Questors Young Musicians Club

Assisted Places Scheme

This scheme was adopted by the QYMC committee on 28th November 2007

Background

1. QYMC aims to promote the involvement of children and young people in music education and development
2. An assisted places scheme allows QYMC to extend this opportunity to those on lower incomes
3. This scheme is possible through generous donations from individuals and business, and where QYMC finds itself in possession of sufficient funds
4. Assisted places may involve the full or partial funding of lessons, instruments and/or other items. This will be at the discretion of the committee, but usually limited to a maximum per applicant of funds for instrumental lessons for one instrument and attendance at one ensemble, or equivalent.
5. After QYMC has paid all its expenses and put away sufficient money in a reserve fund, a proportion of any annual surplus, usually 50%, will go to the assisted places scheme.

Criteria

1. Evidence of low income, which must be demonstrated annually or if circumstances change to the satisfaction of the committee; this may be free school meals, housing benefit or council tax benefit or similar.
2. Where there are more applicants than places, places will be granted based on geographical proximity to where QYMC holds its classes and (where an existing pupil) evidence of musical application by the pupil, usually provided by the instrument teacher, or at the discretion of the QYMC committee.
3. Eligible applicants who fail to get a place will be placed on a waiting list.

Application Process

1. The assisted places scheme will be advertised on the QYMC website and in the newsletter
2. The names of applicants will be held in confidence by the chair and at least one other committee member, usually the treasurer.
3. Applications from new or existing pupils can be received at any stage but the assistance can only be provided once the assessment process is complete, which usually takes a term. The assistance may in special circumstances, at the discretion of the QYMC committee, be backdated in whole or in part.
4. Applications (without names attached) will be considered by QYMC committee who will have the discretion to award payments for specific lengths of time and/or for specific items, such as classes or instruments.

Review Process

1. The termly reports of each child (in an anonymous form) on an assisted place will be scrutinised by the committee, and consideration will be given to attendance, punctuality, regular practice and participation in ensembles and orchestra.
2. Before half term of the summer term, all applicants must reapply for the following year, providing continued evidence of financial need, based on the criteria above. A decision will then be made by the committee as to whether to continue assistance.
3. The QYMC committee will receive regular reports on the usage of this scheme and the scheme will be reviewed on a regular basis. The committee reserve the right to make changes.