



DANES HILL SCHOOL  
STRONG & SAGACIOUS

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AUTHOR: HEAD OF CHARITIES

## CHARITIES POLICY



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### 1 Introduction

For many years, Danes Hill School has pursued a long and energetic tradition of very active fundraising for a great number of charitable organisations both at home and abroad. This raising of funds for charity involves both children and staff at Bevendean and the main school throughout the academic year who increasingly devote their time and energy to raise money to support a diverse range of projects. Danes Hill proactively encourages children to take a very active role in fundraising for charity not only via school-managed projects but also by providing individuals with support and assistance when they wish to organise fundraising events themselves.

### 2 Aims and Objectives

In promoting and supporting continuous and wide ranging fundraising initiatives by both staff and children at Danes Hill, it is hoped that not only much needed funds and aid can be provided for individuals and communities in need but that children develop an awareness of the difficulties and hardships endured by so many children and adults, through no fault of their own, both at home and abroad. Children also realise the value of their efforts and see that they, not only as individuals but also as members of the school community, are in a position to help improve the lives and situations of others.

### 3 Fundraising Organisation and Methods

A **Charities Committee** has been set up to monitor and encourage whole school fundraising initiatives. It consists of staff, parents and also a charity coordinator who is a Year 8 senior prefect. The staff coordinator is WTE. Parents, staff and children are asked to submit any requests for funding to the committee, either in writing or in person. Each year several charities are selected by the school to receive large donations, (normally one per term). Smaller donations are also approved for projects which arise and which are in need of our help. The committee meets regularly and discusses plans for supporting future good causes and deals with organisational issues. The charity coordinator (pupil) also reports back on fund-raising events and achievements to the whole school in assembly.

The role of the charity coordinator (year 8 prefect) is as follows:

- To encourage new initiatives amongst the children and to help coordinate fund raising events
- To communicate future plans, ideas and fund-raising achievements in whole school assemblies
- To work enthusiastically alongside the committee to help promote the numerous good causes the school aims to support

Methods of raising funds vary but include:

### 3.1 Mufti Days

Mufti Days are declared 5-6 times per academic year (generally at the end of a term or half term). On a designated Mufti Day children are invited to donate £2 to wear their home clothes. Mufti Days invariably take place on a Friday and are generally enjoyed by the whole school community including the staff who also tend to participate by wearing rather more casual attire than usual. Funds raised on Mufti Days tend to be earmarked for specific charitable projects about which the children and staff are usually informed through talks in Assembly from visiting speakers associated with the charities in question.

### 3.2 Charities Day

Charities Day takes place in the Spring Term. This always proves to be a lively and fun day when a lot of money is raised for the school's chosen charity. On Charities Day, children come to school in Mufti and have morning lessons as normal. In the afternoon, children throughout the Main School set up and run class stalls, at which boys and girls are invited to buy donated items or play games.

### 3.3 Charity Walk

The Charity Walk is a sponsored event which has, in the past, taken place towards the end of the summer term when the chances of good weather are greatest. Children in years 4-7 walk a distance of around 9 miles in a circuit from Danes Hill School, across Oxshott and Esher Commons to West End Green, Esher and back.

All children enjoy an "alfresco" picnic lunch and the older children also have an opportunity to pick strawberries under a pre-arranged agreement at a local commercial farm. Furthermore, on the morning of the walk, Years 4 to 8 are addressed by a representative of the Esher Commons Management over whose land we walk. The children are given a talk on the local flora and fauna and on current conservation projects in the area. Children will also be addressed by representatives of those charities who will benefit from our efforts.

The Lower School undertakes its own fun sponsored walk on a separate day, following a more appropriate route and the children raise money for the school's nominated charity. Bevendean hold either a charities day or follow a shorter route for their fund-raising activity.

### 3.4 Discos in the Ark

Occasional discos for children are held in the Ark. These tend to be organised by individual groups of colleagues or children who have links with specific charities. Other members of staff are always willing to help out with their time. Occasionally we are approached by individual children who wish to hold an "ad hoc" disco in quick response to a recent disaster or situation requiring immediate funds.

We always try to accommodate and to assist these children as much as possible.

### 3.5 General Sponsorship

Individual children who are interested in a particular project will sometimes ask permission to seek sponsorship from their peers. The school, including Bevendean, is

always very happy to help with their endeavors and actively encourages personal initiatives.

Sponsored swims or silences (such as the Big Hush – a nation wide sponsored event) are equally well supported and encouraged.

### **3.5 Bevendean**

As far as is feasible we involve the children in all whole school fund raising events, explaining to them the ethos of the recipient charity and helping them feel some empathy with each cause.

Our first major Charity event of the year is usually our Harvest Festival Service in St Andrew's church where we gather not only non-perishable food stuffs for delivery to local day centres, but also take a monetary collection from their parents. A collection also follows our Nativity production.

Similarly, for other sections of the school, at Christmas a collection is very often taken up. Money raised is donated to one or more of the nominated charities publicised in the order of service.

## **4 Links to other whole school policies or initiatives**

Parental involvement

Communication

Equal Opportunities/Inclusion children

Health education

Links with the community

Marketing

Moral, social and spiritual development

Rewarding pupil achievements

## **5 Recent beneficiaries of fundraising by Danes Hill staff and children**

At Danes Hill School considerable funds have been raised and donated over recent years to many organisations including:

Hope and Homes for Children

CHASE

Cherry Trees

Princess Alice Hospice

Ockenden Trust

Riding for the Disabled

The Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled

Cancer Research

JET (Joint Educational Trust)

Afghanistan Relief Fund

World Trade Centre Disaster Fund

Princes Trust

Seeability

Busoga Trust (water wells for Uganda)

NSPCC

Jeans for Genes

Marie Curie  
Capital Radio Sahara Desert Trek  
Mozambique Appeal  
St Lazarus Charitable Trust  
India Earthquake Appeal  
Comic Relief  
Kids for Kids  
Wildlife Aid  
Combat Stress  
Brigitte Trust  
Milly's Fund  
The Royal Marsden Hospital  
Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust  
Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital  
Breast Cancer Care  
Shooting Star Trust  
RSPCA  
The Samantha Dickinson Trust  
Philippine Trust  
School Aid  
Chicks  
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
GET  
Mercy Centre UK  
SAMS  
QEF  
Alzheimer's Society  
Royal Marines Charity

## **6 Communication**

6.1 Information about charities or causes for which funds will be raised is communicated to the school in assembly. Visiting speakers are invited to talk to the children about specific projects and follow up sessions in PSHEE, tutor or form period are encouraged to ensure children are kept up to date with how funds raised have been put to use.

6.2 Details of events held and monies raised are regularly published in the weekly newsletter, the school website and also in the Head's termly 'Round-up' publication.