

GODPARENTS ANTHROPOSOPHICAL TRAINING FUND 2017



The Godparents Anthroposophical Training Fund (GATF) was founded in 1968 as the Godparents Association and has existed in its current form since 1977, instigated by Mercury Provident Ltd. in conjunction with the Camphill Regional Economic Sphere Meetings for England and Wales. The charitable aims were reconstituted in 2004. Our Charity registration number is 1102158

GATF has as its remit, the provision of interest free loans to individuals wishing to undertake anthroposophically based professional training in the United Kingdom. The loans are available to applicants for the second and subsequent years of their training to support the tuition fees of their chosen course. The loan agreements are legally binding and require both references and a guarantor. All applicants are interviewed and their identity checked. Loan repayments are made over a five year period. This year we have added the **Align for Learning** course and the **School Health Practitioners** course to our lists of trainings and students on those courses can apply for loans from 2017-2018.

In May we moved office due to the landlord wanting to use the old ones. The Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship moved with us and we now share a large open plan office.

We noticed a further drop in applications this year, due to a lack of applications from the London Teacher Training course. Out of 20 applications, Four withdrew their applications. The trustees gave 15 student loans to two Americans, one Australian, six British, one Canadian, one Croatian, one German, one Italian, and two Spanish students. Eleven students were on teacher training courses, three studying eurythmy, and one on an

artistic course. In total the Trustees agreed loans of £35,745; a further £2,000 was given in loans from the Children's Fund. The trustees also agreed Retrospective Grants of £3,190 and grants of £2,000 from the Children's Fund to support special needs education in schools. We are grateful for the support of **Drayton Manor Trust** which has enabled us to widen our scope to include special needs trainings and therapies in schools.

As the funds are restricted we rely on donations and interest on the funds to cover the running costs. This financial year our income from donations and application fees was £8,800, not enough to cover the expenditure of £76,543. We keep our costs as low as possible; this year we had the unexpected costs of moving office.

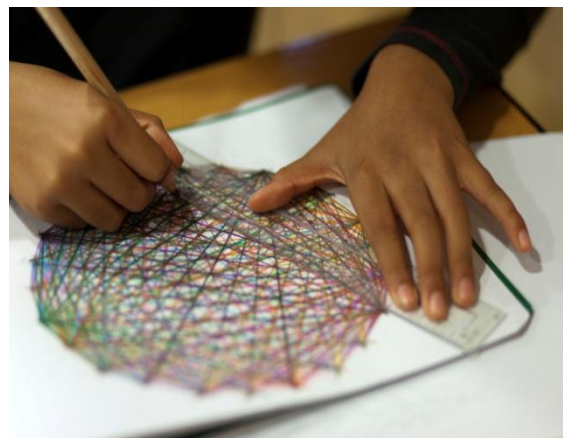
The office is run on a part time basis due to financial restrictions.

We are grateful to all our regular supporters.

Trustees:

Michael Mehta	chair
Angela Clark	Niki Nakamura
Dr Sue Peat	Jon Syed
Jane Avison	Company Secretary Administrator

If you would like to apply to be a trustee please contact admin@gatf.org.uk



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From a former early year's student:

Dear Godparents,

This card reaches you much later than I would have liked, but I would still like to say: Thank you so much for your financial support during the second year of my Steiner Waldorf Early Years Teacher Training course! You were so kind to offer me an interest-free loan, which has been of immense help to me. Without your support I would have struggled greatly to afford the second year of study.

At the time I only had a part-time job and very little income, alongside with my being a mother of a young child. So I felt really blessed with the opportunity you provided me with.

The course has enabled me to start working at a Waldorf Kindergarten and to develop my knowledge and skills in this work. Currently I continue working as a kindergarten assistant at the school where I started work two years ago and where my child has been attending kindergarten and now Class 1.

I am very satisfied with my work and, as a parent, I am very happy that my child may attend the same school. I feel truly blessed with how my life has unfolded as a result of my Steiner Early Years Study – and with your help my journey has been much easier and pleasant.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support and thank you for being there for all those people who need your help!



Children's Fund:

We ask that any requests for help come via a Steiner Waldorf School or kindergarten. The Trustees give priority to families in need of short term help to keep the children in school for reasons such as poor health of a parent, loss of employment etc. Loans are subject to the same process as the training fund, and a standing order is required before the money is released to the school or kindergarten.

The trustees of GATF are pleased to announce they have a small amount of money available for interest free loans to distribute from the Children's Fund for this academic year. They will consider all requests in February 2018. If you have a family in your school who you would like to put forward, please ask for the relevant form.

We also have a small amount of grant money available for supporting therapies for children with special needs. The trustees will consider granting up to 75% of reasonable fees. Priority will be given to Anthroposophical therapy and urgent short term therapies. Please request an application form if you have children who would benefit from this grant.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS BELOW

Suite 1, Third Floor, Copthall House, 1 New Road Stourbridge DY8 1PH
Registered in England No. 5002529 Registered Charity No. 1102158

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Guidance Notes for Loan Applicants

Eligibility

- ✧ The Training Fund offers financial assistance to students undertaking the following courses:
 - Steiner Waldorf Teacher Training**
 - School Health Practitioners**
 - Anthroposophical Art Therapy**
 - Bothmer Movement**
 - Eurythmy and Eurythmy Therapy**
- ✧ The Trustees will not fund the first year of a course, accommodation/food costs or give retrospective loans.
- ✧ Loans are interest free and are given towards **tuition costs only** for one academic year. Students requiring financial assistance in subsequent years will need to re-apply annually.
- ✧ The maximum amount of loans given over the duration of a four year course is £6,000.
- ✧ Non European Economic Area (EAA) students will be required to hold a visa valid for the duration of the course. A copy of the visa should to be sent with the loan application.
- ✧ The Trustees will only consider applications from students who have been accepted on their training course and who do not owe the course any money.

Applications

- ✧ Completed application forms, signed by the course leader, must be sent with the non refundable administration fee to the GATF Office by the **end of February**.

Referees

- ✧ Applicants are required to give the names and addresses of two referees who have known the applicant for at least five years. We will contact the referees to verify the applicant's suitability for a loan. References from family members are not accepted.

Interviews

- ✧ Interviews will be held between March and May. The Trustees will consider all the applications and students will be notified of the decision by the end of July. Proof of identity (passport or driving licence plus a utilities bill or bank or credit card statement) will be required at interview, together with a copy for our files.

Guarantor

- ✧ If successful, students will be required to provide an independent Guarantor who will undertake to repay the loan in full if they are unable to do so.

Loan repayment term

- ✧ A GATF loan is a legal agreement and is to be repaid within five years of completing or leaving the training for long courses and four years from the start date of the loan for short courses.

Monthly repayments

- ✧ Students on all courses will be required to set up a monthly standing order for a minimum of £30.00 from the start of the loan.

Loan agreement

- ✧ Funds will be paid directly to the course and will not be released until the loan agreement form and guarantee have been received and monthly repayments have commenced.
- ✧ It is a condition of the loan agreement that students keep the Trustees informed of any changes in their circumstances or contact details.

The Trustees reserve the right to vary any of the above or to make exceptions.

The decisions of the Trustees are final and personal or telephone appeals will not be considered. Any concerns should be put in writing, addressed to the Trustees.

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From a student on the School Health Professional course:

I thought I will update the organisation about my study.

I have finished the first year and I am still very enthusiastic about all we learn from Dr Michaela Glöckler and Dr Hedda Joyce. In August we had a one week-intense module with some artistic activities in the afternoon which I enjoyed immensely.

We have now built a South Devon study group and we meet every week to discuss issues like Child study and the four main organs.

We also set up an international Skype Study group and we have just had our first meeting today. It was wonderful! We have members from Israel, Malaysia, Chile and Egypt (he lives in Devon) and three South Devon Steiner teachers. We have a mixed group of teachers, therapists, doctors and a Kindergarten teacher. It is very interesting and extremely useful. We can learn from each other a lot.

I look forward to the second year, which will start in November with a weekend module.

It has been a great journey up till now, it is a lot to read and learn but I am very keen to go all the way. Thank you again for the generous fund.

Please note we can only give grants if we have donations to cover the amount. If you would like to support our work please send donations to the office.

Investment policy

GATF operates a policy of ethical investment and holds the majority of its cash reserves in the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) Bank. The Charities Aid Foundation is a registered charity that works to create greater value for

charities and social enterprise.

Ways to donate

If you would like to make a donation, please send a cheque to the address below payable to GATF or the Children's Fund. You can also donate by bank transfer to:

Training Fund

Bank: HSBC, East Grinstead
Account: GATF
Account no: 81438565
Sort code: 40-20-09

For payments from abroad

IBAN: GB50HBUK40200981438565
BIC: HBUKGB4111W

Children's Fund

Bank: HSBC, Stourbridge
Account: Godparents Children's Fund
Account no: 02369249
Sort code: 40-43-17

For payments from abroad:

IBAN: GB30HBUK404317023699249
BIC: HBUKGB2111T

Please quote your name and "donation" as the reference.

There is also a donate button on our website www.gatf.org.uk for PayPal donations.

If you are a UK tax payer we can reclaim the tax on your donation. Please ask for a gift aid form or follow the link: [Gift Aid Form](#)



Photographs taken by Robert Greshoff and Jane Avison

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