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A place for learning, caring, sharing and growing together.

12th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Christmas Toy Appeal: Friday 28th November 2025

The Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal is returning for the ninth year in a row! In 2023, there were nearly 8000 children under 16 in Swindon living in poverty (DWP), the highest since comparable records began in 2014/15. The aim is to bring a little hope and happiness to families who would find giving presents to their children very difficult without resorting to loans. Many schools, churches, businesses, and organisations were involved last year and as a result, a total of 830 children received a complete gift sack, including 3 main presents, a book and a soft toy!

On **Friday 28th November**, we are inviting pupils to bring in a donated present for a child between the ages of 0-17 years old. Please bring items into school to classrooms or the school office on the morning of **28th November**. We ask that the presents are **NOT WRAPPED** as the recipients' parents would usually do this. Items should be **brand new condition**, suitable for donating. If you would like, we would also accept donations of Christmas wrapping paper. You may like to add a tag to your gift with a message and/or age range information. For further information about the appeal, including information about how to make a monetary donation instead, please visit: <https://gatewaychurchswindon.org.uk/toy-appeal>

Children 0-12 Present Guidance

- **Dolls and action figures** - to encourage imaginative play and help children to learn nurturing skills and build empathy. This also includes soft toys, such as Squishmallows, teddy bears, etc.
- **Learning / educational toys** - including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) toys.
- **Construction toys** - including magnetic toys, such as Magna-tiles and Smart Max, to Duplo, Lego, etc.
- **Cars and transport** - including Hot Wheels, transporters, remote control, garages, etc.
- **Kids' art and craft** - this could include anything from Playdoh and slime to stationery, pens, crayons, and science kits, or products such as baking and gardening kits.
- **Pretend play toys** - these are excellent for developing storytelling skills and include role play costumes, play kitchen items, etc.
- **Games, puzzles, and books** - including board games, jigsaws, tabletop arcade games, etc.
- **Sports items** - particularly footballs, NERF guns etc.
- **Baby items** - including baby clothes, rattles, etc.

Teenager 13-17 Present Guidance

- **Make-up and toiletries** - including lip balms, and items for hair and nails.
- **Electronic gadgets** - including LED strip lights, ring lights for TikTok, wireless ear-buds, LED glitter lamps, phone accessories, etc.
- **Books, games, and puzzles** - those aimed at teenagers rather than younger children.
- **Sports items** - such as footballs, etc.
- **Gift vouchers.**

Many thanks in advance for your support.

Mrs Sammon
Headteacher

