**Funding Agreement approved for first Church of England bilingual school:**

St. Jérôme School set to open in September 2016

Press release

05/01/2016

The team behind St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School is celebrating after the school’s Funding Agreement was approved by Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools.

The Funding Agreement is the contract between the school and the government and a key document in the school’s journey toward opening. It means the school is on track to open on a spacious site on Station Road, Harrow, where it will welcome its first 60 Reception children to the first state-funded French-English bilingual school in the area.

Executive Headteacher, Daniel Norris said: *“It is very unusual to get Funding Agreement approval so far in advance of the school opening: this news is a vote of confidence in my excellent team and fantastic news for the local families who have supported our journey all the way.”*

Chair of Governors, Ian Fernandes said: *“The original idea for the school came from a handful of local parents who wanted Harrow children to be given the unique opportunity of a bilingual state school education; in this respect this is genuinely a project from the community, for the community. With the fantastic expertise and support of the LDBS and the Executive Headteacher Daniel Norris, we have now been able to make this dream a reality.*

*When it opens in September 2016 St. Jérôme* *Church of England Bilingual School will offer pupils a truly exceptional educational experience based on Christian values; we will have an obvious focus on languages but much more besides, and I feel extremely privileged to be involved.*

*Today's announcement marks the culmination of over two years of work undertaken a small number of people, mostly behind the scenes. It has not always been easy but it is because of their perseverance that we are here at this historic milestone today. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them for their efforts, without which this would not have been possible.”*

It is not too late to apply for a place in Reception for September. Applications should be sent directly to the school and the application deadline is midnight on Friday 15 January 2016. All information on the school website [www.stjeromebilingual.org](http://www.stjeromebilingual.org).