



Welcome to Durley School Association

Introduction

This booklet has been produced especially for you, as a new family within our school community. We realise that it can be strange and a little nerve-wracking joining a new school, so this booklet aims to set out all the information you will need about our School Association, which plays a big part within the life school.

If after having read it you have any questions, please do get in touch with one of the committee members, or ask via your class teacher.

Why Do We Have A Durley School Association?

Durley Primary school is very fortunate to have a School Association that has been such an integral part of the school community for many years. In its time the DSA has raised many thousands of pounds, which have been spent on improving school facilities and providing equipment and resources to enhance our children's education.

But it is more than just fundraising. The DSA exists to provide closer links between home and school, being an excellent way of bringing staff, parents and friends together in support of a common cause. All parents and members of the school community can get involved if they want to, even if they only have a small amount of time available. Importantly, all parents are automatically members of the Association when they join the school.

The DSA is extremely conscious of the ethos and morals of our school, trying very hard when organising and planning events to respect this. Not all of our events are fundraisers, for example our children's discos and fun afternoons are run with the aim of giving the children a good time and as a way of thanking families for their continued support of the DSA.

Why Are We A Registered Charity?

The Charities Act 1993 requires organisations such as ours, with an annual income in excess of £1,000, to register with the Charity Commission. As a Charity we must abide by Charity Commission rules and regulations and we are bound by a Constitution, which lays down rules about how we operate as a committee and how we conduct ourselves. A full copy is available on request.

Links With our Local Community

As well as having a close connection to Holy Cross Church, 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 of our local businesses are extremely generous in their donations of equipment and raffle prizes. We have also been extremely grateful to parents whose companies have participated in charity matching schemes. This has had a huge impact on our fundraising and is explained in more detail further on.

Role Of The Committee

Our DSA Committee consists of 4 Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary). We also have between 6 and 8 other Committee members to make up the full Committee. The Committee meets on a regular basis usually once or twice per half term, with smaller working groups meeting as necessary to organise our bigger events.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our Annual General Meeting is an ideal opportunity for new parents to come along and meet existing parents, as well as a chance to hear in more detail about funds raised and what this money is spent on. It is also when we elect our new Committee. A list of current DSA Committee members can be found at the back of this booklet for your information.

Support from the NCPTA - (National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations)

The Durley School Association belongs to the NCPTA, a national charity that advances education and supports PTAs. We pay an annual membership fee to the NCPTA, which gives us lots of member benefits: a comprehensive insurance package, support and advice on DSA and fundraising matters, opportunities to meet with other school associations to discuss and share experiences as well as regular newsletters.

How We Raise Money

As in most schools, the majority of our funds are raised through events that we run, such as School Fairs and sponsored events. We also arrange fun evenings for parents which have included fashion shows and cooking demonstrations, plus theatre trips for the whole family. As a result there is always something going on! We try and respond to the children's requests for activities and it is truly the icing on the cake to see them having fun or enjoying using a piece of new equipment that the DSA has donated.

As with many charitable organisations, donations are extremely important. These can be time, money, items for sale, donations for raffles or offers of services and skills etc. It may seem that we are always sending out letters, but without the hard work of the committee, supported by you, the parents, it would not be possible to help the school as much as we do.

Charity Matched Giving

As our DSA is a Registered Charity, we are able to raise money through Charity Matching Schemes. Charity matching is a very simple practice. Companies or businesses pledge to donate to a charity such as ourselves an amount of money relating to the amount that we are able to raise at events. We have been helped enormously in the past by this type of donation, and there are several benefits to both ourselves and the company involved.

- Employees' morale is boosted by having their efforts supported by their employer.
- The company benefits from having charitable donations written off against taxable profits.
- The company can endeavour to get publicity for their giving.
- The DSA benefits from receiving perhaps double what we would have raised at an event.

If you think that your employer has a matched giving scheme already in operation, or if you would like some more information about charity matching or setting up a scheme in your workplace, please talk to one of the DSA members.

How We Spend The Money We Raise!

Once money is raised from events, the funds are banked straight away. It is at our DSA Committee Meetings that decisions on how to spend the money are taken.

Usually, Kirstie Baines (our Head Teacher) will have a 'shopping list' of items that the school would like to purchase. Sometimes this will be as a result of the children asking for something, such as the playground markings and benches or team strips. At other times it will be for resources to improve a particular area of the curriculum or school environment, such as staging for the hall and the digital camera. In the main the DSA funds are for 'extras' not provided by

the school budget and these make our children's learning experiences much more fulfilling and exciting.

DSA funds are not generally spent on improving the fabric of the school building, as this is the responsibility of the school Governing Body. We are committed to spending money on things that will benefit the children directly and we always endeavour to spend our funds in ways that will help all the children across all areas of the school and curriculum. We also have regular commitments every year such as paying for the named pens presented to Year 6 when they leave. At the back of this booklet is a list of items donated to the school during the past couple of years and the amounts raised at various events – we think you will be impressed.

How You Can Get Involved

There are lots of ways you can help and support your child through the DSA.

Offering to help before events, or at other times during the year is 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 or tombolas. We really couldn't achieve what we do without the unseen 'army of help' that exists within the school.

You can attend the AGM and give us your ideas for fundraising events – this is also the time to ask questions or voice your opinion. You can of course, if you feel able, volunteer to be a Committee Member.

You can also help by letting us know if you have any contacts or skills we could use – anything is valuable to us. There is a form at the back of the booklet to fill in and return if you feel you have something to offer.

Finally, please keep an eye out for letters giving information on forthcoming events, which may also include requests for help and donations as mentioned before.

Thank you for taking the time to read our brochure. We hope you now know a little more about **your** School Association.

On behalf of all the children we would like to thank you for your very valuable support which enriches their learning experiences and makes their time in school so enjoyable.

From all the DSA Committee