



13-17 Compton Street,
Hillcrest, Auckland 0627
P: (09) 480 9236
M: 022 043 4792 (8-4pm)
E: office@willowpark.school.nz
www.willowpark.school.nz

Kia Poipoi Kia Tipu Kia Puāwai

Dear Willow Park Families

RE: School Voluntary Donations 2023

The Ministry of Education has asked all New Zealand schools to adhere to strict guidelines for payments made to schools by families and whānau. The Board of Trustees at Willow Park School wants to be transparent in our financial undertakings and has explained the use of school donations in this correspondence.

We are extremely fortunate as a community to have an excellent school for our children to attend. The Board, school leadership, teachers and staff work hard to provide the very best education possible within our limited resource budget. We will not charge a fee for enrolment or delivery of the curriculum. However, we continue to ask for your financial support of our school via voluntary donations as explained below.

Our school is financed by three key sources: government funding, fundraising, and donations.

The amount of funding from the Ministry of Education that a school receives is linked to its decile rating. Willow Park is a decile 9 school which means we receive less funding per student than a lower decile school. Government funding has strict criteria over where it can be spent for example on salaries, property maintenance and curriculum resources. The current level of funding does not cover the full cost of the education that Willow Park School strives to provide.

To cover the shortfall, the school applies for grants where possible and is extremely thankful for the fundraising efforts of our hardworking Friends of Willow Park (FoWP). Both these income streams are usually targeted for specific projects such as play areas and teacher professional learning and development (PLD).

The balance of funding comes from your school donations or koha. We acknowledge that these gifts are voluntary and wish to thank parents for their generosity. Donations are vital in enabling Willow Park to provide the best educational and learning environment possible. As our community grows, it's important that we can respond with a broad range of opportunities and resources to cater for all students, no matter their interest or talent.

Your annual, per child donations are allocated towards four key targeted areas:

1. \$40 Trip and Activity Contribution – allows us to take the students on class trips and also have professionals from a wide range of places to visit and present in school.
2. \$40 Classroom Contribution – provides valued additional resources in each classroom (above Ministry allowance) including art supplies, paper, card, games, resources and subsidises photocopying.
3. \$26 Digital Resource Contribution – Mathletics (Year 3 - 6) - fabulous online programmes supplement classroom learning and can be used from home to further support maths skills. This contribution subsidises the total cost to the school.
4. \$220 School Donation (3rd child \$80.) - allows us to direct finances as required into areas of the school which receive minimal or no funding. This includes (but not limited to):
 - technology and the digital curriculum: IT in our classrooms needs investment to enable implementation of the Government's digital curriculum,
 - school library: regularly renewing the book stock
 - outdoor play spaces: contribution towards the upgrading of our junior and central playgrounds, and school nature area
 - upgrade and maintenance of modern classroom furniture: keeping our learning environments fresh, attractive, and appropriate for today's teaching methods
 - professional learning opportunities for our leadership and teachers: enabling our staff to continue their learning, develop new pedagogies, and maintain Willow Park at the forefront of learning. This year staff will be involved in a whole school structured literacy professional learning and development programme.

A further encouragement for making a school donation is that it is likely to qualify for the 33% donation tax rebate, which can be applied for from 31 March of any year. Receipts will be issued for all donations over \$5.00 in value. Please refer to the IRD website on how to easily claim this back! <https://www.ird.govt.nz/topics/income-tax/tax-credits/tax-credits-for-donations>

Your continued support of Willow Park School is highly valued and appreciated. Please consider the attached form as you plan for the 2022 school year. Our united goal is always to put our children at the heart of everything we do. Should you have any questions regarding school donations, in the first instance please contact Fran Bowerman, School Administration.

Cheryl Francis
Board of Trustees Chairperson