

## Community Bursary Policy

<b>Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this policy is to outline the Samford Valley Steiner School guidelines for the Community Bursary Fund. The Community Bursary will provide financial assistance to eligible students and families from Prep to Class 12. This policy aims to support Alumni, First Nations families and those who are passionate about accessing a Steiner Education for their child and for whom parent contributions for fees and the Student Experience Equity Grant may be inaccessible.	
<b>Scope:</b>	All Samford Valley Steiner School staff and community	
<b>Status:</b>	Approve	<b>Supersedes:</b> April 2024
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Board	<b>Date of Authorisation:</b> July 2025
<b>Linked Documents or Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Contribution Policy</li> <li>• Parent Contribution Schedule</li> <li>• Community Bursary Application</li> <li>• Fundraising Policy</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Your-organisation/Records,-reporting-and-paying-tax/Record-keeping-for-not-for-profits/">https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/Your-organisation/Records,-reporting-and-paying-tax/Record-keeping-for-not-for-profits/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/">https://www.ato.gov.au/Non-profit/</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Review Date:</b>	Biannually	<b>Next Review Date:</b> July 2027
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	School Director	

### Policy

This policy aims to support Alumni, First Nations families and families who are passionate about accessing a Steiner Education for their child and for whom parent fees or student experiences may be inaccessible. In recognition of the importance of access to transformative educational experiences, the school may offer targeted financial support for eligible students attending approved domestic or international excursions where the cost may otherwise be a barrier to participation.

### Eligibility Criteria

All applications for bursaries will be based on financial need of the applying family and a dedication to the philosophy of the school and Anthroposophy.

Applications for assistance with school fees will fall into three categories:

- **Alumni Bursaries** - Students whose parents attended Samford Valley Steiner School (for more than four years).
- **First Nations Bursaries** - Students who identify as a First Nation person of Australia.
- **Strong Supporter of the School** – Families who have shown strong commitment to the school or Anthroposophy.

## **Bursary Allocation**

The allocation of bursaries will be determined by a dedicated Assessment Committee which will consist of:

- School Director
- Alumni representative and/or Life member of the Association
- First Nations Partnership, Cultural Advisor
- RSEGB Board Member

The Assessment Committee will review applications before the commencement of the school year for applications for assistance with school fees or as received for the student experience. They will be assessed based on the established criteria for each category of bursaries. The committee may consider factors such as financial need, commitment to the school and personal circumstances in making allocation decisions.

The number and amount of bursaries awarded each year will depend on the available funds and the number of eligible applicants. The committee will endeavour to facilitate fair and equitable distribution of bursaries among eligible applicants that have a current enrolment contract or offer of a place.

## **Application Process:**

Application forms for each category of bursaries for school fees will be made available through the Samford Valley Steiner School's website and on Parent Lounge. The application period and deadline will be clearly communicated to all eligible students and families.

Applications for assistance with student experiences, may be sent to any member of the committee. The application must include a demonstration of financial hardship and a statement of interest in the experience.

Applicants will be required to submit relevant documentation, including financial information and any additional information requested by the Bursary Committee. All applications and supporting documents will be treated with strict confidentiality.

## **Reporting**

Target fundraising revenue and annual budget will form part of the annual budget approved by the Board. Financial reporting for the Community Bursary fund will be included in the Board financial reports on a six monthly basis.

Report to the community will be in a deidentified way so that the community can understand the benefit/impact of the fundraising effort.

**Review and  
Renewal**

Bursaries will be awarded on an annual basis for school fees assistance, subject to the availability of funds and the student's continued eligibility. To be granted the funds, eligible applicants will need to apply every year by the submission date.

Special applications for the [Student Experience Equity Grant](#) will be assessed as they are received by the committee and will be set at a maximum of 20% of the overall cost.

**Fundraising  
and Donations**

Samford Valley Steiner School will actively seek partnerships, grants, and donations from individuals, organisations, and businesses to support the Community Bursary Program. Where a donation is made to the fund a DGR receipt will be provided to the donor.

**Fundraising  
Alignment**

Students applying for assistance with the student experiences must engage in class-based fundraising initiatives, where available. Fundraising for trips is governed by the **SVSS Fundraising Protocol for Excursions**, which outlines fair use of shared fundraising events, transparent handling of pooled funds, and limits on individual campaigns.