OUR SCHOOLS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COMMUNITY AND FUTURE

Serious financial crisis threatens our schools and the chinuch of our children

Our schools have found themselves without enough money to pay for day-to-day running costs

Our schools need increased donations from parents, together with stronger support from the קהילה.

PARENTS' OBLIGATIONS (independent schools)

Fees must be paid in full and on time. This obligatory payment takes priority over any donations to Tzedokoh. Parents who are unable to afford full fees must discuss this with the school and are duty bound to keep to the agreement reached.

PARENTS' VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

Government-funded schools rely on voluntary contributions to cover their kodesh programme and other ongoing costs.

Whilst voluntary contributions are not a legal requirement, from a halachic perspective they take priority over all other Tzedokoh donations.

COMMUNAL OBLIGATIONS — SCHOOLS

The שו"ע ורמ"א ח"מ ס' קס'ג:א-ג obligates everyone in a community to support the essential communal infrastructure, which includes schools. This obligation takes precedence over Mitzvas Tzedokoh and applies to everyone in the community, whether they have children in schools or not. The obligation is "לפי ממון" i.e. proportional to one's relative wealth.

While individuals may be distributing Tzedokoh at their maximum affordable level (in the range of 10-20% of their net earnings), the amounts being allocated to local schools are unfortunately a very low percentage.

It is therefore requested, in view of the present financial situation, that for the foreseeable future all members of the community allocate 20% of their total Tzedokoh outgoings towards the local schools of their choice. This is in addition to any existing contributions paid.

Of course, if you are already contributing a larger percentage to local schools, we ask you not to reduce at all, and may you be zoche to the ברכה of כי בגלל הדבר הזה יברכך ה' אלקיך בכל מעשיך ובכל משלח ידך (דברים ט"ו י')

With the קהילה fulfilling the above, we will אי"ה help ensure the future of חינוך of our children -
ויקוים בנו מאמר הכ' "לא ימושו מפיך ומפי זרעך ...אמר ה' "

Rabbi Zvi Hirsh Lieberman | Rabbi Doniel Karp | Rabbi Y M Greenberg | Rav Gershon Hager | Rabbi S Y Bixenspanner | Dayan C Ehrentreu