

PRESS RELEASE



Horsham's First Fairtrade School



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School is the first school in Horsham to gain accredited Fairtrade status. This is awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation which monitors and promotes the Fairtrade mark in Britain.

To achieve the award the school had to meet 5 goals:

- Set up a Fairtrade School Steering Group with at least half pupils and which meets at least once a term.
- Write and adopt a Fairtrade Policy which has the support of the board of Governors and is signed by the Head teacher.
- Use and sell Fairtrade products as much as possible.
- Learn about Fairtrade in at least three subjects in two year groups.
- Take action for Fairtrade at least once a term in the school and once a year in the community.

It is a long and challenging journey to meet these criteria as Anne Hudspith (Head of St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School) said 'The whole school community is delighted but we have worked very hard for two years to achieve

this.'

Why would a school put itself through this? you may ask, Ann Hudspith explains 'The whole school community is passionate about supporting Fairtrade. The children understand how their actions and choices impact on the lives of other people who are not as fortunate as they are. They believe that by improving conditions for all workers involved in producing the products they buy they are making a big difference to the lives of many children and young people throughout the world.'



Fairtrade Horsham congratulates them on their achievement and looks forward to other schools in the area gaining the award. 'Fairtrade is a concept that works well within schools as children have a very strong sense of fairness and can easily see that it's only fair that the people who produce what we eat, wear and use should

get paid enough to live on and a chance to improve their lives' said Gaynor Cooper (chair of Fairtrade Horsham).

At present there are four other schools in Horsham working towards Fairtrade status and several others have expressed an interest but not yet registered for the scheme.

**For further information please contact Gaynor Cooper on 01403 261157
email info@fairtradehorsham.org.uk**

Notes to editors:

The Fairtrade school award is awarded and monitored by the Fairtrade Foundation. The Fairtrade Foundation is an independent certification body which awards the Fairtrade mark to products which meet the international Fairtrade standards. This independent consumer label appears on products a guarantee that disadvantaged producers are getting a better deal. Today more than 7 million people across 58 developing countries benefit from the international Fairtrade system.

More information is available at www.fairtrade.org.uk

For information on Fairtrade schools follow the schools link on that website

Fairtrade Horsham is the Steering Group which runs and maintains Horsham's Fairtrade Town status. They campaign to increase the use and availability of Fairtrade products locally in order to enable more producers in the Developing World to receive a fair price for their products and so reduce poverty.

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