

MILFORD INFANTS

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Grow, Learn, Believe, Achieve



Headteacher: Mr Andrew Stear

5.2.21

Covid 19 Milford School Community Hardship Fund

In light of the current global pandemic and the significant impact upon many people's lives, Milford School recognises its role in the wider lives of our pupils and aims to be able to react quickly to support those most in need at this time.

This temporary fund seeks to act to bridge the gap between any staff or families of children in our care whilst they pursue appropriate support locally. Many organisations and departments within both Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council are receiving unprecedented applications for support, causing a delay in response in some cases. This has meant that in some cases, individuals have had to become very reliant upon food banks which can have a negative effect on mental wellbeing and the ability to provide appropriately for their families. Applications to this fund aim to reduce this reliance in the short term, whilst signposting and supporting individuals to seek and receive the support they need.

Applications can be made by staff members (including unpaid teacher trainees and volunteers) and parents of children attending the school, provided they can reasonably demonstrate a significant change in their circumstance, requiring some short term assistance, and that they are seeking appropriate support through local organisations for Early Help (including the Borough Council and County Council).

Principles

- Confidentiality. Please note, some records may need to be kept securely in a confidential file by the Hardship Fund Panel. These will be in a locked cabinet with access only granted to the Panel. When you or your child leaves Milford, files will be destroyed.
- No judgement.
- Short term support to enable appropriate services to respond to requests for help.
- Provide our community with what they need when in crisis.

Support offered

- Discreetly provided food or clothing for children and families (*this may be in the form of a parcel to meet specific needs, or clothing/footwear where it is required or a shopping voucher – the type of support provided will be at the discretion of the Hardship Fund Panel and dependent upon funds available within the school*).
- Support with completing any paperwork for applications for local help.
- Signposting and recommending avenues to pursue to get the right help at the right time from the right organisations.



How to apply

We understand that asking for help can feel like a huge task in itself and therefore want to reduce any anxiety associated with this by offering the following ways to seek support:

1. An email or phone call to either the Head, Deputy Head or Senco.
2. An email to Emma Hardy, Co-Chair of Governors (ehardy@milford.surrey.sch.uk)
3. Request a meeting (virtual or in person) with any of the above contacts.
4. You can consent to a close friend making contact with any of the above on your behalf. Please note, in this case you may be contacted simply to confirm that you have consented. No further information will be requested from you.

Panel for decision making regarding applications

- The Head, Deputy Head, Senco or Emma Hardy, Co-Chair of Governors shall be a part of the panel. A minimum of one school representative and the Co-Chair of Governors may be considered to act as 'the panel' to approve any requests for support.
- In the event of unavailability of the Co-Chair of Governors, an alternative (non-parent) Governor shall be asked to fulfill this role.
- You will be informed of any decision at the earliest opportunity via a phonecall or email if you are unavailable.
- The panel may request some evidence to support your claim if it is necessary. This may consist of a recent P45/proof of employment termination or documents or screenshots to show that an application for appropriate support has been made or is in process.

How to support this initiative

If you are in a position to offer any support for the purposes detailed above, please do get in contact with Mr Andrew Stear, Headteacher on head@milford.surrey.sch.uk or Mrs Lorraine Breen on finance1@milford.surrey.sch.uk

Disclaimer

We reserve the right to make decisions on a case by case basis. Current circumstances and employment/benefits being received may be requested to ensure the support goes where it is needed most.

All decisions are final and will be made as promptly as possible. Provided requests are reasonable and funds are available, we will aim to grant requests within 48 hours of receiving them.

Any support given or support requests granted will not need to be repaid.

