



St Christopher's School

Hampstead

BURSARY POLICY

Policy to be reviewed annually		
Reviewed by	Bursar	August 2019
Approved by	name	date

To be published on	
School network	✓

Introduction

St Christopher's School is a registered charity and is committed to broadening access to the school by offering eligible parents / guardians' means tested financial support in the form of school fee discounts. Bursary provision is one of the key strands of the school's public benefit activities.

Bursaries are awarded to families whose financial circumstances mean their daughters would not otherwise be able to attend St Christopher's. The school welcomes applications for Bursaries on entry at Reception, Year 1 or at any other occasional entry at the School's discretion.

Bursaries are means tested. The Bursar will provide the parents / guardians with a confidential application form for completion. All bursary applications are assessed independently by a third party who helps assess the level of school fees that could be supported by the parents / guardians.

The bursary assessment considers a wide range of appropriate matters including (but not limited to), parental / guardian income (from all sources), assets (including savings, investments and realisable assets), and other matters such as family circumstances. The assessment process will usually include a home visit.

The Application Process

New Applicants to the school

New school applicants should fill in a Registration form and the Bursary Application Form.

For children applying for Reception / Year 1 places, the independent bursary assessment will take place in November / December prior to your child's Assessment. You will be asked to update in the Bursary Application Form at this point and to provide updated supporting documentation. This information should be sent to the Bursar. You will be contacted by Bursary Administration Limited who will conduct a home visit and review the information you have provided.

Following the receipt of Bursary Administration's report, the Bursar makes a recommendation to the Board of Governors who approve Bursary Awards.

If the child is successful in their admissions assessment and is offered a place at the school, the level of fee discount or bursary award will be disclosed. Parents must sign a letter accepting the place at the school and acknowledge in writing the conditions relating to the Bursary Award.

Existing Pupils experiencing Hardship

Applications for bursaries can be considered for existing pupils. The Bursary Application Form and the required supporting information should be submitted to the Bursar. You will be contacted by Bursary Administration Limited who will conduct a home visit and review the information you have provided.

Following the receipt of Bursary Administration's report, the Bursar makes a recommendation to the Board of Governors who approve Bursary Awards.

The Case for Assistance

School places are offered and bursaries are awarded at the sole discretion of the school which is under no obligation to explain or give any reasons for a decline of a place at school, the level of fee discount offered or the decline of a bursary.

The school and governors will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support and the extent of such support.

Suitability – bursaries will only be considered for a child that has passed the normal school assessment process.

Financial limitations - the amount of the bursary award is determined by the extent of financial 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 bursary 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 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.

Annual Review

All bursaries are reviewed annually and may be adjusted upwards or downwards depending on the level of need and parental circumstances.

Confidentiality

The school respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are required to do likewise.