



Schools for Every Child

12th Nov 2025

Dear Parents and Carers, Mums and Dads

I wanted to take a moment to be open with you about something many schools across the country are facing: funding pressures. You may have seen your child's school asking for donations or support recently, and I want to reassure you that this isn't because anything has gone wrong, but because, like many schools & Trusts, we are working hard to protect the quality of education during a very challenging financial time nationally. Additionally, when I became CEO, I inherited a significant financial deficit from previous years. Since then, we've worked hard to rebuild stability, tighten our systems, and ensure every pound is spent wisely. That process has taken time and some difficult decisions. However, these have paid off, and we are now back on track. It's essential to clarify that this isn't a case of there used to be money and now there isn't, due to the new Trust. The truth is that, in the past, spending levels were unsustainable, which made the financial situation look rosier than it really was. We've chosen a more responsible and transparent path with taxpayer money, not to be mean, but to ensure that decisions are ethical, affordable, and sustainable in the long term.

The way we fund our schools now means that each one benefits from being part of a Trust. By pooling our buying power, we can secure better deals on everything from energy to cleaning contracts, insurance, and staff training. Our joint procurement and shared services mean that schools now keep more of their money to spend on children than they did before joining us. In other words, while we are being more careful, we are also making every pound work harder for pupils.

I cannot stress enough that we are a charity; we do not make, or aim to make, a profit. We only ever discuss money to secure more for the children. All we need to do is break even so that every penny can go back into their education and experiences. You may also have heard people say there used to be money, but there isn't now. The reality is that costs have risen sharply; energy bills across our schools now exceed £50,000 a year, and cleaning costs are over £100,000, while funding has not increased at the same rate. The financial picture has changed nationally, not because of decisions made locally, but because schools everywhere are being asked to do more with less. I know there will always be those who want to portray trusts as the villains in these conversations, but that isn't helpful, and it isn't factual. We are proud to be as open and transparent as possible about how we manage our finances. I warmly encourage anyone who would like to understand more to visit our website: [Funding and Transparency](#).

Another challenge all schools face is that government salary increases are announced after budgets for the year have already been set. Any extra funding provided to cover these rises is never the same as the rise announced, which means schools must find the money themselves. This adds significant pressure to budgets that are already tight before the year even begins.

I also want to say that the leaders across our Trust, and I personally, are genuinely trying to do something different from many Trusts nationally. It's bold and, at times, a little scary, but we believe it's the right thing to do. We're working to build a Trust that empowers schools, protects their individual identity, and shares best practices rather than imposing uniformity. Our vision is one of collaboration and trust, where schools thrive because of each other, not in spite of each other.



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Our core funding covers only the basics, yet we go above and beyond through mental health support, enhanced SEND provision, and cross-trust initiatives. These extras stretch our budgets, so we rely on additional income and generosity to make them possible.

We would therefore like to invite you, or any local businesses or individuals you know, to help sponsor one of our Trust-wide opportunities. Even a small contribution makes a difference:

- **Pupil Senate – £450:** fosters inclusivity and leadership, giving pupils a voice across the Trust.
- **Careers Fair – £950:** offers pupils hands-on exposure to a range of professions.
- **CEO for the Day – £350:** an immersive leadership experience for Year 6 pupils.
- **Christmas Treat (Infants) – £400:** ensures our youngest learners each receive a gift.
- **Christmas Treat (Juniors) – £600:** provides a festive activity for older pupils.
- **Pupil Senate Trip – £400:** enables pupils to visit the Houses of Parliament or similar
- **Maths Competition & Prizes – £150:** encourages excellence through cross-trust competitions.
- **Year 6 Team-Building (x3) – £300 per event:** brings pupils together to prepare for secondary school.

We also warmly welcome regular donations towards our **Resourced Hubs**, where trained professionals provide tailored support enabling pupils with higher needs to thrive. These hubs change the life chances of the children while ensuring that the school remains a calm and focused place to learn. However, they are costly to run; the shortfall between funding and costs can be up to £30,000 per year per hub.

I also want to share something that makes our Trust genuinely different. Our behaviour system is rooted in our **Pro-Social Rewards** approach, a model built on promoting the joy of doing good for others. It teaches pupils that positive actions have a ripple effect: when they help someone else, they change not only the other person's life but also their own. You can read more about it here: [Pro-Social Rewards](#). To sustain this innovative approach, we've established a *Pro-Social Rewards Fund*. Donations to this fund are directed to activities chosen by the children themselves, projects that make a tangible difference to others in their schools, communities, and beyond. Supporting this fund means helping pupils develop not only prosocial behaviour but also a lifelong sense of purpose, empathy, and joy in helping others. Even the smallest contribution helps our young people see that kindness is powerful and that they have the ability to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Donations (one-off or regular) can be made to:

Schools for Every Child

Sort Code: 30-96-94

Account Number: 30182060

If you are unable to help us but know of someone or a business who might, please pass this letter on. Thank you for considering our appeal, and for your continued kindness, understanding, and support.

Warm regards,

L Faris

CEO, Schools for Every Child Trust



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