

22 November 2019

Dear Parent or Carer

### **Building Levy 2019/2020**

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, we are writing about the very important matter relating to the upkeep and future development of our Catholic schools. Unfortunately, unlike other categories of state schools, Catholic schools do not come free and 10% of any building and renovation costs have to be met by the Archdiocese. Therefore, the continued provision of Catholic education adds up to a huge sum, for example if a school has building work totalling £500,000 then the Archdiocese has to pay £50,000 of this total.

To assist the Archdiocese, the school must make a contribution based on our number of pupils. This money is paid directly to the Archdiocese who prioritise work and oversee developments. We have benefitted significantly from this funding in recent years and this is something that we could not have achieved without the Archdiocese who use schools' levies to access Government Capital monies by being able to meet their 10% commitment.

In September 2015, we were awarded £350k to begin a major refurbishment project of the Science Department. Following a further £335k allocation last year, the final labs were completed during the summer term. The Science Department is benefitting from these much improved facilities which in turn improves the education of our pupils.

Unfortunately, we continue to see a reduction in funding from the Local Authority and are faced with a period of financial uncertainty as changes are implemented in educational funding.

All Catholic schools in the Archdiocese ask parents to contribute towards this levy. The contribution requested is **£10.00 per year, per family** attending school and with currently around 1,028 families attending the school our figure for 2018/19 was £10,280.

Last year we received £3,685 in contributions, which represents approximately 368 families in school. This represents a reduction from the previous year of £530.00. Therefore, our contribution from the school budget was £6,595.

Our current Y7 pupils have contributed £1,500 already towards the 2019/2020 payment. I would like to thank all those families who made the contribution last year and would sincerely urge all families to make this annual contribution. We are sure that you will agree, this is a small price to ensure that Catholic Education is maintained and developed and that St Edmund Arrowsmith benefits from this support.

We need your help in order to contribute our share as there is no provision within our school funding for such a levy - any shortfall in parental contributions will have to be taken from elsewhere within school funds. The decision to request a contribution in the autumn term will allow any shortfall to be budgeted for in the new financial year when we make difficult decisions about what we have to do without.

**Please return your donation** together with the completed attached reply slip. If your donation is in the form of a cheque, please make it payable to 'St. Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School'. If you wish, you may give more than the suggested amount.

Donations can be made via our online payment system, WisePay, if this is more convenient.

We do hope that we can rely on your support in helping our school to pay its contribution towards this vital annual appeal. The model of Catholic education is very clear in seeing the implicit link between home, school and parish. If St Edmund Arrowsmith and other Catholic schools are to continue to have buildings fit for purpose then support from parents for a Catholic education for their children is crucial.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.

Please confirm that you have received this letter, by completing and returning the attached reply slip to school by Friday 6 December 2019.

Yours faithfully



**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher



**S WESTHEAD**  
Chair of Governors

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**\*\*\*Please return this reply slip to school by Friday 6 December 2019\*\*\***

**Archdiocese Building Levy 2019-2020**

Pupil Name(s)

1) \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose/ I do not enclose (\*delete as appropriate)  
my contribution of £10.00 towards the **School Building Fund Levy**

This donation has been made using the WisePay online system

My child is in Y7 and I have already paid in July 2019 for 2019/2020

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_