



SILCOATES

Independent education for boys and girls aged 3-18

Bursaries & Scholarships Policy

Silcoates does not have any endowments to finance bursaries or scholarships. Any money that is spent on these is therefore derived from the annual fee income. As a School, we are conscious of the need for prudence and economy so that our fees are kept as affordable as possible and that any increases are kept to a minimum. However, in keeping with our foundation and ethos, we are also keen to make a Silcoates education accessible to those who may not come from a financially affluent background. It is on this basis that bursaries are offered, according to the criteria set out below.

Bursaries

Silcoates School is committed to broadening access to the School by offering to eligible parents, and/or those with legal parental responsibility, financial assistance with the payment of school fees. Our aim is to admit children who will benefit from the ethos and activities of the school community and to fulfil the aims of the School's charitable purposes.

A **bursary** is a grant made by the School to assist parents to pay the fees in cases of special need. It is usually offered to those joining Year 7 (aged 11+) or the Sixth Form (aged 16+). Entrants at other age groups in the Senior School will also be considered, though only in exceptional circumstances would a bursary be offered to a pupil in the Junior School or Pre-School.

The value of the bursary awarded can be up to 100% of the school fees, to allow access to independent education for those who would otherwise be excluded on grounds of cost.

All bursary awards are means-tested and parents wishing to apply for a bursary must complete a Statement of Financial Circumstances form. The award is subject to an annual review, both in the light of family income and the good progress of the pupil, though any change to the level of fees assistance is only made after consultation with parents.

All decisions relating to bursaries are dealt with by the Bursar and it is he who should be contacted in the first instance. The closing date for Bursary Applications is the 5th January in the year of September entry (i.e. 5th January 2020 for entrance in September 2020).

Scholarships

A limited number of **scholarships** are awarded when it is apparent that an individual's outstanding ability will assist other pupils to develop and improve due to the scholar's contribution to school life. On that basis, all awards carry clear expectations of involvement and application and this includes representing the School at various functions. All scholarships are subject to an annual review against progress and effort. The School expects all scholars to be role models through their conduct and their positive contribution to life at Silcoates.

Academic scholarships are awarded to those entering the Senior School, whether from the Junior School or from elsewhere, who have shown outstanding academic attainment, such as in the 11+ entrance tests, have a strong reference from their previous school (if applicable) and have demonstrated their ability and commitment in an interview with the Headmaster. In the Sixth Form, a scholarship will only be considered if a pupil has achieved at least five 8 or 9 grades at GCSE (or A* where applicable). Only in exceptional circumstances will an academic scholarship be offered to a pupil in the Junior School. The value of the scholarship awarded is as at the discretion of the Headmaster but the remission will be no more than 20% of the full fees.

Music scholarships are assessed by auditions and through practical assessments. Scholars will receive free tuition in up to two instruments (or in singing), with the expectation that they will play a leading role in the music performances and ensembles available at Silcoates. We would wish for scholars to take Music to GCSE as a minimum.

Art scholarships are assessed by the presentation of a portfolio and through practical assessments, as devised by the Head of Art. A remission of up to 10% of the full fee is awarded and this will be subject to conditions that will be stated in the offer letter. Scholars will be expected to take Art GCSE and, usually, A Level.

If you require any information about our policy towards bursaries and scholarships, or any further information on how to apply, please contact Mrs Lindenmayer, the Director of Admissions, at helenlindenmayer@silcoates.org.uk.

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| Reviewed by: | Mr Rowe – Headmaster Mr Johnson – Bursar Mrs Lindenmayer – Director of Admissions | | |
| Date of last review: | June 2020 | Date of next review: | June 2021 |