

Avenue House School Bursary Policy

To be read in conjunction with 'The Conditions of Avenue House School Bursary Awards'

The Governors will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support and the extent of such support including:

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 being those likely to gain most from the educational provision. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the professional opinion of the Head Teacher, be likely to make sound academic progress following admission, to possess the potential to develop the quality of his or her work, to benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the school, and to contribute positively to school life, thereby enriching the School community. It is recognised that the Head Teacher's findings on suitability will be based on his professional knowledge and experience, and that elements of this may be subjective. His recommendations regarding suitability will be final and are not to be subject to appeal. Detailed feedback will not be provided following assessment. The School's policy on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is available on request.

Financial limitations

The amount of the bursary award is influenced 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 its overall budget. Bursaries of up to 100% of school fees may be available.

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) these will be taken into account.
- 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.

The Governors' decision will be final and is not subject to appeal.

Annual Review

All bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. For those in receipt of bursaries, the school governors have the discretion to reduce or withdraw an award not only where a pupil's progress, attitude or behaviour has been unsatisfactory but also where the parents/guardians have failed to support the school, for example by the late payment of any contribution they are making to the fees. See the **Conditions of Avenue House School Bursary Awards** for further information.

Current Parents

Parents of children entering Year 1 from Avenue House School's Reception class are not excluded from the scheme and they should speak to the Head Teacher in confidence should they wish to make a bursary application.