DAUNTSEY'S SCHOOL

BURSARY POLICY

1 General

1.1 In line with the School's founding principles and the objectives of the Charity, the Governing Body of Dauntsey's School is committed to broadening access to education at the School by offering to eligible parents or guardians means-tested financial support for the payment of school fees to enable a pupil to attend Dauntsey's School who otherwise would not be able to do so. Such support is known as a bursary and may be awarded in the form of a remission of up to 100% of fees.

1.2 Requests for financial support usually fall into two categories:

1.2.1 New entrants to the School whose parents are unable to fund all of the fees and other educational expenses, and for whom bursary support would enable access to a Dauntsey's education which would otherwise not be affordable.

1.2.2 Existing pupils where a change in the pupil's and/or parents' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting fees and other educational expenses and may result in the child being withdrawn part way through a stage of their education. Financial support may be offered in the form of a short term 'hardship' bursary designed to allow the child to remain a pupil at the School until a natural 'break point' has been reached in their education.

1.3 The School's funding for bursaries is finite and requests for financial assistance, particularly for substantial bursaries, exceed the School's ability to provide it. It is therefore not possible to offer bursary assistance to every pupil whose family is eligible for financial support.

1.4 Bursary applications include an assessment of a family's financial circumstances to establish both their eligibility for financial assistance and the level of support required. Financial eligibility does not in itself guarantee that a bursary will be awarded, as the School must also determine how its available bursary funding should be allocated between eligible applicants. The basis on which these decisions are made is described later in this Policy.

1.5 Where the School decides to offer a bursary, the amount of the award will normally reflect the level of financial support identified through the assessment of the family's financial circumstances.

1.6 The School uses the services of a third-party assessor, Bursary Administration Limited (BAL), to collate and review the financial circumstances of bursary applicants on its behalf. The assessment considers the family's income, savings, investments and realisable assets, as well as the size of their family, any other persons dependent upon them and other relevant factors. BAL prepares a report for the School which is provided to the Bursar. Awards are subject to repeat testing of parental financial circumstances each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental financial circumstances.

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

2 Awareness

2.1 Information provided by the School alerting parents to means-tested financial support is included:

2.1.1 In the School's prospectus.

2.1.2 On the School's website.

2.1.3 In liaison with local state primary and secondary schools.

2.1.4 In the School's Registration Form.

3 Open Access

3.1 Bursary support in the form of a reduction of up to 100% of the fees may also include additional support for uniform, a digital device, books and other extras such as necessary educational visits, depending on the financial or other relevant family circumstances of the applicant.

3.2 Given the additional cost of boarding provision, bursary assistance for boarding applicants will normally only be considered for families who live beyond the School's bus network, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

3.3 International applicants are welcome to apply for bursary assistance. Partial bursary awards will normally provide assistance with school fees only, with additional costs associated with attending the School, including travel expenses, visa-related costs, guardianship fees and other personal expenses, remaining the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian(s).

3.3.1 Awards of up to 100% of school fees may also be considered and, where necessary, may include assistance with the additional costs associated with attending the School. However, given the very high level of demand for substantial bursary support from applicants within the UK, together with the additional costs associated with an international boarding place, international applicants should be aware that such awards are likely to be made only in exceptional circumstances.

4 The Case for Assistance – New Entrants

4.1 The Head Master and Bursar will consider a number of factors when making the judgement as to the justification for bursarial support and the extent of such support; inevitably, this is a holistic judgment. In the main, the child's suitability for the School is the first consideration in granting support.

4.2 Suitability

4.2.1 In assessing a child's suitability, attention will be given to their academic assessment results in accordance with the School's entry criteria, as well as performance in other areas of assessment, for example in sport, music or drama. Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Head Master, be likely to make good academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of their work and benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the School. Previous school reports will be consulted for evidence of the pupil's attainment, progress and behaviour.

4.2.2 Competitive allocation – as demand for bursary support exceeds the funding available, the allocation of bursaries is necessarily competitive. In considering applicants who are eligible for financial support, those who perform most strongly through the School's admissions and assessment process, whether academically or through demonstrated ability or potential in other areas of school life, are more likely to be offered bursary support.

4.2.3 The award of a bursary is separate from the School's scholarship programme, and pupils applying for bursary support are actively encouraged to apply for scholarships where appropriate, including to benefit from the additional enrichment opportunities associated with those awards.

4.3 Level of Financial Assistance

The amount of the bursary award (as distinct from the decision to award one at all) is not influenced by the child's academic ability but by the extent of need. Each case is assessed on its own merits. 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 considered in determining the necessary level of grant include (but are not limited to):

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 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. The School would not, however, normally expect a family to sell its principal home in order to fund School fees.

4.3.3 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.

4.3.4 The number of school aged children in the household.

4.3.5 Contribution to household costs including school fees by other family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by third parties / outside sources.

4.3.6 Any fees which are being paid to other schools (or universities).

4.3.7 Acknowledging that others might have a different view, the School 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;

- luxury or multiple cars;
- investment in significant home improvements;
- a second property/land holdings unless this is held for the parents' business interests which are principally required to provide the family's income.

4.4 Other factors

It is recognised that, in addition to meeting academic requirements and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered as part of the School's holistic judgment. These include:

4.4.1 Where a child has siblings at the School (though a bursary award to one child does not guarantee an award to a sibling).

4.4.2 Where the social needs of the child are relevant (for example, where a child is suffering from bullying at their present School).

4.4.3 Where a parent is critically or terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health or incapacity.

4.4.4 The School is very unlikely to award a bursary where parents have failed to honour school fee payments to another School.

4.4.5 The School will not normally award a bursary where the child in respect of whom the application is made, has a sibling who has a full fee-paying place at another Independent School.

5 Application Process – New Entrants

5.1 Bursaries may be awarded to pupils entering the School in the First Form (Year 7), Third Form (Year 9) and Lower Sixth (Year 12). The application process and timetable vary according to the proposed point of entry and are set out on the School's website and in Appendix A to this Policy.

5.2 Initial Enquiries

5.2.1 Families wishing to apply for a 100% bursary are initially required to complete the 100% Bursary Enquiry Form on the School's website. This provides the School with some basic information about the family's financial circumstances and enables the Bursar to advise whether they are likely to be eligible to apply for a 100% bursary or should instead consider an application for partial bursary support. This initial enquiry is not a means-testing assessment.

5.2.2 Families who are considered eligible to apply for a 100% bursary are able to proceed with the admissions and bursary application process without payment of the normal Registration Fee.

5.2.3 Families seeking partial bursary support should contact the Admissions Team in the first instance and do not need to complete the 100% Bursary Enquiry Form.

5.3 Financial Assessment

5.3.1 At the beginning of the academic year in which the relevant admissions assessments take place, families applying for bursary support are invited to register with Bursary Administration Limited (BAL) through its secure online portal.

5.3.2 Parents provide BAL directly with the detailed financial information and supporting evidence required to assess their financial circumstances. BAL reviews this information and meets with the family, either through a home visit or online via Teams.

5.3.3 Where parents are separated or divorced, financial information will normally be required separately from both parents. The financial circumstances of other adults living within either household may also be relevant to the assessment.

5.3.4 The School will not generally accept an application based on the financial circumstances of only one living parent because the other parent is unwilling to participate in the process. The School recognises, however, that family circumstances can be complicated. A parent who believes there are particular circumstances which prevent information being provided by both parents should discuss these with the Bursar.

5.3.5 Following its assessment, BAL provides the Bursar with a report on the family's financial circumstances and the level of bursary support considered appropriate.

5.4 Admissions Assessment and Award

5.4.1 The financial assessment takes place in advance of the School's entrance assessments. All applicants subsequently take part in the normal admissions process for their proposed point of entry.

5.4.2 The School's admissions process is means-blind. All applicants are assessed together and against the same admissions criteria.

5.4.3 Following completion of the admissions process, applications for bursary support are considered by the Bursary Awarding Group, comprising the Head Master, Bursar and Head of Admissions. At this stage, the Group determines which eligible applicants will be offered bursary support, taking account of the principles set out in Section 4 and the bursary funding available.

5.4.4 Parents will be advised at the published time for offers whether their child is to be offered a place and, where applicable, the level of bursary support offered.

5.4.5 Both parents will be required to accept the place and sign their acceptance of the bursary award and any additional terms and conditions applying to it.

6 Existing Pupils - Hardship Bursaries

6.1 The School recognises that a family's financial circumstances may change unexpectedly after a pupil has joined Dauntsey's. Within its overall bursary budget, the School makes some provision each year for hardship awards to assist existing pupils where there has been a sudden and significant change in family circumstances which might otherwise result in the pupil having to leave the School.

6.2 Hardship bursaries are intended principally to provide continuity of education following an unforeseen change in circumstances. Depending on the circumstances and the funding available, assistance may be provided to enable a pupil to remain at the School until an appropriate natural break point in their education, for example the completion of GCSEs or A Levels/CTECs.

6.3 Circumstances which may give rise to an application include a significant and unexpected reduction in family income, loss of employment, critical illness or incapacity of a parent, bereavement or family separation. A hardship bursary would not normally be awarded where a family's financial circumstances have not materially changed since the pupil joined the School.

6.4 Parents seeking hardship assistance should contact the Bursar in the first instance. All applications for hardship assistance are subject to a financial assessment by BAL, with parents required to provide financial information and supporting evidence through BAL's secure online portal and to meet with BAL as part of that assessment.

6.5 In considering an application, the School will take account of the individual circumstances of the pupil and family, the outcome of the financial assessment and the funding available. Hardship assistance is discretionary and cannot be guaranteed.

6.6 Where hardship assistance continues for more than one academic year, the family will be subject to annual financial reassessment in the same way as other bursary holders.

7 Annual Review

7.1 All bursary awards are subject to annual review. The review considers both the family's continuing financial circumstances and the pupil's progress at the School.

7.2 Financial Review

7.2.1 Parents are required to provide updated financial information to BAL each year. The level of bursary support may be increased or reduced to reflect changes in the family's financial circumstances.

7.2.2 Where a family's financial circumstances have deteriorated, the level of bursary support may be increased, subject to financial assessment and the availability of bursary funding. Parents whose circumstances change significantly during the year should contact the Bursar rather than wait for the next annual review.

7.2.3 Equally, where a family's financial circumstances have improved, for example through increased income, inheritance or other changes in income or assets, the level of support may be reduced. The purpose of the annual financial review is to ensure that each award continues to reflect the family's assessed need and that, where appropriate, the School's finite bursary resources can be made available to support other pupils and families.

7.2.4 The annual financial review normally takes place during the Spring Term. Parents will be advised of the level of bursary support applying for the following academic year in sufficient time to provide the required notice should they decide not to accept the revised award.

7.3 Continuation of an Award

7.3.1 The continuation of a bursary is subject to the pupil making good academic progress and maintaining good standards of attendance, attitude and behaviour. A bursary may be reduced or withdrawn where these expectations are not met.

7.3.2 A bursary may also be reduced or withdrawn where information provided as part of the bursary assessment or annual review is found to have been inaccurate, incomplete or misleading; where parents have failed to disclose a material change in their financial circumstances; or where there has been a serious or persistent breach by the parents or pupil of the School's Terms and Conditions.

7.4 Progression to the Sixth Form

7.4.1 Bursary awards are reviewed following GCSEs and before entry to the Sixth Form. While a bursary holder may meet the School's normal requirements for progression into the Sixth Form, continuation of bursary support is considered separately and is not automatic.

7.4.2 In deciding whether bursary support should continue into the Sixth Form, the School will take account of the pupil's academic attainment and progress, attitude to their studies, behaviour and wider contribution to School life. The School must be satisfied that continued bursary support is justified and that the pupil is likely to benefit positively from a further two years at Dauntsey's, and that their presence has a positive impact on the School.

8 Extras

8.1 Bursary awards normally provide assistance with school fees and parents remain responsible for the payment of extras and other charges incurred by their child. Depending on the level of bursary awarded and the family's assessed financial circumstances, additional assistance may be provided towards other costs to enable a pupil to participate fully in school life.

8.2 For pupils receiving substantial bursary support, additional assistance may include contributions towards uniform, a digital device, school transport, books and necessary educational visits. The level of any such assistance will normally reflect the level of bursary support awarded.

9 Confidentiality and Data Protection

9.1 The School recognises that the bursary assessment process requires families to disclose a significant amount of sensitive personal and financial information. All applications and awards are treated confidentially and information is shared within the School only with those who need it for the assessment, administration and review of bursary support.

9.2 For the purposes of the bursary assessment process, Dauntsey's School is the data controller and Bursary Administration Limited (BAL) acts as a data processor on behalf of the School. BAL is appointed by the School to collect, review and assess the detailed financial information and supporting evidence provided by applicants and to report its assessment to the Bursar.

9.3 Detailed financial information and supporting evidence is submitted by parents directly to BAL through its secure online portal. In submitting an application for bursary support, parents agree to the School and BAL collecting, holding, reviewing and otherwise processing the personal and financial information necessary to assess the application, determine the appropriate level of financial assistance and administer and review any subsequent bursary award.

9.4 Information provided for the purposes of a bursary application may include personal data relating to other members of the family or household where this is relevant to the assessment. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that those individuals are aware that their information is being provided for this purpose.

9.5 Personal information relating to bursary applications and awards will be handled in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and the School's Privacy Notice.

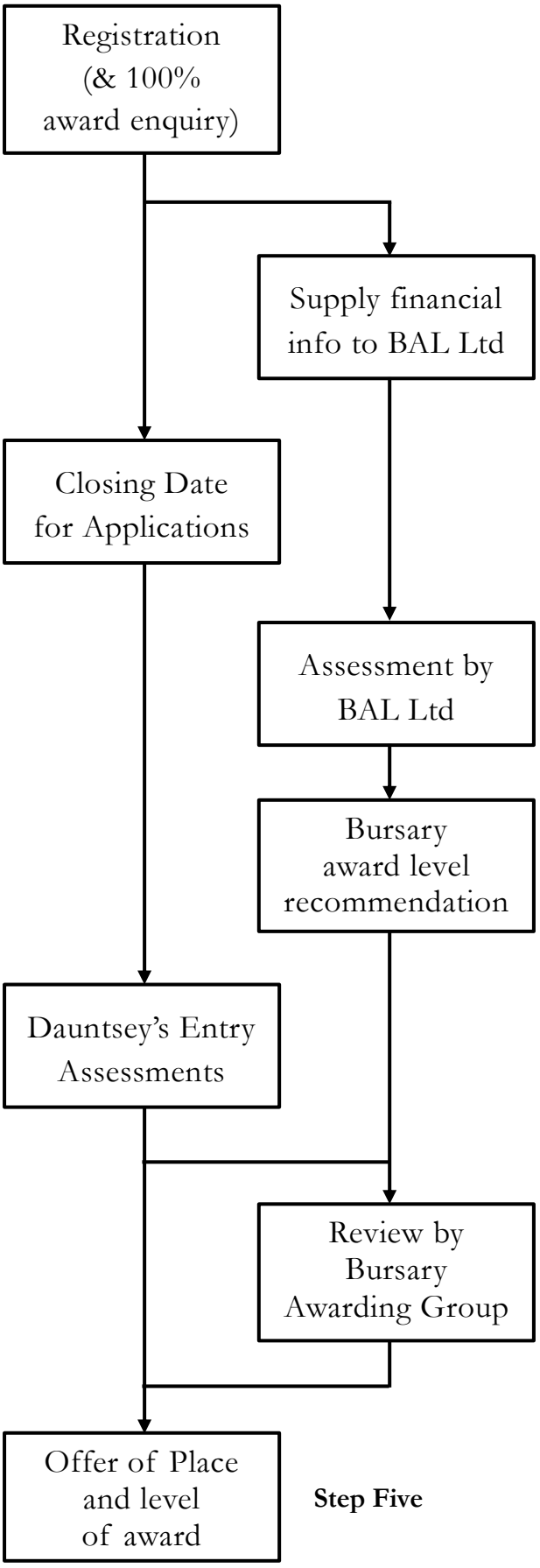
10 Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

10.1 In addition to the School's bursary fund, there are a number of educational and charitable trusts which provide assistance with tuition fees. In the majority of cases, these are intended to assist children who are already attending a fee-paying school and who, due to a change of circumstances, may otherwise be unable to remain. Many such trusts have specific eligibility criteria and are particularly intended to support pupils approaching or undertaking public examinations. Dauntsey's School encourages parents to apply for support where it is felt that a good case can be made for assistance. Further information on how to pursue such assistance may be obtained from the Bursar.

J D Davey
Bursar

Date: September 2026
Renewal: September 2027

Appendix A: Bursary Application Process and key dates 2026/27



Step One

11+ Entry: 12 October 2026
13+ Entry in 2027: 1 January 2027
16+ Entry: 23 October 2026

Step Two

Step Three

11+ Entry exam: 19 January 2027
11+ Entry Interview: 21 and 22 January 2027
13+ Exam/ISEB: Autumn 2026/Spring 2027
13+ Interview: 23 February 2027
16+ Exams: 14 November 2026
16+ Scholarship Assessments: w/c 16 November 2026
16+ Interview: w/c 17 November 2026

Step Four

Step Five

11+ Entry: w/c 1 February 2027
13+ Entry: March 2027
16+ Entry: 1 December 2026
13+ Scholarship/Award Assessment: February 2028