

July 2020

Dear Parents

ANNUAL GENERAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS 2020/2021

While there is a need to increase the voluntary contribution request for 2020/21 (in order to provide the best learning environment and to continue improvements in the School's development), we recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have financially impacted a number of parents at the school. We have **therefore decided to keep the level of AGVC requested frozen year-on-year at £1,650 (without Gift Aid).**

Please note that due to increasing cost pressure, we will likely increase the AGVC request for the 2021/22 academic year.

Despite the COVID-19 freeze on AGVC, why does the school need to increase AGVC?

As with most state-aided schools, we find ourselves under increasing budgetary pressure. Government funding may remain similar levels year-on-year, however core costs are rising and we are due to incur significant additional costs in the next academic year. As such, the voluntary contribution that we are asking will only partially mitigate the deficit for the year.

What are we doing to raise other income or review our costs?

The Finance & Audit Committee, governing body and trustees have been working together to help mitigate the upcoming deficit, by exploring additional funding and cost reduction initiatives [and will continue to do so].

The Finance & Audit Committee examines the school management accounts regularly to check and report on the School's cost base and it is scrutinised from different angles. Additionally, the Trustees (along with the Fundraising Committee) have been co-ordinating efforts to secure additional funding through charitable donations from the wider community.

Do we have to support the request for the Voluntary Contributions?

You will appreciate that, as with everyone else in the current environment, we are being asked to do more with less. This is an incredibly difficult task. Your contributions support the whole school budget, to deliver the best learning environment, the ethos and high standards we want for all the children.

Your contributions are very important but every pupil has and will continue to have equal access to all School facilities and activities irrespective of his or her parents' ability to support the voluntary contribution. Whilst the contribution is voluntary (and there is no obligation to support this regular appeal), we know that all our parents

NORTH WEST LONDON JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

180 Willesden Lane
London, NW6 7PP

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www.nwljds.org.uk
admin@nwljds.org.uk

Headteacher
Miss Judith Caplan BEd (Hons) NPQH
Principal
Dayan Ivan Binstock
Patron
Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

want the best education and environment for our children in our special, orthodox, Jewish environment.

The voluntary contribution helps ensure that we can operate an effective, full budget, and without parents choosing to pay it, governors would have to consider alternative spending levels for running the school.

What is happening with Gift Aid?

The school is still able to make claims for gift aid tax relief on donations you make by personal cheque or standing order. The school is still able to accept charity vouchers as well. Professional advisors are still in negotiation with HMRC about gift aid for parental donations. Governors believe that we are acting correctly in our approach to gift aid.

Some schools have been told that their gift aid claims are not being met and they have written to parents accordingly. This is a situation that affected the trustees of the school, (who collect donations for Jewish studies), and if the governors are advised of a change for the contributions that we receive, then we will advise you.

If you would like to speak to a Governor about any of the matters above please call or write to Sol Benady, chair of finance committee, on 0776 016 8948 or sollybenady@gmail.com

How much am I being asked to donate with gift aid certificate in place?

£132 per month (10 months using a standing order), £440 per term (three terms) or £1,320 per year per child. Please ensure you have completed a gift aid declaration. A form is attached for those parents who have not previously completed one.

How much am I being asked to donate without gift aid? (e.g. payment by charity cheque)

£165.00 per month (10 months using a standing order), £550 per term (three terms) or £1,650 per year per child.

How do I pay my general voluntary contributions?

1. By Standing Order over ten months - £132.00 (with gift aid) or £165.00 (without gift aid) per month per child. A Standing Order form is attached for those wishing to pay this way. Kindly return standing order forms to me promptly and by Friday 11 September at the latest.

Please do not set up standing orders yourselves as this seems to cause confusion.

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2. ParentMail.

- a) Go to the **Payments** section.
- b) Click on **Shop** and select an item. All relevant payment items will appear here. You are able to choose to make one payment of £1,650 for the whole year (£1,320 with gift aid) or three termly payments of £550 each (£440 with gift aid).
- c) Click on **Add to Basket**.
- d) Go to your **Basket** and click on **Checkout**.

3. By direct debit or electronic payment (Not via ParentMail)

Please use the following details:

Lloyds Bank Plc. Threadneedle Street Branch

Account number: 36897560

Sort code: 30 65 41

Reference – your child's full name

Please email me to let me know if you have paid electronically, not through ParentMail.

4. By cash or cheque in one annual payment of £1,320 (with gift aid) or £1,650 (without gift aid) per child.

Cheques should be made payable to NWLJDS. We would prefer that you pay electronically to increase school efficiency.

5. By cash and cheque in three termly payments of £440 per term per child (by way of gift aid) or £550 per term per child (without gift aid) - to be made at the beginning of each term. We would prefer that you pay electronically to increase school efficiency.

What if I can't make a contribution?

If you are experiencing financial difficulties please contact me to discuss matters in confidence.

Kindly note that a separate request will be made in respect of the 'Jewish Studies Contributions'.

Kind regards,

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Naomi Landy

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Administrator

NLandy@nwljds.org.uk

Gift Aid Relief

You are able to make payment using a gift aid declaration so long as you are a basic rate taxpayer, and this will enable the school to reclaim the basic rate of tax in respect of your contribution at no cost to yourself. If you are a 40% taxpayer, you will be able to benefit from further relief when you submit your tax returns. If you have already completed a gift aid form for the school, you do not need to complete another form. **Please note that payments should be made by the person who made the gift aid declaration.**

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