



# 1<sup>st</sup> Osterley Scout Group Inclusion Fund FAQs

## What is the Inclusion Fund?

If a family is either unable to sign their child up to Scouting, or is likely to have to remove their child from Scouting due to financial inclusion, then this fund is designed to support them. It can help cover such things as:

- Subscriptions: the subscription fee to take part in Scouts on a weekly basis which is paid termly.
- Activities/Camps/Events: anything included in the Group's programme that requires an additional payment from the parent/carer over and above the regular subs.
- Uniform: where no second hand uniform is held by the Scout Group and no grant is available from the London Borough of Hounslow.

## How is it funded?

Unlike schools who receive funding to help people in inclusion we do not. We therefore cannot guarantee the availability or amount of funding will be the same each term/year.

## Am I eligible to apply?

The criteria used for the Inclusion Fund align with the criteria for receiving free school meals in the London Borough of Hounslow, which provides an independent, known benchmark as a guideline that can help make the best judgement of “financial inclusion”.

The criteria at the time of writing are:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 per year after tax and not including any benefit you receive
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- or are being supported by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS).

The grants are usually provided on a matched funding basis (i.e. the recipient must usually make a financial contribution alongside the Group's grant). In special circumstances grants may be made without match funding.

However, applications are considered from families who are not in receipt of government funding, but who find themselves in need of assistance.

## How do I apply?

Applications for inclusion funds should be made via the [Inclusion Fund application form \(link\)](#) and submitted to [jane.bourne@1stosterley.org.uk](mailto:jane.bourne@1stosterley.org.uk). Applications will be considered at any time of year, subject to availability of funds.

## How much is available to me?

Amounts awarded may vary dependent on funds available. The aim is to match fund camps, events and activities, to a maximum of 50%. The Group may be able to access uniform grants and can tailor subscription assistance on a case by case basis. It should also be noted that whilst a child might be living in impoverished circumstances it does not preclude them from fundraising and this should be encouraged, although individual needs ought to be taken with sensitivity.

[Our Inclusion Fund Policy can be viewed here\(link\)](#)