

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Ref: GSDF/EC/TF

July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Governors' School Development Fund (GSDF)

The Governors manage a voluntary donations fund: "*The Governors' School Development Fund (GSDF)*," which generates essential revenue that is used to support improvements to the quality of the learning environment for our pupils.

In recent years we have completed a major refurbishment of our hall and gym blocks, including student shower, changing and toilet facilities, at a cost of £1.7 million. We also completed a project to replace all the external doors and windows in one of our main teaching blocks at a cost of £350,000. Further projects of this nature are planned including the refurbishment of more classrooms, more toilet facilities and the expansion of the pupils' canteen facility.

To fund these projects, we bid for capital grants from the Department for Education and contributing to these bids from the Governors' School Development Fund significantly improves the chances of success. Over the last few years every pound from the GSDF has successfully leveraged, on average, £55 of funding from the DfE. The money generously donated by parents really does make a tangible difference. Our success over recent years has now depleted this fund and we really need your help to build it up again so we can carry on with the work we're doing right around the school for the pupils. The GSDF is more important now, than ever, to help resource what is so desperately needed without diverting core school money away from the teaching and learning front-line activity.

Our most recent bid success is a £2.66m project to refurbish the outdated and inefficient heating system across the school. The success of this bid would not have been possible without funds from the Governors' School Development Fund.

We understand that for many personal finances are equally challenging, particularly in the current climate however, without your voluntary contributions we may not be able to continue our important work that genuinely benefits your children now, and creates a legacy for other students in the future.

I ask all parents and carers, who are part of the Oaklands Community, to kindly consider making a voluntary donation of £5, £10 or £20 a month by standing order or any other amount that you feel able to contribute. Even small amounts can quickly accumulate into a really useful sum which when added to a larger number of individual donations really does give us the power to do even more really good things for your children. Oaklands has a community of 800 families, you can make a sustained difference very quickly.

You can make a one off (or more hopefully an annual) payment by cheque payable to Oaklands Catholic School or online to:

Account Name:	The Catholic Academy (Deposit 2 Governors)
Sort Code:	55-70-34
Account Number:	80745024

Alternatively, you can spread the cost by arranging a standing order from your bank account by completing the attached form.

We also now have a Just Giving page at [Governors' School Development Fund - JustGiving](#) and a QR code for your convenience.

If you are willing to contribute and are a UK Tax Payer, we also ask that you complete a Gift Aid Declaration form and return it to the Schools Finance Office, or log in online through Scopay.com and register, as this then allows us to claim from the Government a further 25p for every £1 that is donated.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to express our sincerest thanks for the voluntary contributions that you currently make, and hopefully others will now also make, to the Governors' School Development Fund.

Yours sincerely



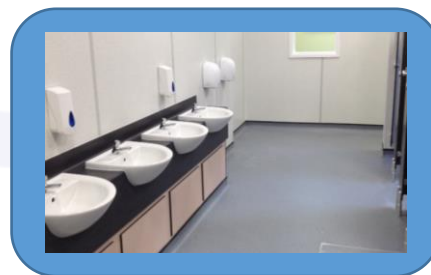
Elizabeth R Cluett
PhD, MSc, RM, SRN, PGCEA, PFHEA
Chair of Governors



Some of the work that the Governors' School Development Fund has recently contributed towards:



Refurbishing the laboratories in the Science Department and bathroom facilities across the school site



Upgrading teaching spaces and extending and refurbishing the Canteen area



Delivering major infrastructure upgrades that will endure for many years to come.

