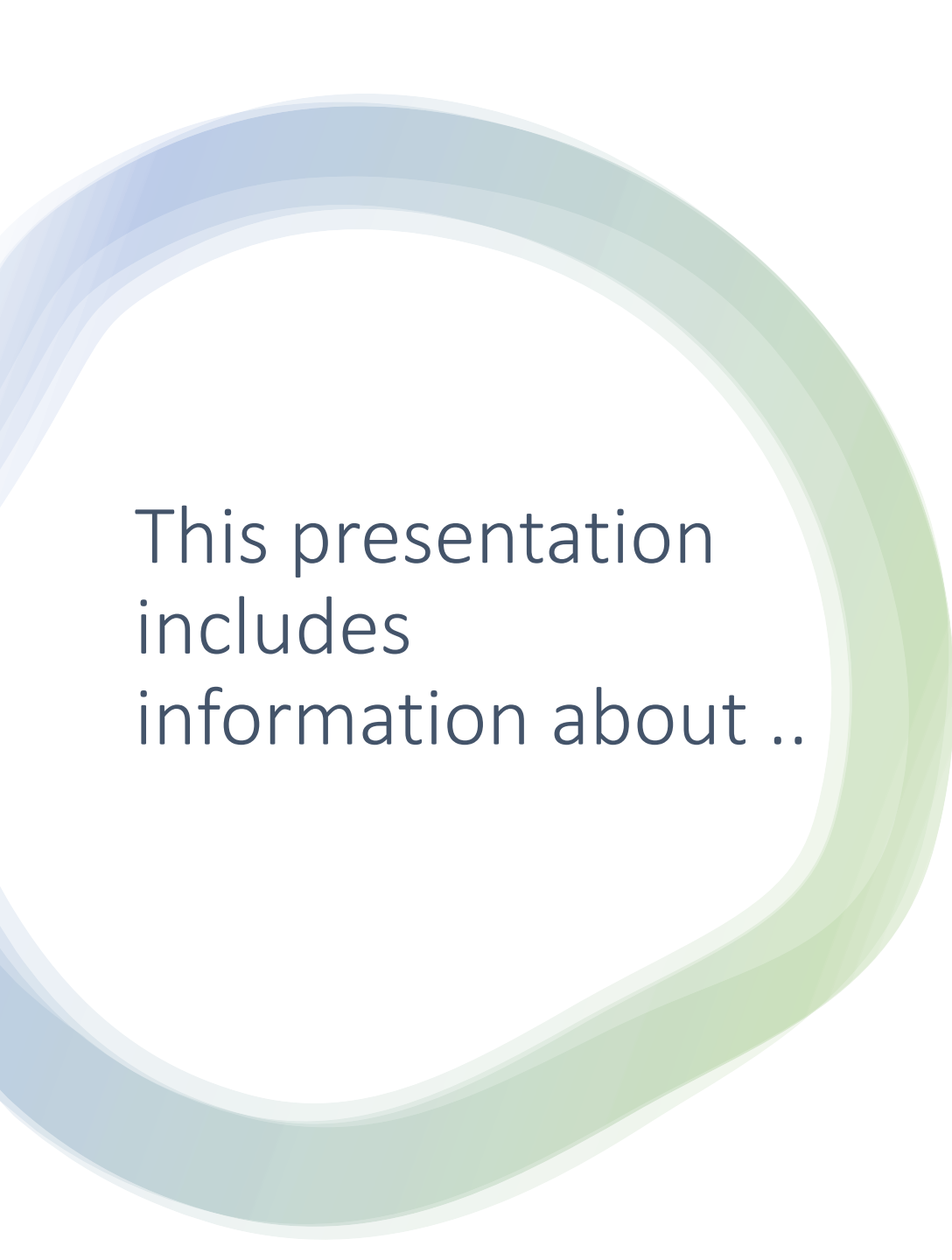


The Coleridge Voluntary Fund





This presentation
includes
information about ..



The school's current financial position

How are schools funded?

Why we have a shortfall in funding?

What we have already done about it?

The Coleridge Voluntary Fund and how your
donations will be spent?

Frequently asked questions about the Coleridge
Voluntary Fund



The school's current financial position



This year, we've had to submit a budget with a deficit, meaning our expenses are higher than our income. By the end of this financial year, we expect the deficit to be around £300,000.

In the following presentation, we will explain in simple terms:

How schools are funded

Why we find ourselves in this position

What steps we've already taken to address it

How the money raised will be used

How are schools funded?



Schools receive most of their funding from the government through the local authority. The amount each school gets depends on several factors, but the biggest one is the number of children enrolled. This is called the Age-Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU), meaning the school receives a set amount of money per child. Last year, this was £5,099 per pupil.

Our school, like many others, is facing challenges due to falling birth rates and more families moving out of London—often to be closer to relatives or because they can now work remotely. Despite our best efforts to maintain pupil numbers, we are expecting a £45,000 shortfall in next year's budget due to fewer children being enrolled.

Other Funding and Additional Grants



Schools also receive extra funding for certain groups of children, such as those with Special Educational Needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Schools with multiple sites get some additional funding to help cover the extra costs of running them.

There is also funding to support physical education and encourage children to be more active, as well as money to help provide Free School Meals for all eligible students. However, the funding for school meals doesn't always cover the full cost, so the school must make up the difference from its existing budget.



Generating Income



The school also raises its own funds in different ways. This includes support from Coleridge Families (our Parent Teacher Association), renting out school spaces, and securing grants from various organisations.

Two years ago, we also launched the Coleridge Voluntary Fund, which gives parents the opportunity to donate directly to the school.

Capital Income



The school receives a small amount of funding from Haringey to help with building improvements, repairs, and updating our IT systems.

However, running a school across two sites is costly, and ongoing renovation work adds extra pressure to our budget.



Why there is
a shortfall in funding



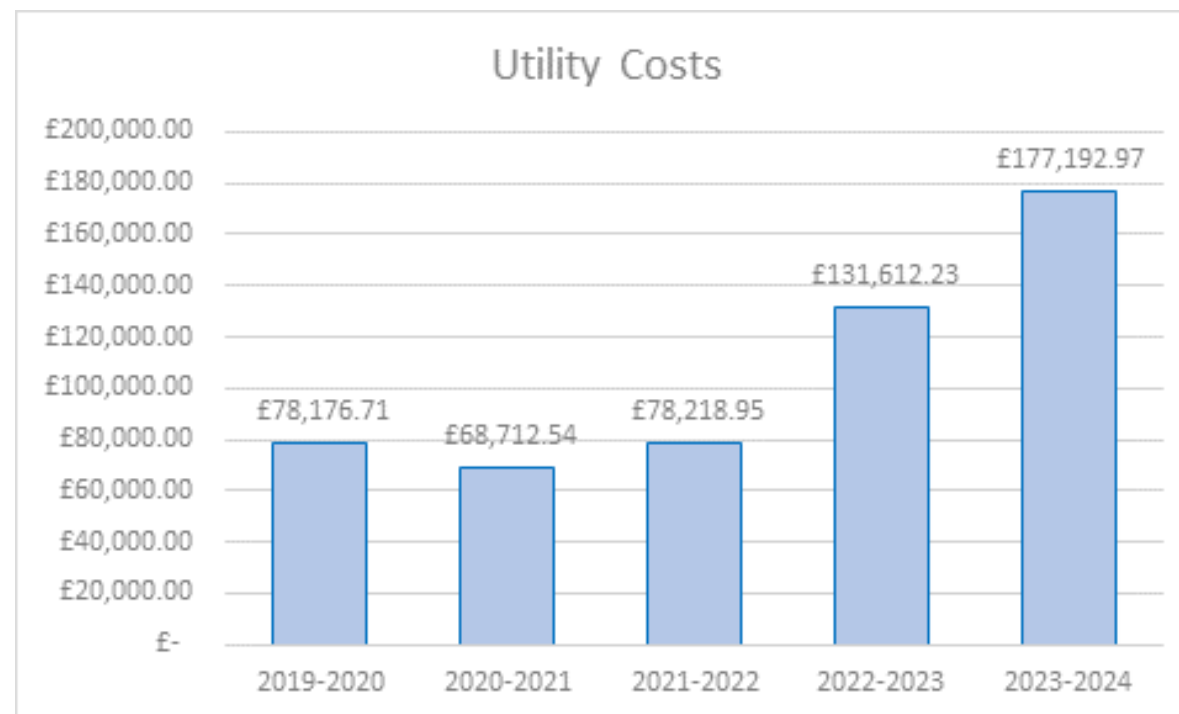
The school's current financial position is not due to poor planning but rather a combination of challenging factors. The following slides outline some of these for you.



Why there is
a shortfall in funding

Utility Costs

Like many families, the school has been hit hard by rising utility prices. Over the past two years, our water, gas and electricity bills have increased significantly by more than 100% across both school sites. We've joined a group of schools to negotiate better rates, but our energy costs remain high.



Why the school is in deficit



The school has experienced some unexpected additional costs this year, which have impacted our financial position.

Some usual income streams, such as funding from Haringey for our nursery, have decreased this year.

There have been increases in the cost of some of the annual service agreements we pay for example, services we buy in for education and learning support. .

Next year, we will also face a 1.2% increase in employer National Insurance costs. This amounts to an increase of £65,000 to our already overstretched budget.

Why the school is in deficit



Staffing Costs

Staff salaries have also increased over the past three years, but unfortunately, these pay rises have only been partially or not at all funded by the government. This has put even more pressure on our budget.

Since 2020/21, our teachers' salary costs have risen by 14% (£393,001), and support staff costs have increased by 8% (£127,148). These rising costs make it even more challenging to balance our budget while continuing to provide the best education for our children.



Why the school is in deficit



Fewer Children, Less Funding

One of the biggest challenges we're facing is the drop-in birth rates, which means fewer children are applying for school places across London. Like many other schools, we've also seen more families moving out of the city, often due to the rising cost of living or to find more affordable childcare.

Since most of our funding is based on the number of pupils, this has a direct impact on our budget. For each child enrolled, the school receives £5,099. When spaces go unfilled, it creates a shortfall in funding, making it harder to cover costs and provide the same level of resources and support.

Why the school is in deficit



The Impact of Cuts to Public Services

We know that many families are struggling to access the public services they need, and we're feeling the impact in school, too. For example, the waiting list for CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) is now two years long, making it incredibly difficult for children with complex needs to get the support they require.

At the same time, cuts to external services mean there is less help available for children's emotional well-being, and many families simply can't afford private support.

To help with this, we have protected our school counselling service, which provides free support to children and families. Over the past year, it has helped 180 families, and demand has grown significantly since the pandemic. This service is and has been essential, but it costs the school an extra £50,000 a year. Unfortunately, this is not covered by government funding—we have to pay for it from our own budget.



Why the school is in deficit

Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs

At Coleridge, we are committed to providing the best support for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). To help meet the needs of our highest-needs pupils, we have set up a dedicated SEN base called Rainbow Class, which provides tailored support each year.

While we do receive some funding for this, like many schools, the costs are much higher than the amount provided by the local authority. Last year, we received £130,000 in High Needs funding but spent £143,000 on staffing alone. This meant the school had to cover an extra £13,000 from its own budget.

In addition to Rainbow Class, we also have several children in mainstream classrooms who need 1:1 or extra adult support. However, we don't always receive funding for every child who needs this, which puts additional strain on our resources. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to ensuring all children get the support they need to thrive.

Why the school is in deficit



Capital Site Funding Pressures

The Costs of Running a Split-Site School

Running a large school across two sites comes with extra costs, but unfortunately the funding we receive doesn't cover them. Currently, we receive £13,000 to help with building costs and £60,000 in split-site funding. However, this falls far short of what's needed to run two separate sites effectively.

Because our school is split across a busy main road, we need two front offices, each staffed with admin teams. We also require a Deputy Head on each site and an additional Site Manager to oversee maintenance. In many ways, Coleridge operates like two separate two-form entry schools, which means we often need to hold contracts across both sites.

Why the school is in deficit



Capital Site Funding Pressures

On top of this, unexpected maintenance costs arise every year. So far this year, we've already spent:

- £14,000 on water and plumbing repairs

- £12,000 on boiler maintenance

- £2,000 on a new freezer for the West Kitchen

- £2,000 on playground repairs

- £8,000 on tree surgery

These ongoing costs put extra pressure on our budget, making it even more challenging to manage school finances.



What have we
already done to
address our deficit?



Strong Oversight & Governance - A dedicated Governing Body Committee meets regularly to oversee and support the school's finances. These meetings have been incredibly valuable, helping us explore ways to generate additional income and reduce costs. Having an external perspective on our finances ensures we're making the best possible decisions for our school community.

External Financial Audit-The Department for Education (DfE) recently carried out an external School Resource Management Audit of our finances. While the final report is still in draft, it has already provided helpful recommendations. We've acted on many of these suggestions and have even exceeded the targets set for income generation.



What have we
already done to
address our deficit?



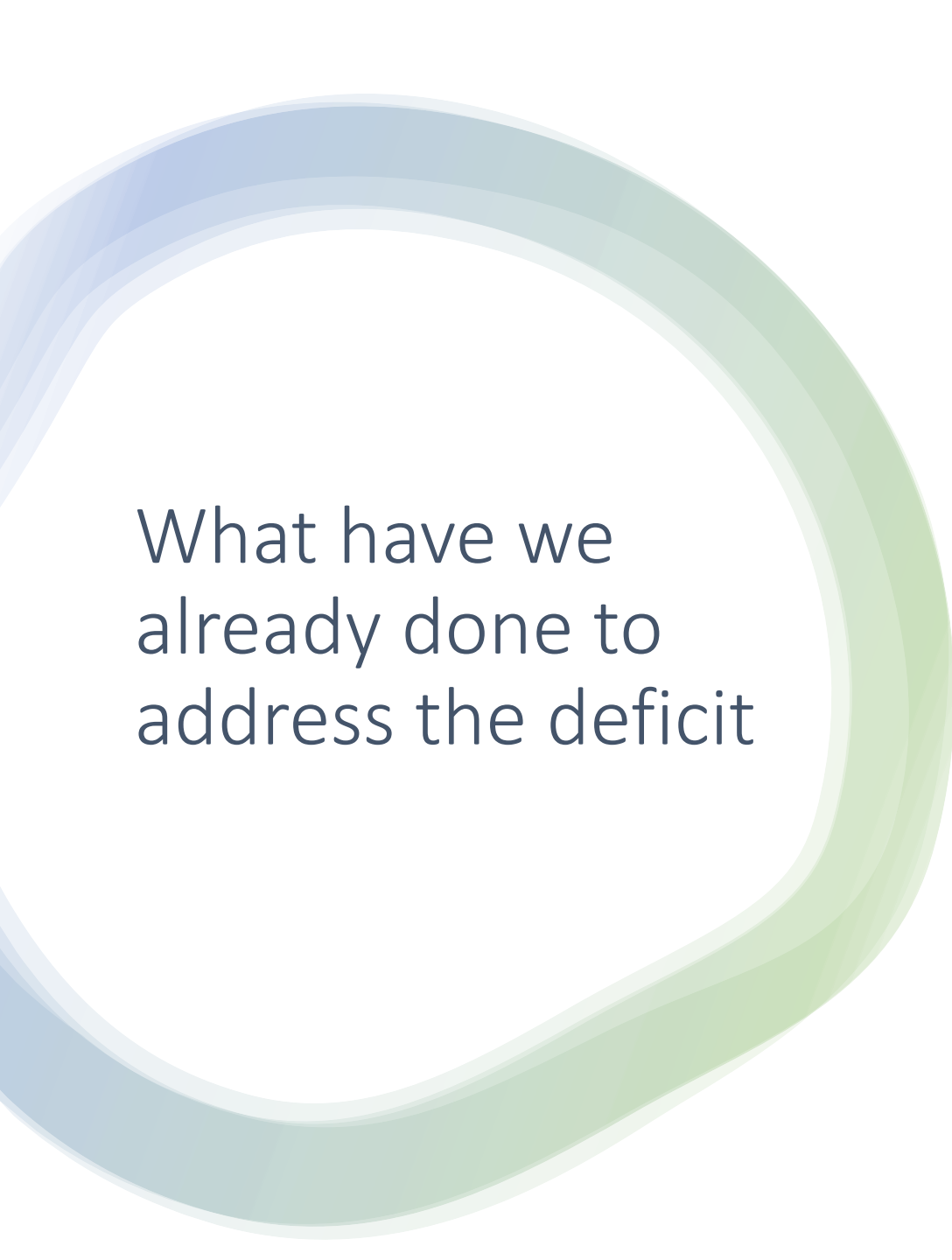
Staffing Adjustments

To keep costs down, we haven't replaced some staff members who have left, including teachers and teaching assistants.

To help cover these gaps, the Senior Leadership Team has stepped in to teach, alongside their regular responsibilities.

Rather than hiring extra music or language teachers, class teachers receive training to deliver these subjects themselves.

We no longer buy into Haringey Music Service's whole class music provision. Teachers in Year 3 now learn and teach the ukulele to children in their classes.



What have we already done to address the deficit



Increasing Income - We've worked hard to generate additional income, particularly through extra clubs and expanding our lettings. Over the last three years, we've grown our income from clubs and lettings by 68%, and we're continuing to find ways to increase this further.

Applying for Grants - To bring in extra funding, we've applied for various grants, with some great successes. So far, we've received funding from Haringey and the Tottenham Grammar Foundation. We're currently waiting to hear back on grants to help restock our library and expand our wellbeing provision.

Being Careful with Spending - We've had to pause all non-essential spending and find creative ways to make the most of the resources we already have.



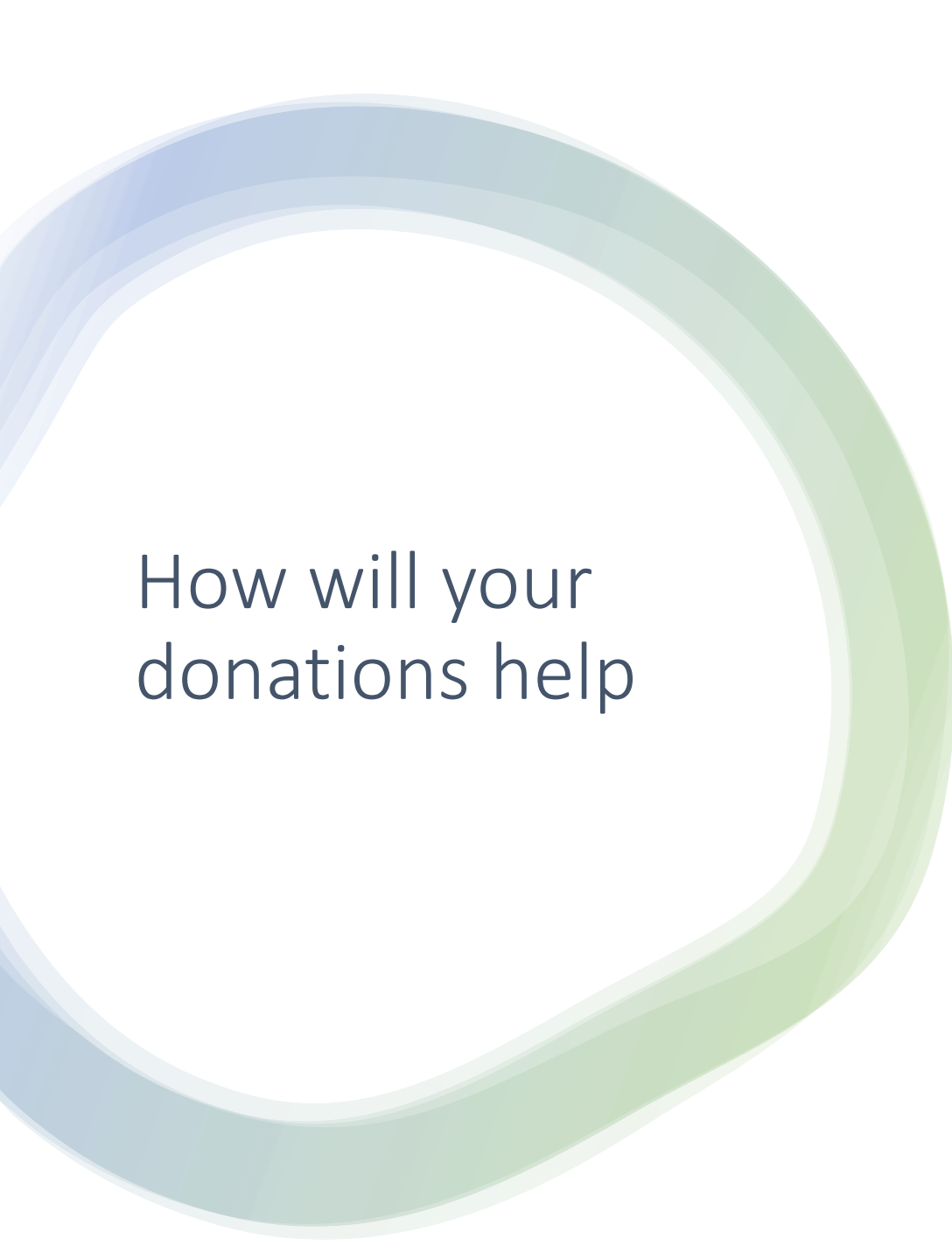
The Coleridge Voluntary Fund



Despite all these measures the school anticipates a large operating deficit at the end of this financial year. (Simply put, this means the cost of operating or running the school is larger than the income being received.)

To prevent further cuts to what we offer and staffing, the school has decided to ask the parent body for voluntary financial contributions

We are not the only school who have chosen to take this approach, many other schools do the same.



How will your
donations help



The School Development Plan

Each year, through careful evaluations of our work, the school produces a School Development Plan (SDP) out-lining our strategic priorities for the year. The SDP covers the following areas:

Quality of Education

Behaviour and Attitudes

Personal Development

Leadership and Management

The money raised will support various aspects of our plan, including training, books, teaching resources, and essential software packages. These include for example, Parent Hub and our safeguarding tracking systems My Concern, both of which we heavily rely on.



How Your Donations Help



Supporting Our Wellbeing Services

Counselling can be life-changing for children, helping them build confidence, manage emotions, and thrive in school. It also has a ripple effect, improving the atmosphere in every classroom. Keeping this vital service running costs the school an extra £50,000 a year.

If your child has benefited from counselling at Coleridge and you'd like to give back, a one-time donation or a small monthly contribution via direct debit would be incredibly helpful. Even if your child hasn't used the service, any support for our wellbeing provision would be greatly appreciated.

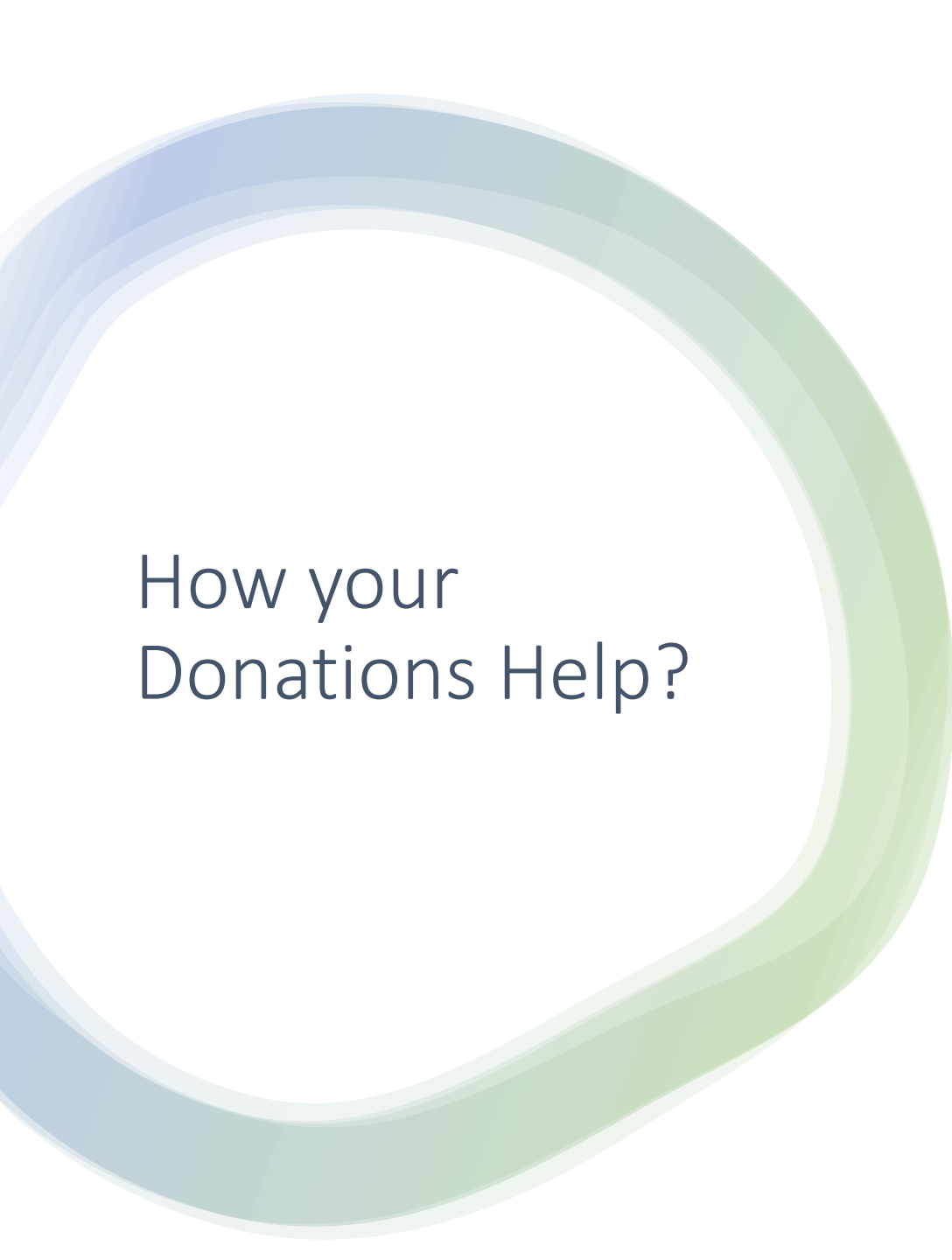


Learning Resources for Classrooms



Every year, we spend over £11,000 on essential classroom supplies—things like paper, exercise books, glue, and backing paper. These everyday materials help bring learning to life. Even a small monthly donation can help keep our classrooms stocked and ready for our children.

We buy in to Barnet Library Service. Each Half Term teachers order fresh books to come into the classrooms. This gives teachers the opportunity to select books relevant to their children's interests and specific topics the children are learning about. This service Costs £8,000 annually.



How your Donations Help?



Supporting Our Art Department

Art is one of the most loved subjects at Coleridge. Children take great pride in their creations, and the quality of their work is truly inspiring. To keep our art curriculum fully stocked with materials, we spend an additional £10,000 each year. Your donations help ensure that every child continues to have access to a fantastic art education.

How your Donations Help



Improving Our School Environment

We are always working to keep Coleridge a safe, inspiring, and welcoming place to learn. While we receive support from Haringey and Coleridge Families, the list of repairs and refurbishments keeps growing.

This year, we had unexpected costs, including:

- Replacing the decking outside Year 1 classrooms (£10,000)

- Covering repairs to the school kitchens This year we have had to spend £5.3k on repairs to the ovens and chillers

Looking ahead, we already know we'll need to:

- Replace carpets in Reception and in Year 2

- Upgrade kitchens in Reception

- Improve school lighting infrastructure to LED

These improvements are expensive and stretch our budget. If you work in a trade and can donate materials or services, we'd love to hear from you!

Questions and Answers



How to Donate to the Coleridge Voluntary Fund



If you can donate/contribute, here is how:

Set up a monthly donation – even £10/month makes a real impact.

Make a one-off contribution to the Coleridge Voluntary Fund.

Gift Aid your donation to boost its value by 25%, at no extra cost.

Bank Details:

Account Name: Coleridge Families

Sort Code: 60-06-26

Account Number: 51554119

Reference: CVF

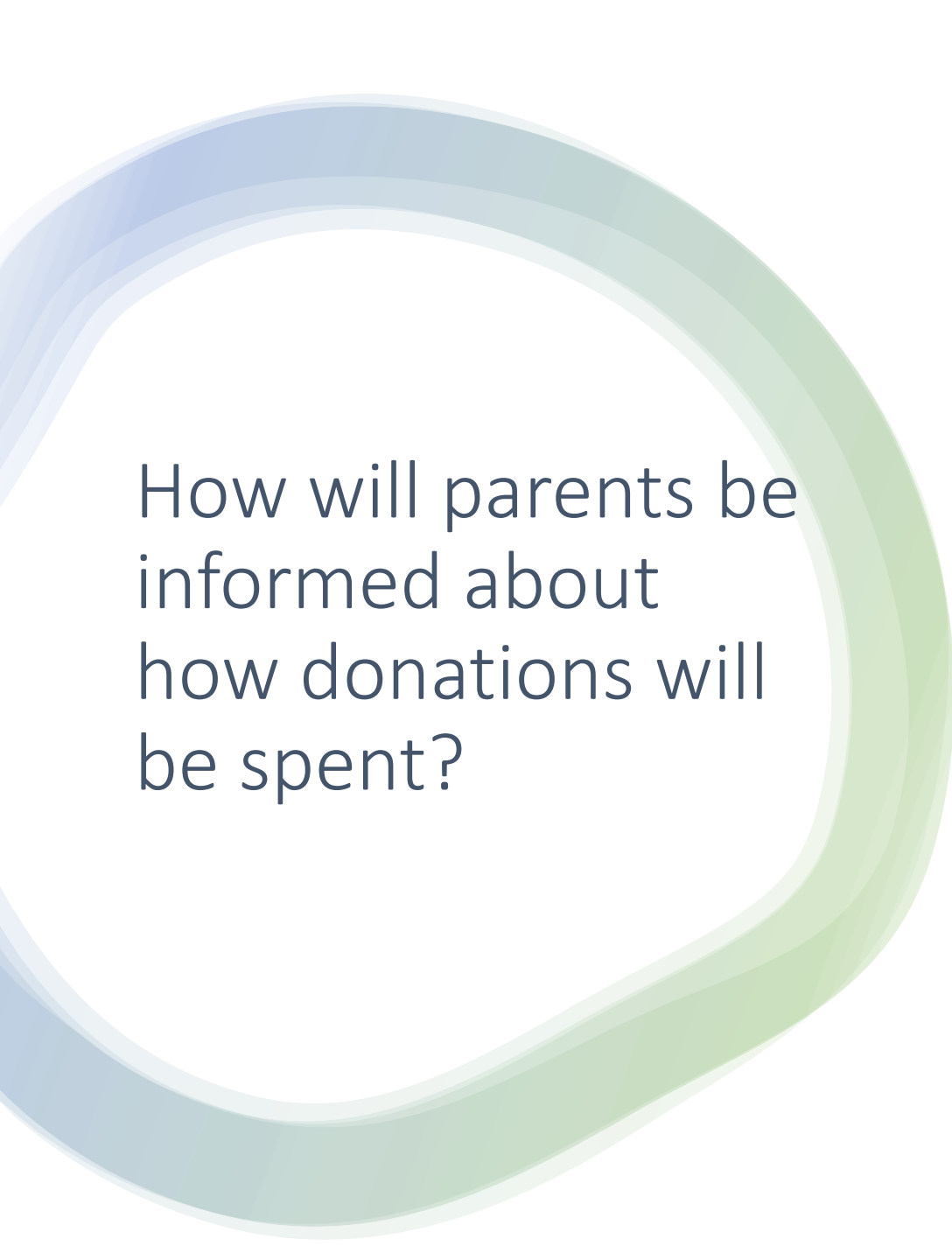
What is the difference between donating to Coleridge Families and the Coleridge Voluntary Fund?



Coleridge Families and the Coleridge Voluntary Fund are separate and funds raised will be spent on different things.

Money raised by Coleridge Families is usually invested in large scale projects such as renovation the playground, libraries and the toilets.

Local Authority Schools like Coleridge do not qualify for charitable status and therefore cannot claim gift aid. However, donating to the CVF through Coleridge Families enables us to claim Gift Aid. This means that the school will receive an additional 25% on top of what you give.

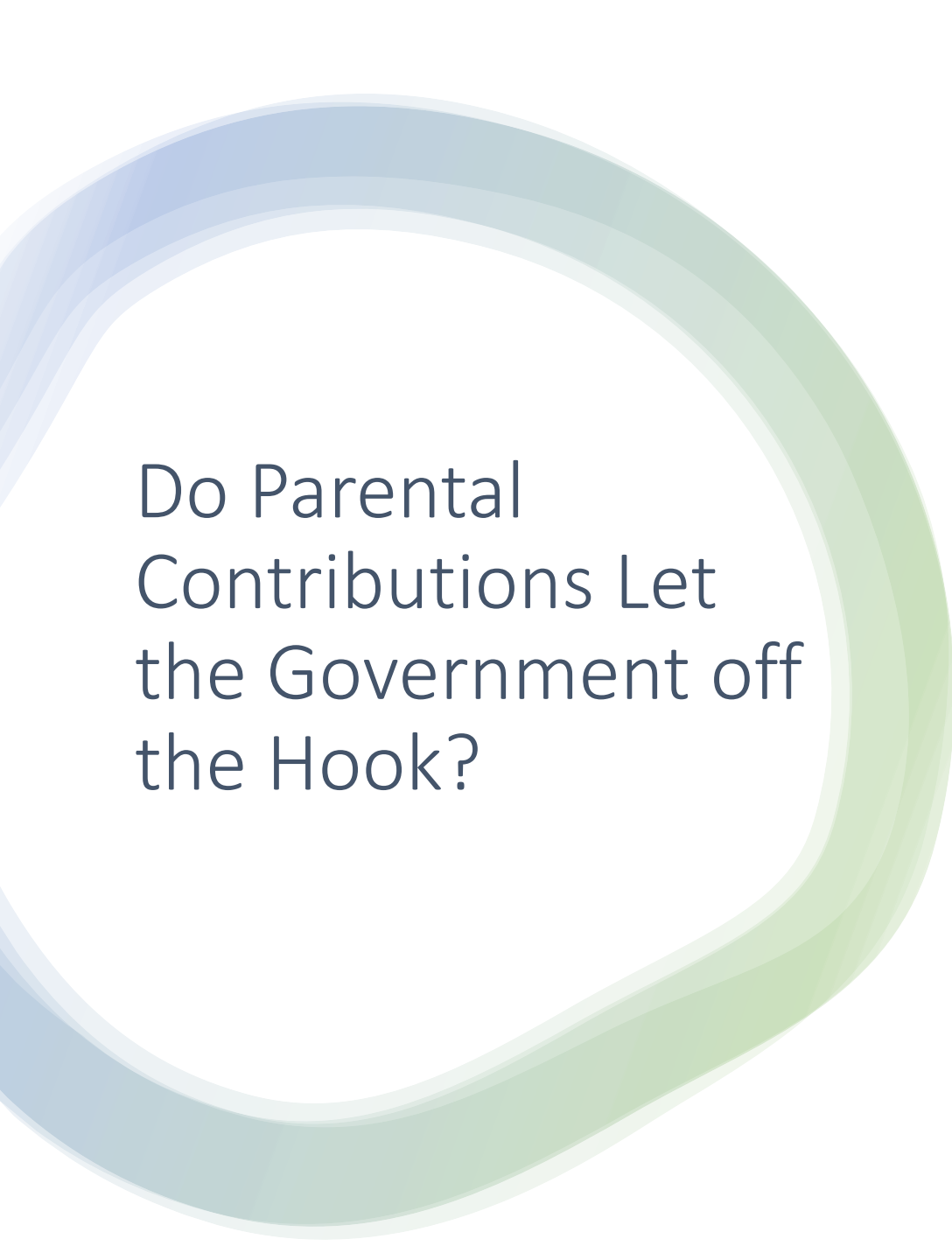


How will parents be informed about how donations will be spent?



Feedback from parents who have donated historically was that the school did not report back enough how money from the CVF was being spent.

We have thought about this, and going forward we will report back termly in our Headteacher Newsletter.



Do Parental Contributions Let the Government off the Hook?



It is argued by many that asking parents for financial support hides the true cost of running state schools and allows the government to continue to underfund state schools. To some extent this is true.

We have participated in campaigns to improve funding at a national level through the unions and contact with our local MP. Unfortunately, given the current political situation it is unlikely that the situation will change any time soon.

If Coleridge is to continue providing an excellent level of service for its community then it needs to increase income. Without it, further redundancies and cuts to our school will have to be made.

Thank you for your support

