



St Francis of Assisi Academy Trust

'One body in Christ'

Policy last reviewed:	13/10/2015
Policy due for renewal:	13/10/2017
Committee responsible:	Chaplaincy
Lead member of staff:	B Grimley

Charities and Fundraising POLICY St Thomas More Catholic School

Rationale

"From the perspective of the Gospel, fundraising is not a response to a crisis. Fundraising is first and foremost a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting others into our mission."

Henri Nouwen : The Spirituality of Fundraising 2004

In announcing our mission as a Trust by the charitable work undertaken by the 4 Catholic schools it is important that there is a shared rationale so that causes are chosen to reflect the catholic mission of the Trust as well as the diversity of each individual school community in proportionate measure.

While fundraising is always rooted in the needs and realities of the local, national and international community, it always has its sights set on a hope for a future that has not yet been realised. Authentic fundraising itself understands that there can be as much gained from the raising of resources as can be realised from the distribution and application of these resources. Resources can be seen as physical resources, time, willingness to support, administrative help and practical facilitation. All are of worth and contribute to the mission of the schools and their reflection of the mission of the Diocese of Northampton and the global Catholic Church. As stewards of the message of the Gospels we are tasked with an active love of our neighbour which must be visible in the service to others seen within the life of a distinctively Catholic Community.

We are reminded by Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, that "True faith in the incarnate Son of God is inseparable from self-giving, from membership in the community from service, from reconciliation with others. The Son of God, by becoming flesh summoned us to a revelation of tenderness," (Evangelii Gaudium, 2014)

Whilst there is no specific legal framework governing fundraising, the St Francis of Assisi Academy Trust follows the guidance issued by the Institute of Fundraising Code of Conduct.
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AIMS

1. To develop effective partnerships promoting independence within communities or individuals in need
2. To consider the ethical perspectives of the Catholic Faith when making decisions about the fund raising projects adopted by the schools with guidance where necessary from the CES
3. To ensure fundraising activities are community-led with clear input from students, parents and staff
4. To foster a sense of community cohesion among school communities through charitable works
5. To ensure transparency and accountability in all fundraising

Objectives

- 1a. Prioritise work with recognised organisations such as CAFOD that reflect the values of the school
- 1b. Respond appropriately to emergencies or disasters through reputable fund raising charities reflecting the values of the schools
- 1c. Respond to local levels of family or individual need through the SVP or other recognised partners

- 2a. Requests to raise money to be considered by a group of senior staff
- 2b. Requests to raise funds are authorised by the Headteacher
- 2c. Ensure due care is taken not to place an excessive burden on families and communities over time

- 3a. Designated person in charge of charities to ensure that students have a voice in the charities that they support
- 3b. Charitable works to be discussed through meetings that provide a forum for decision making across stakeholders eg School Councils. PEG and staff meetings
- 3c. Publish annual report of charities supported and money raised so that the mission of the school is communicated to all stakeholders

- 4a. Publicise the needs of the global community through initiatives, displays and assemblies
- 4b. Utilise the resources offered by CAFOD in the curriculum to develop awareness of global issues and partnership work

- 5a. Annual Report to be produced to promote a tradition of giving
- 5b. All fundraising accounts to be held by the school finance office
- 5c. Money to be held in school at all times and never held by students without strict supervision
- 5d. All projects / charities supported by the school to be registered charity

All policies need to be checked against the following questions which support the Equalities Policy.

Race, Gender and Disability Equality Monitoring

1. Does this policy have any implications for race, gender and disability equality?

Yes in that it is inclusive and focuses on any perceived need in the various communities in which the school is placed

2. If 'yes', will it advantage or disadvantage any particular group?

Inherent in a Charities Policy is a preferential option for those who are poor in spirit and poor materially

3. How will this policy, if relevant, promote good relations?

It will recognise need and seek to work in collaborative partnerships building sustainable relationships offering mutual gain.

Success Criteria

- A range of Charitable work going on within the school communities which are co-ordinated and publicised effectively
- An Annual Charities Report in place
- A Range of different students and staff leading charitable initiatives
- Publicity for Charities in the Trust schools' newsletters