

Wilton Trust

Criteria for receipt of Grants

Grants to Individuals in Financial Need

- An individual must prove that he or she is in need before the Trustees will consider an application for support. Grants cannot be used to take the place of public or statutory funds.

General Purposes

- It will normally only be possible to make one grant in a period of 12 months.
- Grant applications will normally only be considered from a recognised referral agency submitted in writing on behalf of the applicant (e.g. CAB, Social Services, Doctor, Church)
- The individual must supply details of their circumstances both financial and family with full details of all income received in their home.
- Where an individual has moved, previous addresses within the previous 12 months must be given.
- The specific item of need must be identified and costed. This should normally be for second hand goods costed through the Home Furniture Service (HFS) or other reputable second hand outlets for furniture and/or charity shops for clothing.
- Bed linen should be new not second hand.
- White goods such as cookers, washing machines, fridges and freezers will be supplied new, currently via Hatchers where possible.
- Carpets, while desirable, are not considered an item of essential need. Requests when accompanied by quotations for supply and fitting may be considered if real need can be shown. The Trustees will in their absolute discretion decide which room or rooms should be carpeted. HFS should be considered for supply but the Trustees have flexibility to consider other suppliers depending on the merits of the application.
- Requests for the cost or contribution towards the price of a holiday will be considered on its merits. Where any holiday involves a child being absent from school the Head Teacher's written consent must accompany the application.
- Where an application is for an aid or adaptation to an individual's home, the agency must show that application has been made to an appropriate charity, Somerset West and Taunton Council and/or Community Care and the outcome of the application. If an applicant is in employment, the amount of their savings and amount he or she will contribute must be shown.
- Where the referring agency has applied to more than one source for support this must be declared together with the outcome, if known. The Trustees may wish to await the result of other applications before making a grant.

- Cheques will only be made payable to the referring agency or supplier. In the case of items bought from HFS, the individual will be sent a letter via the referring agency to take to HFS specifying what may be purchased and the amount agreed. The grant will only be valid for 3 months from the date of the letter. The Trust will pay HFS direct.
- Applications for scooters for the elderly/disabled people may be considered and any grant made will normally be confined to an amount equivalent to the non-refundable deposit for the Motability Scheme.
- Applications for Bankruptcy Petition Fees may be considered on their merits.

Educational Grants

- Educational trip grants will be considered where the trip is clearly defined to meet a specific educational need. The Trust will normally only expect to support a child to prevent that child being in a minority unable to go on the trip. Applications with details of the trip should normally come from the school on behalf of the child and must include details of the family's financial circumstances.
- Applications for school uniforms should be itemised and costed from the Taunton Uniform Shop in East Reach and supported by full information of the family's financial circumstances. The grant may cover items of uniform or sports kit. Where a grant is approved a letter of introduction to Taunton Uniform Shop will be sent to the individual via the referral agency with a cheque payable to Taunton Uniform Shop for the correct amount. Grants must be redeemed in 3 months.
- Payment of an educational grant will not preclude a family being considered for a general grant within a period of 12 months.
- Applications for a contribution towards private school fees will be considered only where the student has embarked on his or her education and the family's circumstances have deteriorated. Applications must have the support of the school and cheques will be made payable to the school. Applications for arrears of school fees will not be considered.

Retrospective applications

- These will not be considered

Appeals and amendment of these criteria

- The Trustees' decision is final and there is no appeal.
- The Trustees may amend these criteria from time to time as they think fit.

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