



FEE ASSISTANCE POLICY

Wild Cherry School and Kindergarten is committed to providing Waldorf/Steiner Education accessible to children from all socio-economic backgrounds and situations. The School must, however, take into consideration that it is able to meet all its financial obligations. Although the School receives Commonwealth and State Government funding, this does not cover all operational needs. For the School to be viable and prosper, the balance must be recovered from parents in the form of fees.

Wild Cherry School is aware that meeting fees can be difficult for some families at particular times and therefore makes allocations in its annual budget for fee relief. The amount of fee relief is limited, and the School may not be able to offer as much as it would like. Given this conflicting situation, the School endeavours to meet the genuine needs of each family.

Purpose

The purpose of this Fee Assistance Policy is to support families experiencing **genuine financial hardship**.

Core Policy

Wild Cherry School has set up a Fee Assistance Fund to assist families experiencing genuine financial hardship. Families can apply for fee assistance anytime during the school year.

To be eligible for fee assistance applicants must fit into at least three of the following six categories:

- i. Low income with a current/valid healthcare card;
- ii. High unexpected expenses, including debt and other specific financial pressures;
- iii. Changes in employment status or family situation, including parent separation etc.;
- iv. Family health issues;
- v. Strong commitment in being involved in school activities, fundraising etc.; and/or
- vi. More than one child at the school.

All families wishing to apply for fee assistance must complete a fee assistance application form and return it to the School with all required application support material no later than four weeks before the end of each school term for consideration by the Board/Finance Committee for the following term.

Wild Cherry School recognises that requiring fee assistance is a deeply personal matter and all applications will be handled with utmost confidence.

AUTHORISATION

Board Secretary

East Gippsland Steiner Education Group Inc.

Date authorised: 23 October 2018