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# DISADVANTAGED FUNDING POLICY

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Approved by	Local Governing Committee
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## 1. Introduction

Whilst school budgets remain a challenge and are provided primarily to support whole school teaching and learning, we recognise that there are rare occasions when families may wish to apply for hardship support directly linked to their child's education. It is at the Headteacher's discretion whether to grant funds, which may be sourced from pupil premium or from charitable donations. In line with DfE guidance on the effective use of pupil premium funding, any support provided must demonstrate a clear link to improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils, ensuring funds are used in an evidence-informed manner. Decisions will also consider the principles outlined by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), ensuring that support aligns with approaches proven to have a positive impact on reducing disadvantage.

## 2. Responsibilities

The decision whether to grant any hardship payment is the responsibility of the Headteacher, whose decision is final. However, all staff are to remain vigilant in ensuring that enrichment opportunities are available to all pupils and that these should not be dependent on the family's economic circumstance. It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that intelligence about children in social or financial hardship is gathered so that no child slips through the net. It is also the responsibility of staff to monitor that take-up of, and participation in, enrichment activities to ensure they are inclusive. The school will maintain oversight of patterns in participation to identify whether specific groups are underrepresented, in line with pupil premium accountability expectations.

## 3. Application

All applications must be made in writing to the Headteacher. Whilst there are no set criteria, the school may ask that evidence is provided as appropriate, for example proof of household income.

All requests will be treated on their own merit, but applicants are reminded that these funds are finite, and requests will be processed in the light of available resources.

The school will consider requests from children who fall into at least one of the following groups:

- In receipt of free school meals
- On the SEN or child protection register
- Children who are, or have previously been in, local authority care
- Children in families with a very low income, who are experiencing exceptional circumstances leading to financial difficulties

Whilst there is no guarantee that an application to the hardship fund will be successful, the Headteacher will consider, through consultation with other staff where necessary, the direct impact any granting of funds would have on the child's educational experience.

Successful applicants will be advised in writing of the level of support and the method of payment. Any successful request for hardship funds may still require a contribution from the family, for example the school may offer a percentage of costs.

Applications may be prioritised where the request supports access to learning, attendance, or participation in school life, in line with DfE expectations that disadvantage funding is used to address identified barriers

#### 4. Wider Support

The school holds a stock of good quality second hand uniform. Parents and carers can access this via the school office. We also provide a list of agencies who can help with hardship on [Cost-of-Living-Support.pdf \(stgeorges-primary.org\)](#) The school will continue to promote access to external agencies that offer financial, pastoral, or early help support, ensuring families receive a coordinated and holistic response to hardship.

#### 5. Complaints

Any complaints about the Headteacher's administration of this policy will be dealt with through the trust's complaints procedure, detailed in the Complaints Policy.

#### 6. Cross References to Other Policies

- Complaints Policy