



Fee Affordability Policy

RATIONALE

Farmhouse Montessori School, a community based School, is committed to providing a Montessori environment to as many people as possible. Fees are kept to a minimum and supplemented by fund-raising. Committee members and staff are committed to providing a centre of excellence at the lowest possible cost and based on the Montessori philosophy of caring for all people.

All children have a right of equal access to quality children's services, regardless of economic status, cultural background or disability.

Where possible, assistance is provided to families who are suffering financial difficulty according to the policy set out below.

Consideration is also given to those who have more than one child at the school at the same time.

AIMS

To ensure the needs of the child remain paramount in cases of family crisis

To help make Montessori education available to people of varying circumstances who are committed to the Montessori philosophy and environment for their children.

IMPLEMENTATION AND STRATEGIES

A. GENERAL PAYMENT OF FEES

In cases where a family has difficulty paying per term, arrangements can be made with the Principal to organise payments through a bank transfer or cheque payment on a monthly basis or as per arranged. The family is required to submit their payments arrangements in writing for acceptance.

In some cases payments of fees may be deferred to a later date or it may be determined whether the family is eligible for fee relief according to the affordability subsidy.

B. FEE ASSISTANT PROVISION

A provision of one (1) full year fee is set aside each year to assist families in need of assistance. Families can submit an application for fee assistance any time of the year.

Availability of relief is determined by:

1. The number of families applying
2. The number of families already receiving assistance
3. The levels of assistance requested
4. The funds available at the time
5. Commitment to the three year program

Families already receiving assistance would not be jeopardised by later applications.

An Application for Assistance Form must be filled out and handed to the Principal of Farmhouse who, together in consultation with the applicant will determine availability of funds, suitability, and level of assistance.

CONFIDENTIALITY

There is an understanding that due to the sensitive nature of individual family’s financial predicaments and according to our confidentiality policy, information regarding the arrangement and assistance received by each family will be restricted to the Principal and Bookkeeper of The Farmhouse Montessori School

Source

- Hills Montessori School
- Bexley Jack and Jill Preschool Inc.
- Department of Community Services Affordability Policy Implementation Guidelines

Policy Review Dates:
<i>First Approved: 2004</i>
<i>Last Reviewed: May 2013</i>
<i>Reviewed: April 2014</i>
<i>May 2015</i>
<i>Feb 2018-New Logo</i>
<i>June 2018-Board approved new Fee Guidelines</i>

APPENDIX 1:

APPLICATION FOR FEE ASSISTANCE

FAMILY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

1st Parent / Caregiver: _____

2nd Parent / Caregiver: _____

Occupation: _____

Occupation: _____

Income/wage: \$ _____

Income/wage: \$ _____

Centrelink Benefit: See reverse side of this form.

Combined Gross Family Income: _____

Do you have a low income Health Care Card? _____

Number of school children in your care? _____

Number of preschool children in your care? _____

Child's name	Age	School	Fees paid by you now	Other assistance provided

Please note that if your application is approved your reduced fees are to be paid in the month they fall due for payment.

If you are already on reduced fees can you afford to increase your present fee? _____

State the fee you are able to pay (per month / per week) _____

Signatures: _____

Dates: _____

Please Note:

Extra Fee Affordability Policy

A new application must be made each term. Please return this form to the school as soon as possible.

Please complete as appropriate

	\$		\$
Age pension		Disability Support Pension	
Partner allowance		Sickness allowance	
Parenting payment		Special benefit	
Wife Pension		Youth allowance	
Family Tax benefit		Any other: (Please name)	
<i>Austudy / Abstudy</i>			

Details of major expenses that affect your ability to pay school fee- eg mortgage, loans etc

Are there any other reasons why you feel special consideration should be given to your case e.g. sickness, unemployment etc

OFFICE USE:

Comments: _____

APPENDIX 2:

INCOME /FEE GUIDELINES

As a guideline, assistance to families may be offered according to the following gross annual income levels.

Low income Health Care Card/ Up to \$37398*	- up to	80 %
\$37,398 - \$110,000	- up to	50 %
Up to \$110,000 - \$130,000	- up to	30%

Income levels can vary depending on the number of children at the school.

Income that's included as part of gross family income when establishing eligibility for financial assistance includes:

- gross salaries, wages and allowances from an employer/s
- taxable Centrelink pensions, benefits and allowances
- non-taxable or tax-exempt pensions, benefits and allowances - eg Disability Support Pension
- gross interest and dividends
- benefits from the Department of Veterans' Affairs
- supplementary income identified in the supplementary tax return
- fringe benefits - eg provision of a car, entertainment expenses
- foreign income, including pensions and employment
- self-employment - income from a business or partnership.

* *Minimum weekly wage*