



# Park School

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## FEES FOR 2022-23

### MAIN SCHOOL

Park School is a charity set up by a group of teachers and parents in 1986 to provide and promote human-scale education. Our main income stream is derived by families paying one of six different fee bands. Bands C and D are ideally the minimum that we hope parents can pay as this most closely represents the average cost to the school of educating a child.

The fees for the main school for the year from September 2020 are detailed based on a sliding scale according to income. Please look at the Fee Band Calculator below to understand how to work out which fee band you should pay.

| Fee Band | Gross family income | Fee band per annum | Fee per Term | Fee per Month |
|----------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| A        | Up to 13,500        | £7,235             | £2,412       | £658          |
| B        | £13501 - £22,000    | £7,947             | £2,649       | £723          |
| C        | £22,001 - £30,000   | £8,839             | £2,946       | £804          |
| D        | £30,001 - £42,000   | £9,692             | £3,231       | £881          |
| E        | Over £42,001        | £10,889            | £3,630       | £990          |
| F*       | Over £42,001        | £11,489            | £3,830       | £1,044        |

The Fee Bands E and F are both for annual income of over £42,001.

\*Band F includes a donation of £600 per annum (£200 per term). We always really appreciate those parents who are in a position to elect to Band F. Your support to the school community is always very appreciated and enables those parents with lower income who may otherwise not be able to send their children to Park School to be a part of our community.

## FEE BANDING:

The principle of the fee band system is that it is self-balancing - some parents pay more than the actual cost needed to keep a child in the school, and some less ('bursary bands' A and B), but this should balance out so that the average fee received is the same as the cost of keeping a child in the school. It is obviously important to the viability of the school that this balance is maintained. This system is based on trust, and it is a credit to parents that it generally works well. However, it may be that, whereas those who get into financial difficulties will contact us, those whose finances have improved slightly do not realise the implications for their fee banding.

## EARLY YEARS (PRE-SCHOOL, 3 – 5 years)

**Accessing the Early Years Childcare Entitlement:** Children, up to the end of the term after their fifth birthday, can benefit from up to fifteen hours of free childcare funded by the government. Additional hours attended beyond the Free Entitlement hours are charged at an hourly rate, £12.50 per hour, payable termly in advance. Any extra ad-hoc sessions are invoiced half-termly in arrears.

**Children not accessing the Early Years Childcare Payments:** Fees for children who attend part time and not accessing the government free childcare entitlement are pro-rata of the agreed full fee-band. This should be paid termly, in advance, or for those attending more than half-time, payment should be made by standing order.

In the first month, whilst children are settling in, payment can be made for one month in advance - this makes it simple to take into account any changes in hours over the year.

## HOW TO PAY YOUR FEES

Parents will appreciate that prompt payment of fees is essential for the smooth running of the school. We encourage parents to pay by standing order. A standing order mandate has been included in the documents sent to you. Once your child's placement has been agreed, please send it to your bank immediately.

Parents not paying by standing order will be invoiced termly unless as stated for early years children who are settling in.

Please pay as soon as you receive your invoice. This helps to keep our administration simple and costs down.

## ADDITIONAL DONATIONS AND GIFT AID

Please consider making a donation, this could be one-off, occasional or regular donation whichever band you are in. If you are on Band E, please also consider whether you could elect for Band F to make a donation of £600 for the year.

Some parents have been very generous in making voluntary contributions. Such donations, in addition to our regular fundraising events and activities, make a real difference to school funds and may sometimes

be used for a particular project that is close to your heart. We hope very much that this will continue and that those on higher bands will consider whether they can make a donation, however small, as this is very much appreciated.

## HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR FEE BAND- 2022/2023

This is for your information only to help you calculate your fee banding; you do not need to provide details of your income to us. If you are unsure how to complete this process and would like further help, please ask to meet with the Head teacher or School Business Manager.

Park School is a charity set up by a group of teachers and parents to provide and promote human-scale education. Our primary income stream is met by families paying one of the following six different fee bands, which have been set with reference to national data.

Where possible, we encourage families to pay an additional donation from which we can claim gift aid.

### FEE BANDS

| Annual Family<br>Income (as defined in note<br>2 below) | Banding                                      | Fee per<br>term | Fee per<br>month |
|---|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Up to £13500  | Band A – includes fee subsidy                | £2,412          | £658             |
| £13501 up to £22000                                     | Band B – includes fee subsidy                | £2,649          | £723             |
| £22001 up to £30000                                     | Band C                                       | £2,946          | £804             |
| £30001 up to £42000                                     | Band D                                       | £3,231          | £881             |
| Over £42001   | Band E                                       | £3,630          | £990             |
| Over £42001   | Band F<br>(including £600 per year donation) | £3,830          | £1,044           |

### HOW TO CALCULATE WHICH FEE BAND TO OPT FOR:

**1. Are you paying fees from your own family income?**

**Yes** - move on to step 2.

**No** - if your fees are being paid by a trust fund, fee plan or relative, we hope you will be able to pay in band E or F.

**2. Use the table below to work out which Fee Band matches your family's finances best**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| A  | <b>GROSS</b> annual family income<br>the sum of the pre-tax income of each person contributing to the family;<br><u>include</u> any state benefits you receive, such as working family tax credit,<br>housing benefit etc. but <u>exclude</u> child benefit. |  |
| B Income Tax and Employee National Insurance contributions -<br><br>C Annual Family Income used to calculate fee banding equals:<br><b>(A) GROSS income <u>MINUS</u> (B) Tax &amp; N.I. = (C) Family Income for Fee Band</b> |  |  |

**3. Do you have savings or investments that could help pay fees?**

**Yes?** – please consider moving to a higher fee band (e.g. from C to D).

**5. Do you have considerable capital assets (e.g. house, 2nd home) that give you more financial options than those without such assets?**

**Yes?** - consider moving to a higher fee band (e.g. from C to D).

**6. Please read the following notes and consider whether your calculated banding seems fair and reasonable to you. Is there anything special about your situation that means the banding is unfairly high or low?**

**SUBSIDISED FEE BANDS:** Fee Bands C and D represent the approximate costs to the school to educate a child.

Children who come to the school on Bands A and B are subsidised by the families who pay on the higher fee bands, E and F. For the banding system to work, the system requires the honesty and generosity of all parents involved with the School.

If you have specific administration questions or queries about which fee band to choose, please arrange to meet with the Head teacher or School Business Manager.

Once you have selected your Fee Band, please complete the Fee Band Form and return it to the office or email it to [park@parkschoolonline.com](mailto:park@parkschoolonline.com)

## ADDITIONAL DONATIONS AND GIFT AID

Please consider making a donation, or considering if anyone else in your family is able to do so, this could be one-off, occasional or regular. Such donations are very much appreciated in addition to our regular fundraising events and activities.

## NOTES

- 1. What if parents are separated?** Gross family income may not be clear if a child's parents are separated. Adding the separate incomes together may be appropriate, but if not, you may need to talk to the Head teacher or School Business Manager.
- 2. Fee reductions for more than one child:** The school's fee banding arrangement offers parents with two children at the school above Early Years Funding age the possibility of receiving a reduction in the overall level of fee payment by moving to a fee band one level lower than would otherwise be the case. There is a third child reduction of 33%; again, this applies to children above Early Years Funding age.
- 3.** We have based self-assessment on resources. Some people suggested taking expenditure into account, but the complications proved tremendous. Is being short of disposable income because of a large mortgage the same as an income too low to have any chance of getting a mortgage? Does it make any differences whether a low income is due to choosing not to work much, being unable to get a job or giving up work to retrain, write a novel, see more of the children?
- 4. Confidentiality:** The system of banding is completely confidential. Only those closely involved in the financial running of the school will know who is in which band and anything you tell the Head teacher or School Business Manager regarding your financial situation will remain confidential.  
  
If you do not wish to speak with the Head teacher or School Business Manager regarding your situation, you can also speak with the Treasurer, however this should only be in exceptional circumstances where you feel unable to share information with the Head teacher or School Business Manager
- 5. Financial changes or difficulties within the year:** Parents agree to pay a level of fees for the entire year - our financial planning would be impossible otherwise. If you run into difficulties during the year, you cannot change band, however, you can apply for an emergency bursary for the rest of the year. If you predict your situation is likely to change, e.g. you are starting a course at some point through the year, talk to the Head teacher or School Business Manager and we can take it into account.
- 6. Arrears:** In the event of arrears exceeding one term's fees, your child(ren) will be excluded from school until payment is made. In this event your child's place at school will not be held open and half a term's fees will be payable in lieu of notice. In the event of the arrears continuing, the Finance Committee may recommend to the Council of Governance that the child be permanently excluded.

