



Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Primary School

Headteacher's Report to Association of Parents and Friends AGM

Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Mission Statement

"Our Parish School of Our Lady of Lourdes welcomes everyone in the community, to share with us the joys of our Catholic Faith.

We worship, learn and play together in the love of Jesus, helping one another to become the people that God has created us to be."

Another year has gone by and once again the APF Committee, supported by other parents, friends and family, have given unstintingly of their time to raise much needed funds for the benefit of the children and to bring the school community together.

Schools continue to rely on community fundraising more than ever before, budgets are under ever increasing pressure and there doesn't seem to be any sign of this improving in the future. I have never known school budgets to be under such strain, with more and more schools predicting deficit budgets. Our school has a deficit budget and so all support is gratefully received.

Over the past year, APF funds have paid for a range of items/events including the following:

- Books/resources for whole school (relating to the new phonics scheme)
- Classroom resources for every year group (£100 per class)
- Whole school music tuition (tin whistle, ukulele, recorders)
- Discovery/Espresso Education Resource (used in all classes by teachers)
- Christmas crackers/cloths/hats/decorations for Christmas dinner day
- Christmas Pantomime for the children
- Upgrade to hall sound system
- Leaving gifts for Y6 and for First Holy Communion children
- Printing of school calendars for families

- Welcome Party for new reception class families
- Science workshops for whole school
- History resources for classes (artefacts linked to topics)

The above list is not exhaustive as a number of other costs have also been covered directly by APF funds, please refer to the APF accounts information for further details.

We are eternally grateful to the APF for their continued support, especially the members of the committee who are so generous with their time, without their leadership so many opportunities would be missed by both the children and their families. Furthermore, many of the events that you organise reach out to the wider community and so fulfil our mission in strengthening community.

If you are new to the school or feel that you have something that you can offer to the APF, please do make yourself known to the committee or a member of school staff - we welcome all volunteers and the more, the better! A willingness and an offer of time (no matter how much) is all that is needed, no special qualifications required! As the current committee are stepping down at the end of this year, we hope that there are new parents who are willing to step forward and continue to build on the great work that has been undertaken to date.

As always, I am keen to work closely with you and I value all that you do greatly, if you have ideas about how this relationship can be improved or developed further, please do come and have a chat with me. I strive to support you in all you do.

In the meantime, a heartfelt **thank you** for giving up your time so willingly to make Our Lady of Lourdes such a special school; for contributing so positively to our community and for your dedication and hard work, it is a privilege to work with you all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hood', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Gillian Hood (Headteacher)