

## Hardship fund

### Why have a Hardship Fund?

Melbourn Playgroup and Out of School Club recognises that there are families that might need support during their child's education/care from time to time. A hardship fund has been established to help these families. The hardship fund is a discretionary source of financial help. It is in place to help families who may be experiencing unplanned and unexpected financial difficulties such as loss of employment, death, sickness, loss of housing or separation.

### Who can qualify?

- Children who are or have been in care.
- Children that receive funding such as Pupil Premium or Deprivation Grant.
- Children with disabilities.
- Children whose families are experiencing particularly low income, who are experiencing exceptional circumstances leading to financial difficulties.
- Children who are vulnerable.

Each case will be individually investigated and evidence collected to check the criteria are met.

### What can the fund be used for?

The Hardship fund can only be used if the Managers feel there is an identified need to overcome and aid 'barriers to learning'. The Managers will apply to the Committee and each case is to be considered individually and will be to the discretion of the Committee. It will be allocated on the need and funds available.

### How will I know if I will receive hardship funding for my child/children?

The management team will liaise with the parent/carer after a formal meeting has taken place with Management and Committee. The Committee's decision on whether any hardship fund money will be allocated to the child/children is final.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Melbourn Playgroup and Out of School Club CIO Management Committee

Held on	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
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Date to be reviewed	As and when necessary
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Signed on behalf of the management committee	
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Name of signatory	Sarah Toule
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Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Chair
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