded the water distribution, repaired walls and pipework, as well as upgraded the fencing round the school. These benefit the children and staff by keeping them safe, warm and with clean facilities.

Every Spring and Autumn we aim to provide regular donors with information on the capital projects being funded and the positive impacts their donations are having.

What happens if we fail to raise enough money?

If we do not establish a sufficient sustainable source of income to cover the cost of improving and repairing our buildings, the school risks falling into a state of disrepair. We shall have less money to fund vital capital investments and will be able to access less church funding from the Diocese.

I thought Parents of Bart's (POBS) raised money, how is this different?

St Bartholomew's is highly fortunate to have a very active, effective and welcoming PTA called Parents of Bart's or 'POBS' for short.

The role of POBS is to help ensure the school community thrives, and that in organising events and fundraisers the school offers parents opportunities to connect and socialise, and in doing so raise funds for specific resources, trips or facilities for the children.

POBS raises money for valuable resources (and so called luxury items) that government funding does not stretch to. POBS have recently raised funds for iPad for the Reception classes, new KS1 playground equipment, as well as making a significant contribution to the outdoor classroom. The money raised through regular giving for the buildings is entirely separate and needed in addition to money raised by POBS.

We totally appreciate that many parents will generously support both areas of school fundraising. Both are important. In the current climate of declining governmental support, both fundraising streams are increasingly necessary and ongoing parental support is very much appreciated.

Will there be opportunities to sign up to regular giving at school?

The governors are considering hosting 'drop-in' sessions where parents can come into school and sign up to donate. If this would appeal to you please email Sophie Graham-Godet:

chairofresources@stbartholomews.surrey.sch.uk

Who can I speak to if I'd like more information?

Please feel free to contact Mr Beckerson, Sophie Graham-Godet or any of the governors for further information.

head@stbartholomews.surrey.sch.uk

chairofresources@stbartholomews.surrey.sch.uk

Parent reps and POB's committee will also be able to field questions and/or signpost you to someone who can help.