

## Community Supported Fee Assistance

School acknowledges there may be specific circumstances which may prevent a family from being able to meet the applicable Per Child Charge as determined by the Total Gross Family Income tiering within the Graduated Fee Structure. A separate Fee Assistance Fund has been set up in an attempt to provide some support in these circumstances. The fund will be ring-fenced and protected from day-to-day school expenses.

The Fee Assistance Fund will require continuous funding and will be contributed to purely from specifically designated gifts and donations from the Community and other benefactors. General fund-raising activities and non-designated fund raising proceeds from school events will not be contributed to the Fee Assistance fund.

Should you wish to make a donation to the Fee Assistance Fund, we would be grateful if you could kindly indicate your intentions in your response to the Financial Commitment to YSS 2022/23 document. Further details on how to set up a standing order to this specific fund account, including the possibility of Gift Aid, will be made available to you by the Finance Manager.

The nature of fee assistance is to ensure we protect the wonderful inclusive nature of our community. Therefore although all families are welcome to apply for fee assistance, the primary objective of the scheme is to provide support for the most financially challenged within our Community, this may for example be families who range towards the lower end of the Total Gross Family Income tiers.

Unfortunately the Fee Assistance Fund is limited by nature, and therefore fee assistance can only be granted on a yearly basis for one school year at a time, each time subject to successful application. It is School's expectation that no family should rely on perennial fee assistance as a way of funding the Per Child Charge through the duration of Main School.

Should you consider that you may need to apply for Fee Assistance, please indicate this in your response to the Financial Commitment to YSS 2022/23 document together with the amount you are likely to apply for.

All applications for fee assistance will be subject to a degree of means testing, including the possible use of an external credit agency, to ensure School is able to prioritize and support the most financially challenged within our Community. Therefore School cannot guarantee the outcome of prospective applications for Fee Assistance at this stage and will need to explore further with families who intend to apply. Further dialogue on this will be communicated to relevant families in the new year.