

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I donate to the TTS Foundation?

You can make a donation to the TTS Foundation electronically [here](#).

## What is the TTS Foundation?

The TTS Foundation is a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity. It was established in 2012 to support Tanglin Trust School. It does this by funding exceptional educational opportunities and providing members of the Tanglin community with life-changing experiences over and above the curriculum, enhancing the lives of our students and our community.

The TTS Foundation helps to drive sustainability initiatives, encourages student leadership and service activities, gives access to inspirational visitors, and significantly enhances our sports and arts programmes.

## How is the TTS Foundation funded?

From 2012 until 2015 the TTS Foundation was funded by the school from money raised through the school's Placement Right Programme. This enabled project types to develop and grow. As the number and scale of projects have developed, the amount funded each year has also increased so in academic year 2015/16 the first fundraising campaign was launched to supplement the donation from the school. This gave members of the Tanglin community the opportunity to give philanthropically to the TTS Foundation and help secure funding for future projects.

## How long does the fundraising last?

Historically fundraising has taken place during a three-week period in Term 1 and there have been several activities to support the fundraising including a programme of Music in the Morning. The Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions has caused a rethink and this year we will have more frequent fundraising campaigns throughout the year.

Fundraising will be supported by a group of volunteers called TTS Foundation Parent Advocates. The TTS Foundation advocates are available to discuss the TTS Foundation and answer queries about projects and fundraising from a peer to peer perspective.

Parent advocates and the TTS Foundation team will reach out to parents over the course of the academic year with most families being contacted in Term 1.

## What will the money raised be spent on?

There is a specific wish list that the TTS Foundation would like to fund this year. This wish list has been developed in collaboration with the Whole School Academic, Pastoral and Co-curricular Committees so is in alignment with the key school priorities. The detailed wish list can be found in the *2020 Report of Giving*.



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## **TTS Foundation has been funding projects at Tanglin for a number of years, who decides which projects receive funding?**

Teachers and students can apply for funding to support projects over and above the curriculum. Projects are assessed by the Whole School Academic, Pastoral and Co-Curricular Committees under eight learning outcomes. The eight learning outcomes are:

- Increased awareness of their own strengths and areas for growth
- Undertaken new challenges
- Planned and initiated activities
- Worked collaboratively with others
- Shown perseverance and commitment in their activities
- Engaged with issues of global importance
- Considered the ethical implications of their actions
- Developed new skills

*Details of some of the projects funded by TTS Foundation are illustrated on our [website](#).*

## **What are the main project areas funded by TTS Foundation?**

There are currently four main categories of project funded by TTS Foundation:

- **Engagement with Global issues and with the wider community** To enable all members of the Tanglin community to make a positive difference to the world and see out opportunities to give back.
- **Innovation, Imagination and Inquiry** Going beyond the school's curriculum, the TTS Foundation actively seeks to equip students, staff, parents and Alumni with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in today and tomorrow's world.
- **Arts** Our vision is for Tanglin to be a leading centre for the Arts.
- **Sport** Our vision is for students to be able to participate in sporting achievements that our whole community can be proud of.

## **Who is impacted by TTS Foundation projects?**

The whole community is impacted by TTS Foundation projects – students, staff, parents and Alumni as well as communities that the TTS Foundation works with.

The TTS Foundation funds projects that impact large groups of students as well as individual students. For instance, in 2019 a bagpiper visited the school as a Travelling Musician, he connected with a large number of children across the year groups. Annually the TTS Foundation also awarded a number of individual awards; Representative Awards, Deirdre Lew Service Awards, Alumni Grants, Music Awards to name a few. On average, every student at Tanglin directly benefits from 10+ projects each year.



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### **What procedures are in place to ensure that there is no bias in the decision making over who receives individual grants?**

There are stringent procedures in place to ensure that awards are made fairly. There are a series of authorisation levels in particular to approve projects as well as payments. *Details of the authorisation required for individual grants and awards can be found [here](#).*

### **How big is the TTS Foundation team?**

The Development Team work, amongst other projects, on the TTS Foundation. The Director of Development, Alumni Manager, Charities at Tanglin Executive and the Development Executive are supported in particular by the CEO, Director of Learning and the Director of Marketing and Communications.

Given the small size of this team the fundraising activities are supported by a large group of volunteer parents called TTS Foundation Parent Advocates. Further, there are a group of staff volunteers -TTS Foundation Staff Advocates.

### **What is a TTS Foundation Advocate?**

The Advocate team is made up of parent and staff volunteers who help to share the impact of the opportunities afforded to the Tanglin community through the work of the TTS Foundation. They strongly believe in the value of these opportunities for their children and they are a resource for the community to ask questions and find out more about the TTS Foundation on a peer to peer basis. This group have been instrumental in gathering useful feedback on TTS Foundation projects and activities are helping to shape the future direction of the TTS Foundation.

Your parent advocate will introduce themselves to you during the academic year.

*In 2020 we have 55 TTS Foundation parent advocates, but we would be delighted to increase the size of this volunteer group. If you are interested to find out more about becoming a TTS Foundation parent advocate please do contact the [Director of Development](#).*

### **What is the governance structure of the TTS Foundation?**

The TTS Foundation has a Board of Trustees. The Chair of the TTS Foundation is Mr Dominic Nixon, former Chair of the Tanglin Trust School Board. Other Trustees are Mr Ling Guan Heng, the TTS COO, Mr Neil Tottman, long standing TTS Board Member and Chair of the TTS Development Sub Committee and Mrs Geraldine Chandran, former Head of Infants. The Trustee Board meet regularly and provide advice and support to the Development Team

### **Is it compulsory that I donate to the TTS Foundation Fundraising Campaign?**

No and we wish to stress that donations are voluntary and each family's decision is duly respected. Donations should be freely given with no expectations other than due thanks and recognition.



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### **Is there a minimum amount I must give if I wish to participate?**

The minimum suggested donation is SGD 10. You choose what you feel is appropriate for your family to give. Some members of the community have asked for guidance on what is appropriate. As a point of reference, in the 2017/18 fundraising campaign our smallest donation was \$2 and our largest \$25,000. The average donation was \$479 however the most common donation was \$100.

### **Do you have Donor Recognition Circles?**

Yes, several families have made leading gifts to the TTS Foundation. We are particularly grateful to these families and from 2019/20 we will be recognising families in the following recognition circles based upon their cumulative donations to the TTS Foundation:

Donor Recognition Circles:

TTS Foundation Patron:	S\$10,000 and above
Lions Circle:	S\$5,000 to S\$9,999
1925* Society:	S\$1,925 to \$4,999
Friend:	up to S\$1,924

### **Are my donations tax deductible?**

The TTS Foundation is not registered as an Institute of Public Character (IPC), so donations are not tax deductible in Singapore. At this point in time IPC registration is not an opportunity for Foundations associated with international schools. The TTS Foundation is not registered in any other countries, hence tax efficient giving is not available. *If this is an area that you think you may be able to offer some expertise, please do contact the [Director of Development](#).*

### **Will my gift make a difference?**

Absolutely! Every gift has a positive impact on students, families, teachers, Alumni and our wider community. You will also help the school build a culture of philanthropy for the benefit of present and future generations. We say that individual donations have a collective benefit and we genuinely mean this. Many of our projects do not have a high price tag so a few families donating \$50 or \$100 can be very impactful.

### **Who will know that I have donated?**

We like to thank every donor by including their name in the *Report of Giving* which is published to the school community. It will not include the value of donations. Families have the opportunity to ask to remain anonymous when making their donation.

The community will be updated via the school's regular communications channels. There will also be a *2021 Report of Giving* that celebrates projects funded and gives details of amounts raised.

### **What if I want to make a donation after the fundraising campaigns have been completed?**

You are welcome to donate to the TTS Foundation at any time.



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## **Can I direct my donation to a certain project or just to the part of the school my child attends?**

All donations are 'unrestricted gifts' which means that the TTS Foundation management can determine which projects receive funding. The project groups are identified and agreed with the school's leadership teams so they represent the school's priorities. At this stage in the development of TTS Foundation unrestricted gifts give more flexibility. It is possible in the future that we may give an opportunity for restricted gifts. *Should you wish to financially support an area where you believe students would benefit from enhancements not listed in the TTS Foundation Project list, please contact the [Director of Development](#).*

## **The children at Tanglin are privileged why should I give them more?**

No school has unlimited resources. The Fundraising campaign is about raising money from the Tanglin Community, for the benefit of the Tanglin Community and the communities it works with. The criteria used in identifying projects that qualify for TTS Foundation support ensure that they all have a significant impact on the personal development of our recipients. The specific projects targeted for TTS Foundation support have been chosen to directly benefit as many students as possible across the school. We believe that giving our children these opportunities in their youth will inspire them to give forward as they become leaders in their adult lives.

## **We already pay significant school fees why are you asking us for more money?**

TTS Foundation funds things that are over and above the school curriculum and items that would not normally come out of a school's operating budget.

We are mindful of the fees that families already pay for their children to attend Tanglin Trust School and want to reassure parents that a donation is not obligatory. Whilst we encourage families to consider participating annually in the fundraising, we recognise that the amount donated will vary depending upon a family's circumstances. Collectively small contributions make a big impact.

## **I would like to find out more about the TTS Foundation, how can I do this?**

If your class has a volunteer TTS Foundation parent advocate you are welcome to approach them for a discussion. Alternatively, please feel free to contact the TTS Foundation team, in the first instance, via email [Foundation@tts.edu.sg](mailto:Foundation@tts.edu.sg).

