



RAHEEN WOOD ALFA

RAHEEN WOOD STEINER SECONDARY SCHOOL
ACTIVE LEARNING FOR ADOLESCENTS

Parental Contribution Policy

January 2020

Context

The cost to the taxpayer of a year's DES secondary schooling (in 2015/16) was €8,200. In addition there are costs to parents for books, uniform, trips - calculated to be in the region of €1000 p.a.

Raheen Wood ALFA has been managing since 2014 to provide alternative full-time education for €5000 per year per student. This was only possible because our teachers were willing to accept much less than the going professional rate, because they believe in the value of what they are doing. The tuition rate also includes the cost of most textbooks, a great variety of high quality art and craft materials, subsidised class trips, examination fees, and much else besides.

Nonetheless, the annual sum of €5000 has been a shock and a burden, impossibly so for some, and undoubtedly an obstacle for many families who would otherwise choose to take up the opportunities ALFA offers.

We look hard for ways to ease the burden. In 2017/18 a Schools Award from the Tomar Trust enabled us to set a concessionary rate of €4000 for families in receipt of means-tested benefits. In 2018/19, thanks to a major financial award from Tomar and a 50% 'uplift' from the Social Innovation Fund Ireland, these numbers came down further and a new 'Mid-Point' concession was introduced.

The reduction in the parental contribution has made the ALFA programme more accessible - and increased enrolment has followed. This then in itself enables further reductions to all points of the contribution scale, as you will see below. There is also the introduction of the Fundraising Concession which for some families can bring the financial contribution to €1500.

The cost per student of this year's programme is budgeted at €5000. Because of our external funding nobody is asked to pay the full amount. No one other than overseas students is asked to pay the full amount.

The subsidised costs to parents are as follows.

Contributions for 2019/20

Full contribution	€4800 €7000 2 children
Tomar Concession (Families in receipt of means tested benefits)	€3000 €4000 2 children
Mid-Point Concession (Families who do not qualify for the means-tested rate, but for whom the full contribution creates significant strain)	€3800 €5600 2 children

Fundraising Concession
(Available for up to 3 families taking responsibility
for Fundraising Activities during the year)

€1500

Overseas Students

The cost of tuition for the Autumn Term (September to Christmas) is €2300.
The cost of tuition for the Spring Term (New Year to Easter) is €1800.
The cost of boarding is €230 per week.

Fundraising

We have three main fundraisers each year - the Advent Fair, the St. Patrick's Day BBQ, and the Mountshannon Fair. Each of these events raises significant sums. This year we hope that we will have three families taking on the lion's share of this work, but other parents who contribute to fundraisers can have their part of the funds raised credited to their ALFA contributions.

Bursary Fund

Some parents do not need to have their share of fundraising funnelled to tuition, but instead have given this money as a donation to the school. Other families may be in a position where they are willing and able to donate more than the full annual tuition rate. We keep these sums in a separate Bursary Fund which can be used at the discretion of the school's Management Group to assist families who face emergency circumstances which make it difficult for them to meet their commitment to ALFA. The fund at the end of 2018/19 stood at €1100.

Contributions Procedure 2019/2020

Set-Up

Administrator and family have a conversation to agree the contribution. This agreement is recorded in the family's Parental Contribution (PC) Statement.

First payments made in August normally, and the first PC Statement emailed.

Methods of payment

Online transfers are perfect, other methods also possible.

Raheen Wood ALFA
Bank of Ireland
Bridge St., Scariff
IE79BOFI 9044 1353 0444 96
BOFIIIE2D
53044496
90-44-13

Please put "Surname" as the receiver message.

Alan Dickey, Administrator

*For Raheen Wood ALFA Management Group:
Sile Prendergast, Cormac Griffith, Tristan Lienhard, Conny Schmidt*