

# Parental Funded Learning Support Aide

## Guidelines and procedures:

Some children are identified as having barriers to learning that do not attract targeted funding from the Ministry of Education. The parents of these children may wish to supplement the attention they receive from the classroom teacher by providing individual assistance for the child while in the classroom.

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish requirements for the parental provision of “learning support aides” in situations where the child does not qualify for funding for children with specific learning or behavioural needs, ie ORRS funding.

The school remains responsible for the education of all children at all times they are at school.

At West Park School:

- 1 Approval for parental provision of learning support aides will only be given where the Board is convinced that the arrangement will be in the best interests of the teacher and children in the class concerned, including the child for whom the application is made.
- 2 All decisions regarding the initial and ongoing approval of arrangements for parent provided learning support aides are the sole responsibility of the Board of Trustees at West Park School.
- 3 The Board reserves the right to suspend or cease the approval of an arrangement under these guidelines for parents to fund learning aide support.
- 4 Consideration will be given to written applications from parents of individual children at the school for those parents to provide child-aide assistance to a child only if the application is accompanied by written advice from a suitably registered child health professional, eg. educational psychologist.
- 5 In making a decision on an application, the Board will consider:
  - a the clinical advice provided with the application,
  - b the views of the Principal,
  - c the views of the classroom teacher(s),
  - d the needs of the child concerned,
  - e the environment in the classroom, including the presence of other learning support aides or education personnel, eg Resource Teacher Learning Behaviour, Resource Teacher Literacy, psychologist, health worker, teacher aide.
- 6 The Board will inform the applicants of their decision in writing, and is under no obligation to justify the decision.
- 7 When an application is accepted, the Board will inform the applicants in writing of the conditions that will apply to the arrangement. While other conditions may be included, all arrangements will include the following:

- a the tenure of the approval, which in any case will not be longer than the period to the end of the current year,
  - b the times of the day and days of the week that the learning support aide will be in the classroom,
  - c the types of activity to be undertaken by the learning support aide,
  - d the frequency of review of the approval of the Board,
  - e the frequency and format of liaison between the parents, the school and, where appropriate, the learning support aide.
- 8 The child for whom a learning support aide is provided will continue to take part in the normal classroom programme for the time the learning support aide is present.
  - 9 All learning support aides provided under these guidelines will be subject to mandatory Police vetting (see appropriate policy) at the cost of the parents.
  - 10 Any arrangements for compensation, monetary or otherwise, of the learning support aide for the time they spend in the school supporting the child will be between the parents and the learning support aide. The school will have no responsibility for any compensation or expenses to the learning support aide.
  - 11 The learning support aide will be required to comply with all safety and health requirements.
  - 12 Responsibility for recruiting a suitable person to provide the support will be that of the parent or caregiver. The person that the parents or caregivers put forth to provide the support must also be approved by the Principal.

***Reviewed: NOVEMBER 2020***