SJF Resource Support Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the SJF Resource Support Fund?

The **SJF Resource Support Fund** is an initiative created to give our school community; parents, carers, alumni, and local supporters, a direct way to help enrich our children's daily educational experience.

While our brilliant PTFA focuses on special events, extra equipment and capital projects, this fund goes directly toward core classroom learning materials.

All contributions raised remain directly with our school in the **St John Fisher School Governor's Fund** (Registered Charity No. 1178706). As a registered charity, our accounts are independently examined and publicly available on the Charity Commission website.

Why is community support so important right now?

Like all primary schools across the country, St John Fisher is navigating rising operational costs, increased staffing and utility bills, and real-terms reductions in central government funding. As a Catholic Voluntary Aided School, we are also legally required to cover 10% of all building maintenance and infrastructure costs ourselves.

Our Governors, Senior Leadership Team and staff work tirelessly to budget efficiently. By partnering with our generous school community, this fund ensures we don't just maintain standards, but continue providing the high-quality education our children deserve.

What will the funds be used for?

100% of your contributions go towards our school for essential, hands-on learning tools, such as:

- Reading books and library materials
- Classroom stationery and art supplies
- Online educational subscriptions and interactive software
- Modern classroom technology, including computers and interactive whiteboards

With oversight from the Governing Body, funds are allocated flexibly where they will make the biggest positive impact for our pupils.

Will my child be affected if I am unable to donate?

Not at all. Every donation is completely voluntary and confidential. We fully appreciate that every family's financial situation is different and every child at St John Fisher receives the exact same exceptional care, attention and opportunities regardless of contributions.

How much should I give?

Every single contribution, no matter the size, makes a genuine difference.

Please give whatever feels comfortable for your household. Whether it is £5 or £50 one-off donation or a monthly standing order of £20, every donation is warmly welcomed and deeply appreciated.

How can I make a contribution?

You can donate using whichever method is most convenient for you:

1. Regular Monthly Standing Order (Recommended)

Setting up a standing order provides consistent support throughout the year. You can set this up in minutes on your mobile banking app or online:

- **Beneficiary:** St John Fisher School Governors' Fund
- **Bank:** The Co-operative Bank
- **Sort Code:** 08-92-99
- **Account No:** 67399657
- **Reference:** Please use your youngest child's **Full Name & Class** (e.g., *Leo Smith, St Francis*).

2. Via Arbor

Log into your regular Arbor account and select **SJF Resource Support Fund**. You can make a one-off payment using the custom amounts of £10, £25, £50 or £100.

3. Cheque

Cheques should be made payable to **St John Fisher School Governors' Fund** and handed in at the School Office. *(Please note: We are unable to accept cash donations).*

How can Gift Aid boost my donation by 25% for free?

If you are a UK taxpayer, **Gift Aid allows us to claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate—at zero extra cost to you!**

- **How to claim:** Simply fill out our quick online form via the website or directly at **Gift Aid Declaration Form**.
- **Higher-rate taxpayers:** You can also claim additional tax relief on your personal self-assessment return.

Will we see the impact of our donations?

Yes! We believe in full transparency. We look forward to sharing regular updates in our weekly *Headlines* newsletter, around the school, and on our social media channels showing how much we've raised together and how those funds are being put to work in our classrooms.

Can family members, alumni, or businesses donate too?

Absolutely! We warmly welcome support from grandparents, extended family, alumni, local community members, and businesses. Donations can also be kept completely anonymous if preferred.

Does this replace school trip contributions or PTFA fundraising?

- **School Trips:** Voluntary contributions for trips will still be requested separately, as trip costs fall outside core classroom funding.
- **PTFA:** Our PTFA will continue running their fantastic community events and fairs to fund major capital projects and enrichment experiences.

How do our staff feel about this fund?

Our teachers and support staff are deeply passionate about giving your children the best possible start in life. They are inspired by the strength of our school community and grateful that this fund enables them to equip their classrooms with the modern tools and resources our pupils need to thrive.

I can't contribute financially right now. How else can I help?

Your time and energy are just as valuable to us! You can support SJF by:

- Getting involved with the PTFA and attending school events.
- Checking if your employer offers **Corporate Match Funding** for school charities.
- Volunteering at our school Community Days.
- Advocating for state school funding by writing to your local MP.

Who can I contact with questions?

If you have questions about making a donation, setting up a payment, or completing a Gift Aid form, please contact our team at **finance@st-johnfisher.merton.sch.uk**. Thank you for your continued partnership and support!