



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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POLICY

PURPOSE

The Governors of Stonyhurst are committed to attracting to the school prospective pupils who will enhance the school community through their outstanding personal contribution, setting an example to other pupils in their conduct, approach to academic study and whole-hearted participation in the fuller life of the school.

Through effective promotion of the scholarship awards, and of the success of its recipients, recruitment to the school will be enhanced, and the breadth and calibre of pupils attracted will support a consistent drive to maintain and improve standards in academic learning, excellence in the co-curricular life of the school and pupil contribution to the mission and identity of a Jesuit boarding environment.

Scholarships awarded at Stonyhurst should benefit families not only financially, but in terms of status. A Stonyhurst scholarship should carry with it prestige and recognition that will enhance the future life chances of the recipient. Scholarships should also recognise and reward excellence and hard work, thus increasing pupil retention, particularly during the transition to Higher Line.

There should be a strategic benefit to Stonyhurst in the awarding of scholarships, in a regularly reviewed structure designed to attract interest from pupils who will enhance the attractiveness of the school to other full fee-paying prospective families. In particular, through the SFX and other awards, we should aim to attract students who are most likely to benefit from and contribute to life as full boarders in a British Catholic boarding school.

Scholarship awards are subject to review each year and may be suspended, should students fail to perform according to the terms of the scholarship.

NEW APPLICANTS TO THE SCHOOL

Awareness – information provided by the school alerting the parents/guardians of potential pupils to the possibility of gaining scholarships is mentioned in:

- The scholarship brochure, school prospectus and other relevant documents
- The school website
- Direct contact with feeder schools
- Relevant educational exhibitions
- National, regional and local press and other media by means of advertisements

THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Scholarships are normally made available to parents/guardians of children entering Stonyhurst at 11+, 13+ and 16+. External prospective pupils wishing to sit in advance for Stonyhurst scholarship awards may do so from Year 5, subject to a review of school reports in the year prior to admission. Should they prove unsuccessful, they may, at the discretion of Stonyhurst,

re-sit the examination in subsequent years, until they reach the correct age for their entrance test. Scholarships are awarded after examination or assessment and at the discretion of the Headmasters. More than one scholarship may be applied for; however, only one award is normally given. (Holders of the Saint Francis Xavier Award may not hold any other award.) Candidates who perform well in 16+ scholarship examinations, interviews and other tests but who do not win a scholarship with a financial award, may, at the discretion of the Headmaster, be given an honorary award.

The Admissions Department is responsible for the management and co-ordination of the process, as follows:

Step 1 – All prospective students wishing to be considered for a scholarship award need first to have registered, submitted all documents required for the registration process and have taken any online entrance tests. (At 11+ these tests would normally be taken at Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall on an assessment day in the November of the year preceding entrance.)

Step 2 – Prospective families seeking a scholarship are required to register for this through the completion of a scholarship registration form and returning it to the Admissions department. If a potential scholarship candidate requires a bursary, a bursary application must be made at the same time as the scholarship entry.

Step 3 – The prospective pupil completes the relevant examinations and/or assessment, in accordance with the particular criteria for the award they are entering for.

Step 4 – The Headmaster makes the final decision about which candidates will receive a scholarship. His decision is final.

Step 5 – If the prospective family has requested a top-up bursary as part of the application process, the recommendation sheet is sent to be considered together with other documentary evidence as part of the bursary application process (see bursary policy).

Step 6 – The parents/guardians are advised whether their child is to be offered a place at the school and of the scholarship and/or bursary offer.

Step 7 – Parents/guardians are then required to sign a letter accepting the place at the school and an acknowledgement agreeing to any conditions relating to the scholarship and/or bursary.

THE CASE FOR AWARDING A SCHOLARSHIP

The Headmasters will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the award of a scholarship. The child's attainment in the scholarship assessment process is the first consideration in granting of any such award.

Suitability – Scholarship 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 an award is offered must, in the opinion of the Headmaster, 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, co-curricular activities on offer at the school. Previous school reports will be consulted for evidence of good behaviour.

Financial limitations – With the exception of the Association Award, the amount of any scholarship award will normally be capped to between 10% - 15%. Only the Headmaster has the discretion to make a higher award. Any further discount from school fees will be influenced not by the level of the academic or other ability of the child but by the extent of need and a

successful bursarial application. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly subject to the school's ability to fund bursaries within the context of what is viable within the context of its overall budget and within the criteria outlined in the bursary policy.

EXISTING PUPILS – RECOGNITION OF PROGRESS AND EXCELLENCE

Within overall budget funding, the school will in normal circumstances set aside each year a scholarship fund for cases where current students demonstrate particular aptitude, either academic or co-curricular in order to recognize and reward excellence and to enhance retention at key transition points. This sum will be set within budgetary constraints.

Nominations for internal academic and subject specialist candidates at 11+, 13+ and 16+ should be made by half term of the Christmas term. Nominations for 11+ and 13+ candidates are made by the Deputy Headmaster and Headmaster of Saint Mary's Hall; nominations for 16+ academic scholarship candidates are made by the Deputy Head (Learning) at the college on recommendations of college HoDs. Examinations and interviews with the Headmaster will take place according to the Stonyhurst calendar.

Awareness – information provided by the school alerting the parents/guardians of current pupils to the possibility of gaining scholarships should be available in the Higher Line and Lower Line Booklets and on the website. Information regarding the scholarship process for internal candidates, after recommendation by HoDs, tutors or pastoral leaders, should be disseminated to parents and students by the Deputy Head (Learning) at the College or the Deputy Headmaster of Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOLARS

All scholarships awards are subject to review each year and the Headmasters have the discretion to recommend the reduction or withdrawal of 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.

Students in receipt of Academic scholarships will be expected to perform within the top 10% of students in their year group in order to retain their scholarship discount.

Under the supervision of the Master of Scholars, students in receipt of specialist or all-rounder scholarships will undergo a scholarship review by the HoD or HoF in their subject area according to agreed criteria (for example, Music Scholars would be expected to regularly attend choir & orchestra) and expected to evidence their positive contribution to Stonyhurst in order to retain their scholarship discount on fees.

The Master of Scholars should track progress of scholars throughout their time at Stonyhurst, and in terms of University Awards made/Career progression made once they have left the school; in order to evaluate effectively whether making the awards has demonstrated a good

use of financial resources for the school, and to capitalise on the marketing opportunities inherent in promoting success stories.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship provision needs reviewing annually to ensure that scholarships offered are meeting the needs of the school's recruitment priorities and are appropriate in terms of assessment level for different subjects, ages and category of award.

Academic and SFX scholarship papers at each level should be reviewed and rewritten every year by HoFs. 16+ papers for November should be reviewed in the Summer Term and 11+/13+ papers for January should be reviewed in the Christmas term.