

Support for families and children



The Swiss Guard also accommodates married guards with children in its barracks. After five years of service, the guards can marry and start a family. However, school lessons and extracurricular activities for the children generate high costs, which are cushioned in Switzerland by family allowances. The Vatican supports the families – but only to a limited extent, which proves particularly challenging for the families. As a result, the Foundation began paying out family allowances based on the Swiss model in 2011. The size of the contributions is based on guidelines of the Canton of Fribourg, where the Foundation is based.

The Swiss School: In order to benefit from an education in line with Swiss

standards, most children attend the Swiss School in Rome. The Swiss School's curriculum begins with nursery school, followed by primary school and ends with the Swiss federal university-entrance examinations. This allows them to start an apprenticeship or to transfer to the various universities in Switzerland without having to take an examination. School costs are between EUR 2,000 and 4,500 per year, depending on the level. Since 2019, the Foundation has been covering these costs, thus relieving the strain placed on the family budget.

Extracurricular activities: The allowances are also used by the guards' families to cover expenses for their children's sporting and musical interests. It is important to the Foundation to help relieve the pressure on the families' household budgets by contributing to these extracurricular activities.

This makes a significant contribution to ensuring that larger families also have a good chance of meeting their financial obligations and ensuring that their children receive suitable education and training. In addition, the Foundation also contributes to the families' additional living costs.

Within the Foundation's five-year plan, the cost of supporting families and children amounts to around CHF 170,000 p.a.