

Scholarships and Bursaries Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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POLICY NAME	Scholarships and Bursaries Policy
PURPOSE	To ensure access to the school's education by offering means tested financial support to families who would otherwise not be able to send their children here.

1. Introduction

Teesside High School is an Educational Charity and as such is obliged to discharge its charitable objectives and comply with Charity legislation.

Charities legislation requires all charities to prove to the Charity Commission that they genuinely provide public benefit to all sectors of the community.

The Governors of Teesside High School are committed to broadening access to the school by offering to eligible parents means tested financial support and will ensure that funds made available for Bursaries are used to support parents who otherwise would not be able to send their children to the School.

2. Bursaries

Bursary awards are subject to a financial assessment of parental financial means in accordance with guidelines issued by the Independent Schools' Bursars Association. Awards will be granted to those families with the most limited of means and who are most likely to benefit from the education offered at the School.

The financial assessment will be based on parental net resources and will take into account income, expenditure, assets and liabilities.

From January 2016, bursaries will only be awarded to pupils in Year 6 or above. Bursary applications must be completed and returned to School by the relevant date as advertised each year. Failure to return the application form by the stated date, or returning an incomplete form without the appropriate supporting documentation, will jeopardise the financial value of the award for the academic year.

All bursary awards are subject to annual review of parental financial circumstances and the academic progress and behaviour of the child. The awards may be varied up or down depending on the results of that annual review.

In addition, Hardship Arrangements can be made to help families who already have a place at Teesside High, but whose circumstances have changed significantly during their time here. Hardship Arrangements will only be available for the short term and are awarded at the Governor's discretion.

The school respects the confidentiality of awards and recipients and their families are expected to do likewise. Failure to adhere to confidentiality will result in the withdrawal of the assistance.

Awards are subject to the availability of funds and the School has absolute discretion to remove awards.

3. Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of written tests, auditions and trials which will be conducted at the discretion of the School. The final decision on which children are awarded these prestigious honours will be at the discretion of the Head teacher.

Scholarships will be awarded for general academic excellence to those pupils entering Year 7 (up to a maximum of six per annum) and Year 12 (up to a maximum of 4 per annum).

Sports scholarships are available for Year 7 and Year 12 students. They are awarded for high sporting achievement and commitment to sports teams both within and outside school.

Successful students earn the distinction of becoming a Scholar and are eligible for a financial award of £1,000 per annum reduction in School fees.

Sixth Form academic Scholars are eligible for a financial award which is equivalent to a 20% fees reduction.

Music scholarships will be awarded for excellence in music to those pupils entering Year 7 and Year 12 (up to 3 per annum). Successful students will receive tuition in their primary instrument.

An 'all-rounder' award known as the Cleveland Scholarship for Girls and the Queen Victoria Scholarship for Boys will be awarded in Year 7 to one boy and one girl who excel both academically and in one other area e.g. sport or music. This award will be a total of £1,500 per annum reduction in School fees.

Only one financial Scholarship award may be received by a pupil in any one academic year. The financial award received will be the Scholarship of highest financial value that has been awarded to the pupil. Any subsequent Scholarships awarded will be in name only.

Scholars will be expected to attend Open Days and represent the School on other formal occasions. They will be mentored by designated members of staff and their progress will be carefully monitored. They should be prepared to be ambassadors of the School both during the School day and externally. The Scholarship award will last until the end of the phase i.e. year 7-11 or Year 12-13. It is expected that previous Senior School Scholars will apply for Sixth form Scholarship upon entry to the Sixth Form.

The school reserves the right to withdraw scholarship awards in the event of poor attainment or behaviour concerns.

APPENDIX 1

MEANS -TESTED BURSARIES GUIDANCE

Bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on individual parents'/guardians' circumstances (e.g. their savings, investments and realisable assets as well as their income, the size of their family, any other persons dependent upon them and like factors), compassionate or other pertinent considerations.

Requests for financial support usually fall into two categories:

- New applicants to the school where a place has been offered but parents/guardians are unable to fund the tuition fees.
- Existing pupils where a change in parents'/guardians' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting tuition fees and may result in the child being withdrawn part way through a stage of education.

The Case for Assistance

The Governors will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support and the extent of such support. In the main, the child's suitability for the school is the first consideration in granting support.

- **Suitability** - in assessing a child's suitability, attention will be given to the academic assessment result of each applicant but potential will also be considered as well as actual achievement. Bursary funds are limited and those judged most suitable will be given priority as those likely to gain most from the educational provision. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Head, be likely to make sound academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of his or her work and benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the school. In normal circumstances, each applicant should meet the school's normal academic requirements. Previous school reports will be consulted for evidence of good behaviour.
- **Financial limitations** - the amount of the bursary award is not influenced by the level of the academic ability of the child but by the extent of need. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly subject to the school's ability to fund these within the context of what is viable 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 school has a duty to ensure that all bursary grants 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:
 - The ability to improve the financial position or earning power of the family. 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 houses.
 - In cases of separation, the contribution made by the absent parent.
 - Contribution to household costs by other, wider, family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by outside sources.
 - Where fees are being paid to other schools (or universities) the school's grant will take into account all these outgoings.
 - Acknowledging that others might have a different view, the school considers that the following would not be consistent with the receipt of a bursary:
 - frequent or expensive holidays;

- new or luxury cars;
 - investment in significant home improvements;
 - a second property/land holdings.
- **Other factors** - it is recognised that, in addition to academic ability and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered. These include:
 - Where a child has siblings at the school.
 - Where the social needs of the child are relevant (e.g: may be suffering from bullying at their present school).
 - Where a parent/guardian is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health.
 - Where a separation has resulted in the child having to be withdrawn from the school adding to the stress of coping with the parents/guardians separating.