

TDIS DONATION FUND – FAQs - JULY 2017

School funding

How is the school funded?

The school is allocated funding by Surrey County Council. We receive a certain amount of money per pupil. We also receive some money from letting our premises and The Friends fund raise additional money for the school.

Do all students get the same amount of funding?

All students receive the same minimum funding. Some students attract additional funding, for example because they have special educational needs or because they are considered disadvantaged. We have a small number of children who attract this additional funding.

How much is the school's annual income?

In total, the school's guaranteed income for the 2017/18 financial year is £1,064,123. In addition, The Friends raise approximately £25,000 to £30,000 per year of which a minimum of £16,000 this year is allocated to a specific ICT Capital project.

The table below shows the income breakdown.

Income	Amount (£)
LA Delegated Formula Funding (including c/f)	1,028,700
SEN Top-up Funding (anticipated)	17,823
Pupil Premium Funding	9,600
Other grants	Free School Meals grant and PE grant expected but these are ring fenced
Income from Facilities and Services	8000 (i.e. lettings for clubs)
Total guaranteed/anticipated income	1,064,123
Possible Friends contribution	9,000 to 14,000
TOTAL	1,073,123 to 1,078,123

Who decides how the school spends its money and manages the budget?

The school's budget priorities are set by the Head teacher and the Governors, with approval from the Local Authority.

The school manages its own budget, via the Head teacher, Business Manager and Governors. There is a dedicated Finance and Resources Committee which supports the day to day management of the budget.

How many Teaching Assistants is the school required to have?

We are required to have a qualified teacher for each class. There is no statutory requirement for Teaching Assistants and no specific funding to support them.

How is the budget spent?

The school's expenditure falls broadly into three categories: staffing, premises and supplies and services. 87% of our budget is spent on staffing – this includes salary, pension, and national insurance.

The remainder of our budget is split roughly equally between premises costs (including energy bills and maintenance) and supplies and services (including classroom resources).

Our anticipated expenditure for the 2017/18 financial year is shown in the table below. You will see that we currently have a deficit budget.

Expenditure	Amount (£)	%
Staffing	922,577	87%
Premises	80,497	8%
Supplies and services	83,119	8%
Total	1,086,193	103%

Why is staffing 87% of the budget?

We have a high quality, very experienced team of staff. Understandably this comes at a cost. In addition, our staffing costs include recruitment costs, pension contributions, national insurance and staff development costs. In most schools, staff costs would be at least 85% of annual expenditure. We have managed to reduce the percentage from 90% to 87% since last year.

What level of staffing does this budget allow for?

This budget ensures we will have a qualified teacher in each class, and the minimum level of teaching assistant support to support pupils needs.

The School's deficit budget

How big is the school's deficit?

The school's guaranteed income including the brought forward is now expected to be £1,064,123. Our anticipated expenditure is £1,086,193 (this excludes any funds raised by The Friends). This means that we are now (July 2017) **forecasting a deficit of £22,070** for this financial year, but we hope that with the wonderful support the school receives from Friends, along with the implementation of the fundraising strategy, we will not have a deficit budget. The deficit would be £67,145 if the school had not had a brought forward of £45,075 from the previous financial year, although the vast majority of this is ring-fenced around specific pupil needs and PE.

What is the school doing about its forecast deficit?

We have made as many cost savings as possible without significantly compromising the quality of teaching and learning. In addition we are:

- Working most closely with The Friends who ensure that funds raised are directed to the highest budget priorities;
- Developing and implementing a financial sustainability strategy which will include: sponsorship opportunities, grants, lobbying and use of premises;
- Developing a 5 year staffing plan to help us reduce our overall staff costs without affecting the standard of teaching;
- Meeting with the Local Authority to seek advice and guidance; and
- Asking parents for voluntary donations to the Donations Fund of a **minimum of £20 per child per month**.

Why is the school forecasting a deficit budget?

Our income from the Government is decreasing in real terms, while our costs are rising as a result of increased pension contributions, national insurance and inflation.

Many thousands of schools in the local area and across the UK are in the same situation as us.

Why doesn't the school have a contingency fund?

The school has previously held reserve funds. However over the last 5 years, as budgets have been decreasing in real terms, this money has been used to fund gaps in our budget, and this year we are not able to forecast being able to take forward a reserve.

The Finance and Resources Committee are committed to building a reserve once again, but initially our focus is on fundraising to meet the existing deficit.

Supporting the school

How can I help?

We are asking families to make a monthly donation to the school's donations fund by standing order.

How many families are already making monthly donations?

At the start of July 2017, 95 families are making regular donations. A further 10 families have made one-off donations. At present, the school receives an average of £2,000 per month (i.e. c.£24,000 per annum) into the donations fund (equating to c.35% of families donating). The governors want to increase this to nearer to 70% of families continually donating.

How much should we donate?

The value of your monthly donation is entirely up to you. We have suggested a minimum of £20 per child per month but we realise that some people will choose to give less while others may feel able to give more.

The average monthly donation from those families who have already started donating is currently around £20. The table below gives an indication of the difference that the money can make.

Number of families donating	Average monthly donation (£)	Total amount raised per year (£)
50	20	12,000
75	20	18,000
100	20	24,000
200	20	48,000
300	20	72,000

How will my money be spent?

Any money raised through voluntary donations will be added to the central school budget and used to cover core classroom support resources, including staffing.

What about The Friends? Should we donate monthly instead of supporting through their events?

The events organized by The Friends help to build and foster the school community and the funds raised by The Friends make a huge difference to the school. Their funds are used to both enrich and enhance

teaching and learning (even if it is just buying additional classroom resources). If families don't continue to support their events, the deficit will actually increase. We therefore urge you both to continue to support The Friends and make a voluntary monthly donation.

Do other schools ask for monthly donations?

Yes, lots of other schools have donation schemes very similar to ours. For example, Thames Ditton Junior School has asked for monthly donations for over 7 years to fund support staff.

Will the money I donate be spent specifically on my child's class / year?

As a Community School, we have a duty to resource in relation to pupil need and therefore all the money raised will be added to the central school budget. It will not be possible to create separate pots of money for each class or year group.

Can I make one single donation rather than paying monthly?

Yes, of course. A number of families have already chosen to make a one-off donation rather than a monthly one.

I'm not able to make a monthly donation, is there any other way that I can help?

Lots of parents already support the school by giving up their time for example to listen to children read, help out on school trips, fundraise through The Friends. All support is valued. If you feel able to give up your time to support the school then please do let us know. There are lots of different ways in which you can help.

Can my donation be spent on ensuring a Teaching Assistant will be in my child's class?

We know that parents feel strongly about having Teaching Assistants in all the classes. We are committed to ensuring that parental donations are used to impact on teaching and learning. This may include additional support staff. We cannot guarantee a full-time Teaching Assistant in every class.

How much additional money would the school need to ensure a Teaching Assistant in every class?

To provide full time support in class for our youngest pupils in reception and 4 mornings of teaching assistant support per class in years 1 and 2, we would need to recruit and pay a further 4.5 Teaching Assistants per year, at a total cost of c.£50,000.

To make this possible we would therefore need to raise the following:

The Friends	£30,000
Donations to meet the existing deficit	£22,070
Donations for additional Teaching Assistants	£50,000
TOTAL	£102,070

Leaving aside the Friends' funds, to raise c.£72,000 per annum would require donations of **£20 PER MONTH PER CHILD FROM ALL FAMILIES IN THE SCHOOL.**

10 July 2017