

BUDGET NEWSFLASH

22 NOVEMBER 2024

On Wednesday, 6 November 2024, the Governing Body (GB) of Sunlands Primary presented the budget for 2025. Mrs. Essop, the GB chairperson, welcomed the 39 parents in attendance, provided feedback on the past year, and highlighted the projects achieved and challenges faced in 2024.

Due to cuts in teaching posts for 2025, Sunlands increased school fees by 8% to maintain quality education and employ additional governing body teachers in 2025 to replace those who will be relocated by the WCED.

The school faces challenges with uncollected school fees which impacts on short and long-term capital expenditure and projects. To address this, the finance department is handing over delinquent accounts to their debt collection agencies, with over R2 million already handed over in 2024 in addition to the R1.9 million handed over in 2023.

Mrs. Swanepoel presented the 2025 budget, comparing it with the 2024 budget to show expected income and expenditure. The budget and resolutions were approved by the 34 qualifying parents present, making it binding on all parents with learners at Sunlands Primary. The school urges parents to support its vision to ensure continued growth and excellence in education. The table below displays the approved school fees, aftercare, and music fees for 2025, followed by the resolutions presented at the meeting and the exemption criteria and procedures.

SCHOOL FEES						
STATUTORY FEES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE		PER MONTH	PER ANNUM	PAYABLE	DISCOUNT	PAYABLE
GRADE R	PER CHILD	R 2,400 x 11	R 26,400	1 JAN - 1 NOV	R 24,000	31 JAN 2025
GRADE 1 - 7	1 CHILD	R 1,420 x 11	R 15,620	1 JAN - 1 NOV	R 14,200	31 JAN 2025
	2 CHILDREN	R 2,640 x 11	R 29,040	1 JAN - 1 NOV	R 26,400	31 JAN 2025
	3 CHILDREN	R 3,960 x 11	R 43,560	1 JAN - 1 NOV	R 39,600	31 JAN 2025
	4 CHILDREN	R 5,280 x 11	R 58,080	1 JAN - 1 NOV	R 52,800	31 JAN 2025

AFTERCARE FEES	PER MONTH	PER ANNUM	PAYABLE
1 CHILD	R 760 x 10	R 7,600	01 FEB - 01 NOV
2 CHILDREN	R 1,420 x 10	R 14,200	01 FEB - 01 NOV
3 CHILDREN	R 2,130 x 10	R 21,300	01 FEB - 01 NOV
4 CHILDREN	R 2,840 x 10	R 28,400	01 FEB - 01 NOV
SIBLING CARE (13:45 - 15:00)	R 390 x 10	R 3,900	01 FEB - 01 NOV
AD HOC FEE (PER CHILD PER DAY)		R 70	ON COLLECTION

MUSIC FEES	PER ANNUM	PER TERM	PER MONTH
PER CHILD	R 6,000	R 1,500	R 600
PAYABLE	01 FEB	01 FEB, 01 APRIL, 01 JULY, 01 OCT	01 FEB - 01 NOV

RESOLUTIONS:

It was unanimously resolved at the budget meeting convened on 06 November 2024 by parents of learners attending Sunlands Primary School that:

1. The budget, as proposed by the governing body, is approved.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

2. The Governing Body (GB) may use extra funds that may arise from some budget items to cover shortfalls that may arise in others, as long as they don't go over the total budget without getting approval at a parent meeting.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

3. Sunlands Primary remains a fee-paying school. School fees will be determined and levied in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 and 39(1) of the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996 (hereinafter SASA).

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

4. School fees shall be payable in accordance with the budget tabled by the governing body and parents are liable for the payment of such fees.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

5. The Governing Body grants an exemption that school fees may be paid in monthly instalments between 1 January and 30 November each year. Payment will be accepted via all payment options available at the school (EFT, Karri App, debit order effected via parents' individual bank account(s), card swipe facility or any other method approved and adopted for use (for current parents. Debit order payments will be compulsory for all new parents enrolling learners at Sunlands.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

6. A discount equivalent to one month's school fees is offered to parents who settle their accounts by 31 January 2025. A 5% discount is offered to parents who settle their accounts by 28 February 2025. No other discounts will be given except for those approved in this meeting.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

7. All parents shall be obligated to pay school fees, unless they have been granted exemption from the payment of school fees in accordance with the provisions of SASA, any applicable regulations as well as this resolution. Exemption from paying school fees does not exempt the parent(s) from payment of any other fees/costs that become due.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

8. The full outstanding school fees shall immediately become due and payable should any instalment be outstanding by the due date. Section 40 and 41 of SASA stipulates that the school may enforce the payment of these statutory fees.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

9. The school may report a parent's non-performance to a credit bureau if they fail to meet their school fee obligations. The school may collect and process any information obtained about parents, whether by computer or other means, as a result of their liability for school fees. Personal information of both parents may be verified by the school or by a third party authorized by the school to perform this function.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

10. Collect-4-U and Bentley Credit Control are currently appointed as agents to handle Sunlands Primary accounts with arrears. The Governing Body (GB) may appoint any other company for this purpose. Should this occur, the GB reserves the right to hand over any accounts with arrears to the newly appointed agents as well.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

11. Sunlands may maintain an interest-bearing account for investing surplus funds, contingent upon receiving permission from the WCED. If necessary, the Governing Body (GB) may transfer funds from this account to the school's cheque account to cover emergency expenses or to address cash flow shortfalls in any given month to meet operational expenses.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

12. The proposed 38A payments totalling R99,000.00 to WCED staff members be approved in accordance with Section 38A of SASA. These payments will only be processed once permission to proceed is granted by the WCED.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

13. Permission is granted to charge all additional costs to the school fee account. These costs may include, but are not limited to, music fees, aftercare fees, camp fees, school packs, costs for lost or damaged textbooks/library books, excursions, clothing items, and any other fees that may arise.

Each returned or dishonoured debit order will incur a fee of R20, which will be charged to the respective school fee account upon processing the transactions.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

14. For many years, Sunlands has encouraged parents to use digital platforms for school payments to support our goal of becoming a cashless school. We have introduced various platforms over the years to facilitate this process. Due to our bank now imposing a cash handling fee on all cash deposits made at a branch, we propose that this fee be passed on to parents who continue to send cash to school, effective 01 January 2025. A 2.5% cash handling fee will be applied to all school fee accounts for cash payments exceeding R1000.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

15. Parents will be actively encouraged to contribute towards a voluntary development fund. Collections will be opened on Karri to facilitate these contributions. All contributions received will be put towards the cost of a particular project.

In favour: 34 Not in favour: 0 Abstentions: 0

These resolutions are applicable to parents of learners attending Sunlands Primary School.

EXEMPTION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE:

Parents facing financial difficulties can apply for exemption from paying school fees. Application forms are available at the finance office and must be collected and returned in person, as a control register is maintained for all issued and returned forms.

Applications should be completed and returned within 7 days and include detailed financial information and supporting documents. The governing body may request additional information. The applicants will be informed of the governing body's decision within seven days after the meeting in which their application is finalised.

Appeals can be made if the decision is unsatisfactory. For administrative purposes the final cut-off for returning exemption forms to Sunlands is the end of Term 2, unless there is proof of a change in circumstances thereafter. Forms will be available from February, and parents are encouraged to collect, complete and return their forms by the end of Term 1. Where forms were collected and not returned and the account is in default, the account will be handed over.

The following individuals are fully exempt from paying school fees but still need to return an application form for exemption from paying school fees:

1. *Those responsible for children in foster homes, youth care centres, places of safety, or orphanages.*
2. *Kinship caregivers of orphans or children abandoned by their parents or without visible means of support.*
3. *Individuals receiving a social grant on behalf of a child.*
4. *Children who head households.*

Applications not meeting the above criteria will be assessed using the Department of Basic Education's calculation table. This table considers the gross income of both parents and the annual school fees to determine the percentage of exemption, if any. However, there is no guarantee that an exemption will be granted.

Exemption from paying school fees is ONLY applicable to school fees. All other costs, such as school packs, aftercare fees, and music fees, must still be paid as they are not included in the exemption.

ACTIVITIES THAT CARRY ADDITIONAL COSTS ABOVE SCHOOL FEES
School uniform and sports kit
Grade 7 Clothing (e.g. Grade 7 Jacket), camp and functions
Sporting or activity equipment
Personal stationery and school equipment
School diary, dictionaries and workbooks purchased on behalf of learners (school Pack)
Leadership camps and/or workshops for the senior learners
Excursions / Camps and tours
Transport of learners
Individual entry: Olympiads, Eisteddfods, Games, Mathematics Olympiads, etc.
Plays and productions
Voluntary activities based at school with third party service providers: Ballet, Music, Curious Cubs, etc
Aftercare services
Grade R
Fundraising events, Festivals
Competitions