

Bursary Policy

for the whole School including EYFS

Policy revised by	Tim Blad
Last Review	January 2020
SLT Review Period	3 years
Next SLT Review Due	January 2023
Governor Review Period	3 years
Governing Committee	Public Benefit
Last Governor Review	January 2020
Next Governor Review Due	January 2023

Introduction

The Governors of *Beechwood Park School* are committed to broadening access to the School by offering to eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees. Such support is known as a bursary and bursaries may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 100% of tuition fees payable, depending on the financial, compassionate or other pertinent circumstances of applicants.

Bursary awards are made on the basis of a confidential sliding scale which sets out award levels in relation to a family's financial circumstances. Though awards are generally tied to this scale, they may be varied upwards or downwards, depending on individual parents'/guardians' circumstances (*for example their savings, investments and realisable assets as well as their income, the size of their family, and other persons dependent upon them and like factors*), compassionate or other pertinent considerations. The Bursar reviews and revises the scale of awards annually to reflect any changes in fee costs. The Governors approve all of these revisions.

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parents'/guardians' circumstances has resulted in difficulty in meeting tuition fees and may result in the child being withdrawn part-way through a stage of education.

New Applicants to the School

The School informs parents/guardians about the possibility of gaining means-tested financial support with the payment of School fees in

- The School prospectus.
- The School website.
- The local press by means of advertisements.
- Local libraries and other services.

Applications

The School generally awards bursaries to parents/guardians of children entering the School in Year 3 or above. The *Bursary Committee*, which consists of at least one Governor, the Headmaster and the Bursar agree all final awards.

STEP 1

1. Parents/guardians seeking a bursary pay the Registration Fee. (The Headmaster and Bursar use their discretion to waive the Registration Fee in cases of extreme need).
2. Parents complete the standard *BPS Means-Tested Application Form*, which establishes the financial circumstances of the household. The form, which requests details of income and capital, is replicated under Annex A of this document and must be accompanied by full documentary evidence.
3. Parents send the completed forms, together with the necessary documentary evidence, to the Bursar.

STEP 2

The Bursar passes on all completed applications to an external organisation, nominated by the governors in order to establish the likely level of support required to allow the child to join the School. This will usually involve a visit to the parents' / guardians' home to ensure the information has been correctly interpreted and the basis of the financial assessment has been fair.

STEP 3

The external organisation prepares a report for the *Bursary Committee*.

STEP 4

The Bursary Committee assesses the report and agrees an award.

STEP 5

The Bursar communicates the agreed offer or an award to the parents, following it up with a formal letter making the offer clear. (This will usually be no later than the beginning of the summer term for a September entry).

STEP 6

Parents/guardians sign a letter accepting the place at the School and an acknowledgement agreeing to any conditions relating to the bursary. On acceptance of a place, parents are normally expected to pay a deposit to secure their child's place. In cases of exceptional financial need, the Headmaster and Bursar may use their discretion to waive this requirement.

The Case for Assistance.

The *Bursary Committee* will consider a number of suitability factors when making the judgement as to the justification for support and the extent of such support.

The child's academic ability and potential is the first consideration, but the School will also assess each child's extra-curricular and pastoral ability and potential. The School will use the child's previous school reports, internal standardised benchmarking assessment data, interviews and informal assessment to identify suitability for awards.

Successful candidates will, in the opinion of the Headmaster, be capable of managing the demands of the curriculum at Beechwood and to contribute to the wider extra-curricular life of the school.

Where Bursary funds are limited, the *Bursary Committee* will give priority to those applicants who are expected to make a significant contribution to the School and to gain most from *Beechwood Park's* educational provision.

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 their family's need. The school assesses each candidate on their own merits. The School makes awards according to its budgetary limits.

The School has a duty to apportion all bursary grants fairly. As well as family income, the School will consider the following factors:

- Parents' or guardians' ability to improve their combined financial position or earning power. For example, where there are two parents, 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 capital.
- In cases of separation, the contribution made by both parents.
- Where fees are being paid to other schools (or universities) the School's grant will take into account all of these outgoings.

Impediments to Awards

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 Circumstances

The School recognises 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, where a parent/guardian is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health, where a marital separation might result in the child having to be withdrawn from the School.

Existing Pupils - Change in Family Circumstances

Within overall budget funding, the School will in normal circumstances set aside each year a short-term hardship fund, for cases where parents/guardians with a child or children at the School experience sudden and significant change in financial circumstances. Applications for a bursary in these circumstances should be made to the Headmaster and Bursar, explaining their situation and using the form at Annex A. These applications are then subject to the normal scrutiny by the Bursary Committee and will usually be assessed by the School's external providers. Any awards will be for a specific duration to allow either the restoration of the original position or for alternative educational provision to be found. They are also subject to the availability of funding and cannot be guaranteed.

Annual Review

All bursary awards are subject to the annual review of parental means. The School reserves the right to vary these awards up or down depending on this annual review. The Bursar will annually issue current bursary holders with means-testing forms at the beginning of February each year for return by the end of the month. For those previously in receipt of bursaries, the Bursary Committee may 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.

Confidentiality

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to keep the nature and value of their award confidential from other parents.

Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

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 to assist children who are already attending a fee-paying school and due to a change of circumstances may be unable to remain. *Beechwood Park* encourages parents/guardians to apply for support where it is felt a good case can be made for assistance and it will assist parents in their applications. Further information on how to pursue such assistance may be obtained from:

The Bursar
Beechwood Park School
Markyate
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 8AW

Tel: 01582 840333

Email: t.blad@beechwoodpark.herts.sch.uk

The Educational Trusts Forum

Website: www.educational-grants.org

The Royal National Children's Foundation

Website: www.rncf.org.uk

Annex A. Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances in support of an application for a Grant/Bursary.

END



BURSARY ADMINISTRATION LIMITED

on behalf of

Beechwood Park School

BURSARY APPLICATION FORM
(New applicants)

Confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances

Please read the Guidance Notes at the end of this document before
completing this form

Assessing your application – Data Protection considerations

The school reserves the right to make all decisions regarding your application for a Bursary, but employs the services of Bursary Administration Limited (BAL) to prepare the information which is used to make the decision.

This means that, for the purposes of your application:

- the school is the Controller of your information
- BAL is the Processor of your information
- BAL is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and has satisfied the school as to its arrangements regarding the security of any information and documents you may provide as part of your application.

Please note that no application will be considered unless the process as detailed below is followed. **IN MAKING THIS APPLICATION AND COMPLETING THIS FORM YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO HAVE CONSENTED TO THE PROCESSING OF FINANCIAL AND PERSONAL DATA RELATING TO THE APPLICANTS, PERSONAL DATA RELATING TO THE CHILD, AND SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA RELATING TO THE APPLICANTS AND THE CHILD. RELEVANT INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THIRD PARTIES. YOU ARE ALSO TAKEN TO HAVE CONSENTED TO THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:**

1. An Application Form will be completed and sent either to the school or directly to BAL as detailed at the bottom of the form. Supporting paperwork as required must be included.
2. If the Application Form and the supporting paperwork has been sent to the school this will be scanned and forwarded securely to BAL using Microsoft Sharepoint so that BAL may prepare the information in the format required by the school.
3. If you have sent the form and supporting documents straight to BAL any original documents will be stored securely under lock and key and then returned to you at the time of the home visit, or if this is not possible BAL will return any original supporting paperwork to you by 'Signed-for' post. Please ensure that you arrange to collect the envelope if a card is left in your letter-box. If any envelopes are returned to BAL as 'uncalled-for' these will be held securely until the papers' whereabouts are queried.
4. BAL will contact you to make arrangements for a home visit if this has been required by the school, or to make enquiries which will ensure that any paper financial review is as correct as it can possibly be.
5. BAL will send its report on your application securely to the school through Sharepoint and will then withdraw from the process unless the school has any further enquiries it wishes BAL to make.
6. BAL will return an original application form securely to the school, shred any scanned/photocopied evidence documents securely using an authorised service, and scan and store securely on Sharepoint its notes regarding your application; these notes will then be shredded securely using an authorised service. This process is undertaken once per year, and any papers (not your original supporting documents) will be held securely until then.

7. Your electronic records will be kept securely on Sharepoint, and will be deleted four years after they are no longer required.

Please be assured that this process is undertaken for the purposes of considering your application for a Bursary only, and your information will not be passed to any third party or used in any other way whatsoever.

BAL can arrange to share reports between schools if you are applying to more than one school for a Bursary, but this will not be done without your written permission (email will suffice), and the permission of the school on whose behalf BAL first visited.

You are entitled to request that your information be deleted permanently at any time.

It should be noted that the report produced by Bursary Administration is the property of the school and the Information Commissioner's Office regards your report as confidential and exempt from the provision of Subject Access Requests.

I/we have read the above and consent to my/ours and the child's/children's information being processed in the manner described above:

Date: _____

1. CHILD

- a) Full Names _____
- b) Date of birth _____
- c) Term / year
for entry or
date of joining _____

2. PARENTS (see note 2)

	Father/ Stepfather	Mother/ Stepmother
--	---------------------------	---------------------------

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| a) Names and title | _____ | _____ |
| b) Address | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ |
| | _____ | _____ |
| c) Occupation | _____ | _____ |
| d) Employment Status | Retired - Self-employed -
Employed - Unemployed
(please circle) | Retired - Self-employed -
Employed - Unemployed
(please circle) |
| e) Employer name | _____ | _____ |
| f) Shareholding of business | | |
| g) Are you a Co. Director? | | |
| h) Daytime Tel | _____ | _____ |
| i) Evening Tel | _____ | _____ |
| j) Mobile | _____ | _____ |
| k) E-mail | _____ | _____ |

5. CAPITAL ASSETS (see note 5)

Approximate market value	Father £	Mother £	Combined £
a) i) Bank / building society balances			
ii) Equity / bond values			
iii) PEPs/ISAs/TESSAs			
b) Pension schemes			
c) Value of main residence			
d) Value of other properties			
e) Value of vehicles			
f) Net worth of business			
g) Redundancy settlements due			
h) Insurance settlements due			
TOTAL			

6. CAPITAL LIABILITIES (see note 6)

	Father £	Mother £	Combined £
a) Mortgage amount outstanding			
b) Mortgage outstanding on other properties			
c) i) loans			
ii) credit cards			
iii) finance leases			
TOTAL			

SUMMARY	Father £	Mother £	Combined £
Income			
Deduct Outgoings			
TOTAL			
Capital Assets			
Deduct Capital Liabilities			
TOTAL			

Please indicate on a separate page if necessary why net assets cannot be converted or used to pay school fees

7. DEPENDENT CHILDREN

NOTES

(see note 7)

	Applicant	Child 2	Child 3	Child 4
a) Forename				
b) DOB				
c) Current school				
d) Boarding or day				
e) Annual fees				
f) Compulsory extras				
g) Uniforms				
SUB TOTAL (a-g)				
h) Fees covered by:				
i) School scholarships / bursaries / allowances				
ii) Family assistance				
iii) Other assistance				
iv) Child's income				
SUB TOTAL (hi-iv)				
TOTAL (a-g) LESS (h)				

8. OTHER DEPENDENTS (see note 8)

STATEMENT OF AIM

Please indicate how much you feel you can contribute towards school fees each term:

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED

Please supply originals of the following documents:

Last 3 payslips

Last P60

Latest audited accounts (if appropriate)

Latest management accounts (if audited accounts are more than 9 months old)

Latest self-assessment tax calculation (if appropriate)

Schedule D self-employment income declaration (if appropriate)

3 months' bank statements

Proof of value of investments (may include internet valuation)

Latest pension and endowment valuation

Benefit letters (if appropriate)

Latest mortgage statement (on all properties if appropriate) / rent agreement

Latest loan statements

Contents insurance schedule

Legal financial agreements

Any other appropriate documents to support your application

ALL DOCUMENTS WILL BE RETURNED SECURELY ONCE THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN PROCESSED

YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED THE FINAL RESULT BY THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY

DECLARATION

After having read the attached notes, the following declaration should be signed by both parents / applicants (or see below).

We/I have read the notes and have made a complete declaration of our/my income and assets. We/I understand that we/I are/am applying for our/my child and accept a place for him/her at the school:

- a) Our/my child’s fees account with the school will be credited termly with the amount of the grant
- b) We/I understand that any award or grant is subject to annual review and that we/I must complete an annual declaration of our/my financial circumstances on the forms on the forms sent to us/me by the school or its agent and supply all relevant supporting evidence by the return date indicated
- c) We/I undertake to report immediately any material change in the financial position declared
- d) The grant may be withdrawn or reduced, and in certain circumstances, past payment reclaimed if:
 - i) there is a breach of the school’s Terms and Conditions to the acceptance of a place for our/my child at the school
 - ii) we/I have knowingly and/or recklessly provided false information
 - iii) we/I have failed to return the annual declaration of our/my financial circumstances by the return date indicated
 - iv) we/I have failed to produce any additional information required by the school or its agent to evidence our/my financial circumstances
 - v) there is in the view of the Head either unsatisfactory work or conduct
 - vi) the school’s resources are insufficient to maintain the level of the award

Signatures:

Father / Stepfather _____ Date_____

Mother / Stepmother_____ Date_____

If the above declaration is signed by only one parent, please give reason by deleting as necessary below:

Divorced / separated / widowed
Other (state reason)

Please return this form and all documents to:
BURSARY ADMINISTRATION LIMITED, Warwick House, The Priory, East Farleigh, Kent, ME15 0EX
Telephone 01622 725712 or email admin@schoolbursaryguide.com for all queries

GUIDANCE NOTES

Please read these carefully before completing the Application Form. If you need further help, please contact Bursary Administration.

The numbers below refer to the same numbers on the application form. If you pay tax in any way, please include the appropriate reference number. If any of your assets are held abroad please convert the value to pounds sterling.

2. PARENTS / APPLICANTS

Anyone with care and control of a child can apply for assistance. This person could be:

- the natural father and mother of a child where they live together
- the natural father or mother of a child and their new partner
- the child's appointed Guardian (appointed by a Court)
- the person with whom a child resides and has care and control of the child as a result of a court order or other legal agreement
- the person with whom a child resides and has care and control of the child as a result of an informal agreement

Please note Foster Parents acting under a Full Care Order will be regarded as having no income

Please note if the natural parents are separated and/or divorced both will be required to provide financial information and sign the Application Form

3. INCOME

- a) The gross annual amount of income **FROM ANY SOURCE** for the current or latest financial year
- b) Profits from a business or profession - the gross amount agreed for taxation purposes. Deductions should only be made in respect of capital allowances, losses and stock relief. Please include the latest set of accounts.
- d) All investment income, including building society interest, should be shown gross
- e) Gross income from letting or sub-letting of property
- f) Please list on a separate sheet if necessary all social security benefits, naming their type and how long each have been received for
- g) All income from maintenance payments, separation allowances and Child Support maintenance must be declared. Arrears in any payments will not be taken in to account.
- h) Where a parent is required by any Court or legal order to pay part of the school fees then only the part of the fee which is not covered by the order will be used to calculate any grant awarded. Arrears in any payments of part schools fees will not be taken in to account.
- i) Include free benefits in kind that are agreed by the Inland Revenue as not being subject to tax
- j) Royalties and all other sources including entertainment and travel allowances

4. OUTGOINGS

- a) Enter income tax and tax on unearned income **TOGETHER**
- c) Enter payments to pension schemes
- d) Enter capital as well as interest payment on a mortgage for the main residence
- e) Only complete this if repayment is effected by a full Endowment Policy
- j) Bank overdraft and other loan charges (please state the purpose of the loan)

5. PARENTS' / APPLICANTS' CAPITAL ASSETS

The following will be taken in to account:

- a) Monies held on deposit at any bank or building society. The value of investments in stocks and shares at the time of application.
- c) The current market value of the main residence (please estimate)
- d) The current market value of any other properties (please estimate)

f) If you run your own business or are partners in a business, then you should show the total net worth of the business. Shares in a company not listed on the Stock Exchange should be valued at your share of the net value of the company.

6. PARENTS' / APPLICANTS CAPITAL LIABILITIES

Please detail all other monies owed, together with the lender's name on a separate sheet if necessary

7. DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Use column 1 for the child for whom you are applying and columns 2 - 4 for any other dependents.

e) Please refer to the current academic year

h) (iii) Please state any other educational allowances received

(iv) If you have been able to claim under any policy, please declare the amount received under the policy for the current academic year

(v) If the child is in receipt of financial assistance from any other family members or income from a Trust Deed please declare the annual amount available

i) Please enter the gross amount of any interest / share dividends received by the child

8. OTHER DEPENDENTS

Please provide details of any other family members who are financially dependent upon you.

9. ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Please enter, on the sheet provided if necessary, any details which may affect the assessment of the grant, for example a significant change in income or outgoings for the coming year.

***YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP A COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM
FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS***