



**SLINDON  
COLLEGE**

# **BURSARY & SCHOLARSHIP POLICY**

Last review: May 2026  
Next review: May 2027  
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Approved by: F&GP Committee

## **Bursaries**

The Board of Governors of Slindon College is committed to broadening access to the College by offering eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees. Such support is known as a Bursary and these may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 85% on day and boarding fees payable in cases of proven need, depending on the individual circumstances of the pupil and each parent. Bursaries may either be awarded for the duration of the pupil's education (Fixed Bursary), subject to annual review, or may be for a defined period only. Requests for financial support usually fall into two categories:

### **Admissions Bursaries**

When a place has been offered to a new pupil but parents/guardians are unable to fund the fees.

### **Hardship Bursaries**

Where a change in parent/guardian circumstances have resulted in difficulty in meeting fees and may result in the pupil being withdrawn part way through a stage of education. Bursaries will not be awarded for the purpose of cancelling an existing fees debt.

The number and the overall value of bursaries awarded each year will depend on the College's budgetary constraints and it is important therefore to emphasise that not all applicants will be successful.

## **Application Process**

The Bursar is responsible for the management and co-ordination of the application process. Parents/guardians seeking a bursary are required to complete a Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances form. The form is confidential and requires full information about the family's financial circumstances, with supporting documentation. The College uses an independent company, Bursary Administration Ltd (BAL), to review and assess bursary applications.

Shortly after receipt of the application form, BAL will arrange an interview to talk through the financial circumstances form and discuss the application. These interviews are undertaken in a sensitive manner and all information is treated in the strictest confidence. The application and the BAL feedback will be issued to the Bursar for submission to the Headteacher and at least one Governor from the Finance & General Purposes Committee who will decide the value of the bursary that may be awarded.

Parents/guardians are then advised of the outcome and those who are successful are required to sign an offer letter agreeing to the conditions applying to the bursary award. Bursaries are not available to international pupils.

## **Other Sources of Bursary Assistance**

In addition to the College's bursary scheme, there are a number of educational and charitable trusts which provide assistance with tuition fees. In the majority of cases, these are to assist pupils who are already attending a fee-paying school and due to a change of circumstances may be unable to remain. The College encourages parents/guardians to apply for support where it is felt a good case can be made for

assistance. Further information on how to pursue such assistance may be obtained from:

The Educational Trusts' Forum

[www.educational-grants.org](http://www.educational-grants.org)

Royal National Children's SpringBoard Foundation

[www.royalspringboard.org.uk](http://www.royalspringboard.org.uk)

## **Scholarships**

Scholarships are financial awards for talented pupils. They may be awarded to those who excel academically or who are gifted in other areas such as; drama, music or sport. Family income isn't taken into account when awarding scholarships. Slindon College offers scholarship awards to the value of up to 10% of the day and boarding fees.

### **Academic Scholarship**

The academic scholarship is awarded to a pupil who excels academically. Pupils applying for the academic scholarship will be subject to an academic test.

### **Open Scholarship**

The open scholarship is awarded to a pupil who is likely to contribute exceptionally well to the overall life of the College.

### **Special Talent Scholarship**

The special talent scholarship is awarded to a pupil who excels in one area (drama, music or sport) to a high level i.e. competing or performing at county, national or international level. The pupil will be required to provide ongoing evidence of their special talent and will be expected to represent the College in their area of expertise.

## **Application Process**

Applications should initially be made in writing to the Bursar outlining the pupils talent. Applicants will then be required to either provide evidence of their ability, take an additional test to prove their academic talent or demonstrate their ability in their area of expertise. Parents/guardians are then

advised of the outcome and those who are successful are required to sign a form agreeing to the conditions applying to the scholarship award.

## **General**

### **The Case for Assistance**

A number of factors are considered when making the judgement as to the justification for award and the extent of such award; inevitably this is a holistic judgment.

**Suitability** - in assessing a child's suitability, attention will be given to their assessment's in accordance with the Admissions Policy. Bursary funds are limited and those judged most suitable will be given priority as those likely to gain most from the school's educational provision. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Headteacher, be likely to make good progress following admission and possess the potential to develop and benefit from participation in the wider, activities on offer at the school.

**Financial limitations** - the amount of the award is not influenced by academic ability but by the extent of need. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made subject to the College's ability to fund these within the context of its overall budget. It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal; however, the College has a duty to ensure that all awards are well focused and so, as well as current earnings, other factors which will be considered in determining the necessary level of grant will include (but are not limited to):

- The ability to improve the financial position or earning power of each parent. For example, where there are two partners, both would be expected to be employed unless one is prevented from doing so through incapacity, the need to care for children under school age or other dependents, or the requirements of their partner's work.
- Opportunities to release any capital. Significant capital savings and investments would be expected to be used for the payment of school fees, as would equity values in property assets.
- In cases of parents who are divorced or separated, the contribution that is being made or could be made by both parents, regardless of who the child lives with, and based on the principle that liability for the fees is joint and several. This means that the school may consider the financial circumstances of each parent separately and together, treating each parent's household separately.
- The number of school aged children in the household.
- Contribution to household costs including school fees by other family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by third parties/outside sources.
- Any fees which are being paid to other schools (or universities).
- Acknowledging that others might have a different view, the College considers that the following would not be consistent with the receipt of a bursary. It should be noted that the list is not comprehensive:
  - frequent or expensive holidays;
  - new or luxury cars;
  - investment in significant home improvements;
  - a second property/land holdings;
  - failure to honour school fee payments to other schools.

**Other factors** - it is recognised that, in addition to meeting admission requirements and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered as part of the College's holistic judgment. These include:

- Where a child has siblings at the school (though a bursary award to one child does not guarantee an award to a sibling).
- Where the social needs of the child are relevant (for example, where a child is suffering from bullying at their present school).
- Where a parent is critically or terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health or incapacity.
- Where a separation has resulted or is likely to result in the child having to be withdrawn from the school, adding to the stress of coping with the parents separating, although the school will nonetheless consider the financial circumstances of both parents in such cases.

- Where a previous school has awarded bursary support (but please note that bursary support from a previous school is no indication or guarantee that the parents would be eligible for bursary support at the College.

### **Annual Review**

Bursary and scholarship awards are reviewed in the Summer Term each year. Current bursary holders will be asked to complete a reassessment with BAL. Awards may be removed or varied upwards or downwards subject to such matters as changes in financial means, pupil progress, attitude, attendance or behaviour and also where parents/guardians have failed to support the College, for example by the late payment of fees, or otherwise have not acted in accordance with their obligations under the Terms and Conditions. Failure to respond to the request for information in relation to the annual review of a bursary or scholarship will result in the award being withdrawn.

### **Awareness**

Information alerting parents/guardians of new and existing pupils to the possibility of gaining bursaries or scholarships is contained in:

- a. The College prospectus
- b. The College website
- c. The local press by means of advertisement

### **Amendments**

The College reserves the right to amend the way in which awards are assessed.

### **Confidentiality**

The College respects the confidentiality of bursary and scholarship awards made to families; recipients and prospective recipients are expected to do likewise.

### **Personal Data**

All personal data processed in connection with the arrangements for awards shall be processed in accordance with the Privacy Notice which is available on the website and is otherwise available on request.

The College is aware of its obligations under the Charities Act 2022 and seeks to adhere to the public benefit principles identified by Charity Commission.

This policy is reviewed annually.