



Princess Frederica CE Primary School  
ABC Fund  
Date written/updated: May 2025  
(by LifeFull Governors)

**Partnership vision**

'Belonging, learning and growth for life in all its fullness'

**Our vision is rooted in biblical teaching as defined by John 10:10:**

*'I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the **full**'*

**Belonging** - Everyone included, everyone welcome

**Learning** - Love to learn and gain knowledge

**Growth** - grow spiritually in confidence and courage

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## Introduction

This is a guidance document to support the school and governing board in ensuring effective management of the ABC fund. It is particularly important to ensure the ongoing and appropriate use of this fund in the context of Princess Frederica School becoming part of the LifeFull Schools Federation. It includes key information about the ABC fund and its uses, the specific responsibilities of the Federation Governing Board and its members, as well as a list of current ABC fund signatories.

## What is the ABC Fund?

ABC stands for “Achievement Beyond the Curriculum” and was created to raise funds to support and enhance the education of all the children at Princess Frederica Primary School.

Princess Frederica, like comparable State schools, receives its core funding from local government. However, as a Church of England Voluntary Aided (CE VA) school, a proportion of the overall cost of school maintenance must be provided to the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS), who owns the buildings. Being a voluntary aided school also means we have more independence over how we run the school, the curriculum and the extra-curricular activities that we provide. However, these are typically not funded by the local government. With school budgets under pressure, the ABC fund is essential to be able to continue to offer a broad curriculum and maintain the learning environment. Many other CE VA schools run similar funds.

The Governing Board of Princess Frederica School has always been accountable and responsible for the ABC Fund. In the context of the federated organisation, this responsibility will be transferred to the federated Board but with the responsibility to maintain the integrity of the purposes of the funds.

## Who contributes to the ABC fund?

Parents, friends and families of children at Princess Frederica school are the key contributors to the ABC fund. (It is not the same as the Parent and Staff Association (PSA) at the school which is a separate charity that exists for a similar but subtly different aim).

The school currently suggests a contribution of £20 per child per month towards the ABC fund, however, this is by no means a mandatory requirement and any support parents can provide is welcomed. Records of who does and does not contribute are not available to the School or Board, or shared with teachers. It is imperative to ensure that parents who are not able to contribute, for whatever reason, do not feel obliged or under pressure to do so.

## Where do the ABC funds get used and who determines the allocation of the fund?

In general terms, the Fund is unrestricted in its use, however, three core purposes have been determined by the Princess Frederica Governing Board, explained below. Should a need arise to change these, then agreement would need to be reached by the Board in consultation with the whole school community. **In the context of the newly formed Lifefull Federation Board, the ABC Funds should remain strictly used for the sole purpose of Princess Frederica pupils and school.**

The fund is for use across three key areas - in the specific order listed below, according to funds available:

- **School maintenance. The first claim on ABC funds is as a contribution to the relevant school-specific maintenance charges.**

Unlike Local Authority state schools, voluntary aided schools are required to contribute towards the cost of any refurbishment or building works. To cover this, Governors - via the ABC Fund - pay a fixed annual sum per pupil out of this Fund, rather like an insurance premium, into a scheme run by the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) in which funds accumulate for capital expenditure, maintenance and minor improvements. Under the scheme the LDBS also undertakes many supportive tasks such as meeting the cost of consultants and administering building contracts. Any planned large capital expenditure is bid for and the success of the bid will be determined by the urgency of the need and the demands of other schools also bidding for that money.

Once the above commitments are covered (about £14k pa), the fund is then able to be used to improve the learning environment for children.

- **Extra-curricular provision – The second claim on funds, after maintenance is covered, is on “extra-curricular” provision not otherwise covered by the school core budget.**

Historically, this has included additional languages, music and PE. Currently, the school uses this to support the employment of full-time music and PE teachers plus offering some free instrumental tuition. This has been highlighted as a key favourite use of the fund by many parents historically and serves as a more compelling rationale for parents to contribute than maintenance charges.

- **Other unplanned costs in line with the ABC fund principles**

After maintenance and extra-curricular investment is covered, then the Governing Board can choose to use any remaining funds to cover unexpected or unplanned costs or any other requirement which is not listed above but deemed worthy by the governing board for use of the ABC fund.

### **Overall Principles for using the ABC Fund:**

- **For Princess Frederica.** Contributions to the ABC fund come from parents and carers from Princess Frederica school (past and present) and should continue to enable the school to go further in meeting the ambitions, values and ethos of the school and improve the educational experience of children at Princess Frederica. In the context of the newly formed Lifefull Federation Board, the ABC Funds should remain strictly for Princess Frederica pupils and school.
- **ABC Funds can only be used for in year commitments according to the funds available.** The Fund is voluntary, and not entirely dependable - therefore while funding might have a reasonable chance of being recuperated each year - it is important for budgeting that the ABC Fund is not used to fund ongoing, regular commitments beyond the financial year that the funds are available. No overdraft facilities or reserves are available - the money in the fund is the money in the fund.
- **Promotion of the Fund.** It is important to ensure there is transparency around the use of money in the fund and all parents have a right to ask for information on the amount held in the fund and the respective use of this money. The Governing Board should make available to parents how funding is being used. Whilst the fund is voluntary the governors must continue to stress its importance strongly with parents and thank them for the continued generosity and investment in the school

### **How does the ABC Fund differ from other school funding?**

The majority of school funding is known as core funding and comes from the Local Education Authority. It pays for our *statutory* responsibilities of:

- Teaching and learning
- Core maintenance and safety
- Costs of running a school

The school is also fortunate to benefit from the contributions of the Parent Staff Association (PSA). As an independent charity, the PSA aims to enrich the experience of all children at Princess Frederica. It raises money for activities that enhance children's wellbeing – such as the annual Art Week & Book Week and the Embankment project. It also works to enhance parental and community engagement in the school. The PSA typically contributes between £10k-30k per year.

While priorities for spending PSA money are closely discussed with school leadership, it is the decision of the Trustees and Executive Committee of the PSA who will decide how it is allocated. The ABC fund, on the other hand, is for the Governing Board to determine and enable the school to go further in meeting the ambitions, values and ethos of the school and improve the educational experience of all children in line with school strategies and priorities.

### How can people pay into the ABC Fund?

There are several ways for contributors to make payment into the ABC fund. These include:

- Regular donations by Direct Debit to CAF Donate (can be made via the school website) UK taxpayers are eligible to claim gift aid relief on ABC fund payments which CAF Donate enables.
- One-off / lump sum payments (can be made via CAF Donate. A link can be found on the school website.)

### Where can parents find out more about the ABC fund?

There is a dedicated page on the school website with more details for parents about [the ABC Fund](#).

### What bank is the fund held with?

The ABC fund is held in an “Everyday Current Account” with [Charities Aid Foundation \(CAF\) Bank](#).

The signatories below have access to the bank account and online banking. Any donor who claims gift aid will pay through CAF Donate and those who do not, pay directly into the CAF account. CAF Donate send lump sums through to the CAF account at irregular intervals. There is a small fee for holding the account which is automatically taken once a month. Governors are responsible for transferring money to the school account at agreed intervals. This is currently once a year.

### Process for changing signatories

The ABC Fund must always have **three** signatories: **two from the Governing Board and one from the School**. Two signatories must always authorise a transaction. Signatories can only be changed via a Mandate Form signed by two existing signatories and all new ones. All changes require an identity check.

One governor (not school staff) must be the named account user. It is this person’s responsibility to communicate with CAF Bank in order to manage and change signatories etc. and to report figures to the Board.

### Signatory log

The log below is a list of all the signatories of the ABC fund account held with CAF bank.

	Chair of Governing Board	Chair of Resources	Head of School
Prior to 10/02/2023	-	Joel Wolchover Lucas Jansson	-
2023- 08/07/25	Zoë Miller	Jayesh Bhudia	Nicola Christopher
08/07/2025 onwards			
xx/xx/xxxx onwards			
xx/xx/xxxx onwards			
xx/xx/xxxx onwards			

<b>xx/xx/xxxx onwards</b>			
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If any of the positions of the signatories end or change, it is their responsibility to ensure the new respective person is provided with signatory access, and their access removed.

This log and document should also be updated at that point to ensure they remain accurate and up to date at all times.

A record of the historic signatories should be maintained for audit purposes, and not be deleted. Changes should be added as a new row to the table above.

The Chair of Resources/ finance link governor is responsible for updating this document, unless their role is the one being changed, in which the Chair of Governors will take responsibility.

The Governing Board is ultimately accountable for ensuring changes to signatories take place and this document is maintained and reviewed on a regular basis.