

Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

Version: 1

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Policy Owner: Rudolf Steiner School Trust (Wellington), known as the Proprietors Trust

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Financial Hardship Assistance

The Proprietors Trust believes that a Waldorf education should be open to all, regardless of their financial position. Financial hardship assistance is available to support families wishing to attend Raphael House who cannot afford the full fees (Attendance Dues).

A family may apply to the Proprietors Trust for financial assistance towards Attendance Dues, due to financial hardship. The number of Financial Hardship Grants issued each year is at the discretion of the Proprietors Trust. Families can apply for **up to a maximum of 75% assistance** of the annual fees.

Financial Hardship Assistance Available

25% of annual attendance dues

50% of annual attendance dues

75% of annual attendance dues

Application Process

Applications close on the last day of February, annually. Late applications may be considered should individual circumstances change during the school year or if a student enrolls partway through the school year.

Each application will be considered on its own merits and will be responded to by 31 March each year.

To be eligible for a Financial Hardship Assistance Grant you must:

- have no outstanding accounts with the school, (debt free). If you have an outstanding balance payable to the school, proof of a payment plan will be required with a genuine commitment to ongoing payments, for your application to be considered.
- be eligible for Working for Families Tax Credits
- show proof of a low household income
- **First year Grants:** documented outline of how you will contribute to the school non-financially, over and above normal commitments of attending meetings and helping out as expected (school fair shifts/assisting on school trips) during the given school year.
- **Ongoing Grants:** proven documentation on how you have contributed to the school in the previous year, non-financially. See examples listed below.

Families who are not able to, or do not contribute non-financially to the school will not be eligible for a Financial Hardship Grant.

Non-financial contributions include (not limited to)

- Crafts
- Gardening
- Reader/Writer (Upper School)
- Steiner Fair Representative and/or Committee
- Working Bees
- PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association)
- Class Representative
- Reading Recovery assistance (Lower School)
- Adult Education Workshop