

Financial Hardship Assistance Policy

Version: 2

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

Date: 10th October 2023

Purpose and Funding

The Proprietors Trust believes that a Waldorf education should be open to all, regardless of their financial position. The Fund was created from a desire to support families experiencing temporary financial hardship with the cost of attendance dues, so that their child(ren) can continue to attend Raphael House during this time.

Each year school families have the opportunity to donate to the Fund to support families in temporary financial hardship. The Trust also budgets a fixed amount for the Fund, providing a fund of around \$15,000 each year to support families in financial difficulty.

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

Priority will be given to first year applications from families who meet the Financial Assistance Fund Policy criteria. Applications for subsequent years will be reviewed on their merit but usually will only be approved if there are extenuating circumstances as to why multiple years of support is needed.

Application Process

- Applications close in **mid November**, each year with a decision made by the end of Term 4 so families can plan for the following year.
- Late applications may be considered should individual circumstances change during the school year or if a student enrolls partway through the school year.
- Separated families. If one parent is applying for financial assistance for their half of the fees then they must have communicated in writing to the school to request split billing changes

Eligibility and Proof

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

- provide an explanation on why financial assistance is required and how many years (if more than one) it is expected the applicant(s) will be in financial hardship.
- 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.
- provide proof eligibility for Working for Families Tax Credits
- provide proof of a low household income (including salary, wages, family or child support, boarder income, any other 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.

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