

St. Theresa's  
Catholic Primary School



# **THE FRIENDS OF ST THERESA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**2022/2023**

## **Introduction**

St Theresa's Catholic Primary School ("St Theresa's") has a very active and well supported Parent and Teacher's Association (aka "the Friends"). All parents/carers and staff are automatically members. The Friends aim to encourage good relations between staff, parents/carers and others associated with the school, to support the school and to advance and enrich the education of the pupils in it.

The objectives of the Friends are:

- to organise fund-raising activities which make a profit at each event (however big or small);
- to involve as many people as possible;
- to encourage a good community spirit;
- to listen to new ideas and take onboard any suggestions;
- to raise as much money as possible; and
- to make the activities enjoyable and fun for all.

We are always looking for input and suggestions on what else we can do to support our school. If you have any comments or suggestions, you can get in touch with one of the Committee members (listed at the end of this document).

## **Mission Statement**

The Friends aim to:

- develop effective relationships between the staff, parents/carers and others associated with the school;
- arrange events and activities that raise funds for equipment and projects in school which enhance and enrich the education and the lives of the pupils at St Theresa's;
- organise social events for the enjoyment of the pupils, their families and the wider community;
- assist the school in other fundraising events for other charities (eg. Macmillan Cancer, Save The Children, Children in Need, Anti-bullying, etc); and
- support the school in making Year 6 a special one for the pupils.

## **Why do we have the Friends?**

We are very fortunate at St Theresa's to have the Friends that is an integral part of the school. Over the years, the Friends has raised many thousands of pounds, which have been spent on improving equipment and resources to enhance our children's education and the facilities in school in general. For example, over the years we have been fortunate to purchase/pay for: laptops, tablets, indoor sound system, authors and other external resources, trips for the children and sports equipment.

All parents/carers and members of the local community can get involved if they want to, even if they only have a small amount of time available. We are always in need of help in organising events from purchasing the supplies, to printing the posters/leaflets, volunteering at the event, bringing in donations, etc – more hands make light work!

## **Links with Local Business**

We have, over time, developed strong links with the local community and are always well supported by both residents and businesses, for which we are very grateful. Many local businesses/shops are very generous in their donations of raffle prizes for our raffles.

## **Role of the Committee**

Our Committee consists of three members but can be as big as five members:

- Chair;
- Treasurer;
- Vice Treasurer;

The role of secretary is being shared by the three committee members.

We also have many other members who play a vital role within the Committee, as a group of volunteers.

A list of current Friends' Committee members is as follows:

- Chair – Halina Gibson;
- Treasurer – Orla O'Donnell
- Vice Treasurer – Sheena Varnava

## **How we raise money**

Throughout the academic year, the Friends arrange a variety of events which raise money for school funds and just as importantly enable pupils, parents/carers and teachers to have some fun together. The activities that are held during the year include something for parents/carers as well as the children. They generally include, but are not limited to: a Christmas event, Summer BBQ, Halloween Disco, Mother's Day, Easter event, Father's Day, movie nights, Leaver's BBQ and Year 6 Production. All the events rely on the generous support of parents/carers and everyone is most welcome to participate in whichever way they can.

## **How we spend the money we raise**

Once money is raised from events, the funds are banked straight away. It is at our Friends meetings with the Executive Headteacher, that the decisions on how to spend the money are taken.

Usually, the school has a 'wish list' of items that the school would like to purchase/pay for. Sometimes this will be as a result of the children asking for something; at other times it will be for resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment. In

the main, the Friends' funds are for the 'extras' not provided for by the school budget, that make our children's learning experiences so much more fulfilling and exciting

The Friends also have ongoing commitments every year by providing chocolate treats at Christmas for every pupil from Santa.

## **How We Get Information To You**

We collaborate with the school to use the school's newsletter sent home via email as well as using the Class Representative's WhatsApp group to disseminate information. The newsletters give forthcoming dates for events also updates and requests for help when we are planning large events.

We also produce our own posters/leaflets when the need arises. Following events, we always write to let you know how much was raised, and if we can, we tell you then what the money will be spent on. This year's goal is to raise enough money to buy thirty new iPads.

## **How Can You Get Involved?**

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the Friends. Offering to help before events or at other times during the year is so valuable – it really is a case of 'many hands make light work'.

It doesn't matter if you can't help on a regular basis, or even if you can't come into school. There are always little jobs that can be done from home if you have half an hour to spare e.g. wrapping gifts, preparing raffle tickets, sorting out the shed, checking supplies, going shopping, collecting donations, printing/copying, etc.

We really couldn't achieve what we do without the unseen 'army of help' that exists in school.

# **THANK YOU!**

Date: 1 October 2022

