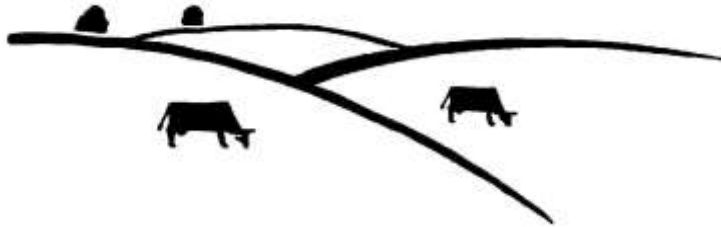


# **Amberley Parochial School**



## **Learning Support Fund Policy**

**January 2014**

**Review date: December 2014**

**Confirmation of ratification by Governing Body:**

**Governor:**

**Headteacher:**

**P Godfrey**

**Date:**

**Date:**

# **LEARNING SUPPORT FUND POLICY**

## **1. Background**

Amberley Parochial School is a popular, thriving school. We are very proud of the education we provide for the children in our care and our staff are supported by a very active and involved governing body.

However, since 2010 public sector services have received cuts to funding that are happening across the board, with education being no exception. The average sum of money spent per pupil in Gloucestershire has been below the national average for years, and is set to fall further, for at least the next three years. Schools like Amberley, with few children receiving free school meals, face a particularly bleak spell of funding as money within the system is re-directed to where the government feels the needs are greatest. As a church school, we have a moral and spiritual responsibility to embrace moves to support schools with high intakes of less affluent families, but we still have our wonderful school to run for the benefit of all children that attend.

In order to maintain and improve learning outcomes, the governing body considered new sources of funding with which to support the work of the school. One such new source is the Learning Support Fund (LSF).

## **2. Learning Support Fund**

The Governors set up a Learning Support Fund to support teaching and learning in the school. This is distinct from PTA funds, which are generally used for trips and items of equipment. The Governors aim to inform parents, friends, villagers and other local stakeholders about this fund on a regular basis to both encourage their consideration for one-off or regular donations and to report back on how the fund is being used and with what results.

The spend of learning support donations will ultimately be made by the Headteacher, who is in the best position to determine the impact of any spending the school may carry out. As a guide, the following are potential areas for where the funds will be used

- Whole-class music tuition
- Sports teaching
- Teaching assistants
- Resources for children with special educational needs
- Gifted and talented children
- Outdoor learning

On a rolling basis and no less frequently than annually, the Headteacher will review funds available, and make recommendations to the Governing Body on how to best utilise the funds.

## **3. Timeframes for spending the LSF**

It is intended that all funds donated (except a small buffer amount\*) are utilised within 12 months from receipt of donation. Spend of part of the funds may be extended to 18 months under exceptional circumstances and if approved by the Governing Body. The rationale here is that the LSF is not a fund for a rainy

day, its intent both by design (from the Governors) and as positioned to the donors (largely parents) is that the fund will be used to support the school and our children in the short term (and in particular in lieu of the budget cuts we are currently experiencing). This approach will also then mean that fund deployment and benefit can be regularly reported back to donors, thereby encouraging future donations or a continuance of recurring donations.

#### **4. \*Buffer amount**

A buffer element to the fund is recommended both to support urgent new funding requirements and/or any longer term commitments to which the funds may be deployed. The proposed buffer element initially is £2000.

#### **5. Communication of the LSF**

Its intended that 3 times per year, the HT and Governors will report back to donors and all parents on how the fund is being spent, with what results and to remind them of both the importance of the fund and how to donate.

A communication approach to the wider village and stakeholder community at large is planned (timeframes tbc).

#### **6. Donations and Fund Management**

All donations are to be anonymous. The Treasurer of the Fund will be the only person to receipt, track and claim gift aid on the donations. He/she will also be the only person to communicate individually with the donors. The Treasurer of the LSF will be appointed by the FGB and this appointment will be reviewed and reconfirmed each year with the review of this policy. The Treasurer will report to the FGB 3 times a year on the status of the fund size, donor numbers and appropriately informative statistics on donor types, frequencies etc. In the spring term, the Treasurer will, where possible, indicate what elements of the fund have been donated by parents of the current Year 6, so to develop an understanding of the forward view of the fund for spend planning. It is hoped that regular donations from some parents will continue when their children leave our school.

#### **7. Methods of donation**

Regular and automatic (e.g. standing order) donations are encouraged and so far have formed a sizeable part of the LSF. One-off donations are also most welcome. For details on how to donate, please contact the school office.

#### **8. LSF Policy Review cycle**

Due the new, impactful and sensitive nature of the LSF, the initial review cycle for this policy will be annual.

**Policy last reviewed: Nov 2013**

**Next review: Dec 2014**