



5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you today to speak openly with you on the tough subject of school finances. You may have seen recent news reports about funding pressures in education, including the national concerns around limited government investment in support for children and young people with SEND. Like many schools across the country, Gordano School is feeling the impact of these ongoing challenges. Despite our careful planning, the current economic climate and rising costs are placing significant pressure on our budget.

We are continuing to face a shortfall in funding, which means we are finding new approaches to be more efficient in our way of working. These decisions may not always be easy, but they will be necessary to ensure we can maintain a sustainable, high-quality education and the support our pupils need and deserve.

Local Authorities are also experiencing financial strain, and many are reviewing key funding streams for schools especially around providing financial support for those with Special Educational Needs. This may further affect how, and what, support can be provided.

As you will be aware, Gordano School is part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP). Across the Trust, we have been working extremely hard over recent years to innovate, plan wisely, and manage our finances effectively. Being part of a larger organisation allows us to review key contracts – such as cleaning and catering – to ensure we achieve the best value. LSP is also heavily involved with our Local Authorities, and other education-related organisations, to advocate for our pupils and our budgets when they are taking decisions about how public spending for schools could be changed or allocated.

Please be reassured that we remain fully committed to exploring every option available to us so that we can continue to provide the very best learning experience for every child in our classrooms. Thank you, as always, for your understanding and ongoing support.

How You Can Support Us

We know many of you will be eager to help, and we're grateful for the strong support our school community consistently shows – especially during challenging times.

We've been working diligently to address our financial situation and would like to share some new updates with you, along with a few meaningful ways your support can make a difference as we navigate this difficult period:

1. **Support our new 'Parents in Partnership' Fund** - From this week, families are able to make an optional voluntary donation via ParentPay at any time. These contributions directly support students by helping to subsidise school trips, enhance creative arts and technology opportunities, improve learning spaces, and offer assistance to families facing hardship. The donation amount can be increased if you wish, and the option will remain permanently available on ParentPay. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us enrich the student experience and ensure all students can thrive.

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2. **Support our school catering provision** - Operating costs related to school catering provision is passed onto schools. These costs reduce when food uptake increases. Aspens, our catering provider, offers an affordable, healthy and balanced menu. Encouraging your child(ren) to take up the school's catering provision would be really helpful. Some families may be entitled to register for free school meals but have not yet done so. Again, this is something that we would really encourage you to do. The entitlement to free school meals is due to be expanded from September 2026.
[Click here to find out more about Aspens' offer in LSP Primary Schools](#)
[Click here to find out more about Aspens' offer in LSP Secondary Schools](#)
[Click here to find out about registering for free school meals](#)
3. **Support staff to use their time effectively** - Schools are incredibly busy places, and we fully appreciate that family life can be just as demanding. To help our staff work as efficiently as possible, please ensure that deadlines and requests are met and that booked appointments are attended. This helps us avoid spending valuable time chasing, duplicating, or revisiting tasks.
4. **Support your children to help** - Encouraging your children to play their part makes a significant difference. Simple actions (which we positive encourage in school) – such as taking care of schoolbooks and resources, avoiding unnecessary waste in exercise books, and making full use of the recycling bins around the school site – help us reduce costs and avoid fines from waste companies.
5. **Support your school in the wider community** - Help us highlight the valuable work being carried out across our school and in the community by spreading the word. You can also invite others to [subscribe to our Termly News](#) or follow our active [Facebook page](#) so they can stay connected.
6. **Support our new Gordano Community Partners initiative** - Local businesses, organisations, and individuals can support the school by joining our Gordano Community Partners (GCP) programme. This initiative strengthens links with the wider community and helps deliver projects that directly enrich students' educational experience. Benefits include visibility on the school website, advertising around our sports pitches, and digital exposure in newsletters and onsite screens. For more information, please email communitypartners@gordanoschool.org.uk.
7. **Support us through corporate sponsorships and donations** - If you work for a company that may be willing to sponsor a sports team, we would be grateful for your support. Businesses might also consider sponsoring one of our events or helping to fund improvements to school spaces or departmental resources. Support doesn't have to be financial - donations of items such as plants and tools for our Secret Garden, furniture for our common rooms, or lighting and sound equipment to reduce hire costs for Creative Arts shows are also incredibly valuable. There are many meaningful ways we can work together for the benefit of our school community, and we would be grateful to hear from anyone who can help via communitypartners@gordanoschool.org.uk.
8. **Support lettings of school facilities** - Many of our facilities are available to hire, including sports spaces, halls, and classrooms. If you run activities within the local community, please consider using our spaces. You can also help by spreading the word to groups you or your children attend, as they may be able to move their activities to our site.

We also encourage you to support the community groups that already use our facilities outside school hours – such as holiday clubs, exercise classes, and sports clubs – so they can continue renting space from us.

[Gordano School - Facilities Hire](#)
[Facility Hire | GoShine](#)

9. **Utilise Shine Holiday Clubs held at our school** - During school holidays, Shine Sports Clubs run high-quality activity programmes right here on our site. By booking places for your child(ren), you not only access fantastic childcare and enrichment opportunities but also help support the school. Use of our site helps us generate vital income that goes back into improving the school and we'd appreciate you spreading the word about them. Available clubs can be explored here:
[Shine Holiday Clubs | Sports and creative activities](#)
[MyShine Facebook](#)
10. **Become a member of our gym** - Our onsite gym (currently for age 16+) offers excellent facilities alongside unlimited access to classes via GoShine Fitness. By joining as a member, you not only invest in your own wellbeing but also help support the upkeep and development of school sports facilities. Find out more here:
[GoShine Sports Centre | Sports > Fitness > Community](#)
[Go Shine Facebook](#)
11. **Attend ticketed school events** - School productions, concerts, exhibitions, sports fixtures, and community events rely heavily on audience support. Attending these events helps boost school income while celebrating and supporting the hard work of our students and staff. Please look out for upcoming dates via [Facebook](#) and join us whenever you can.
12. **Use EasyFundraising when you shop online** - If you are doing any online shopping, especially around Christmas, please consider supporting the school via [Easyfundraising](#). By downloading the [EasyFundraising app](#), adding the browser extension to your laptop/phone and choosing Gordano School as the cause, at no extra cost to you retailers will donate a small percentage of your purchase back to the school. It's a simple way to raise essential funds from everyday purchases.
13. **Share information about grants and funding opportunities** - If you come across any grant schemes, community funds, charitable foundations, or corporate funding initiatives that the school may be eligible for, please let us know via marketing@gordanoschool.org.uk. Being made aware of these opportunities early increases our chances of successfully securing additional funds for student projects and school improvements.
14. **Support your PTA** - We've been working to establish a PTA to help drive fundraising initiatives, events, and activities that can provide vital support for key school projects. Unfortunately, we haven't yet had enough interest to fill the essential roles needed, but we remain committed to bringing the PTA to life. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to put yourself forward for a role, please email PTA@gordanoschool.org.uk.
15. **Support our new 'Donations to Difference' projects** - Each term we plan to launch a small, focused fundraising project designed to deliver a specific, high-impact improvement for students – such as new equipment, improved spaces, or enrichment opportunities. Parents are invited to give a voluntary contribution (usually £5 - £20) via ParentPay to help bring that project to life, and business donations are also welcomed. These projects are chosen for their clear student benefits and visibility within the community, and updates on completed projects will be shared through newsletters and social media. Please keep an eye out for this over the coming months or if you are interested in donating sooner we look forward to hearing from you via communitypartners@gordanoschool.org.uk.

Next Steps

Our vision is for every child to flourish and for our school to continue to thrive. With your support, and with the shared understanding that we may need to adopt new ways of working, we are confident that we can meet this challenging time with resilience and come through it even stronger as a community.

As always, thank you for your continued support and trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Blundell', with a small dot at the end.

Ms L Blundell
Headteacher