

Bursaries & Scholarships Policy

Silcoates School does not have extensive endowments to finance bursaries or scholarships. Monies made available for the award of these grants are primarily derived from 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 culture, ethos and charitable aims, we are determined 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.

The School is committed to ensuring that bursary awards are made through a fair, transparent and objective process, in line with its charitable obligation to provide public benefit.

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.

Silcoates School works with an external company to provide assessments for bursary applications. Decisions are based on assessed need using defined criteria. This ensures a transparent process and fair allocation of our limited funds.

All decisions relating to bursaries are dealt with by the Bursar and it is she who should be contacted in the first instance. The closing date for Bursary Applications is the end of January in the year of September entry (i.e., January 2026 for entrance in September 2026).



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Bursary awards are subject to an annual review of affordability of school fees and may be increased, reduced or removed at the discretion of the School, depending on the financial circumstances of the parents(s) or guardian(s) at the time of review. Any decisions will be made in full consultation with parents or guardians. The primary aims of the review are to ensure the continued education of the children at the School and also the ability to “recycle” funds to other deserving cases where possible.

Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

In addition to the School funded bursaries, 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. Silcoates School encourages parents to apply for support where it is felt a good case can be made for assistance. Further information on how to pursue such assistance may be obtained from:

The Educational Trusts Forum (Website: www.educational-grants.org)

Royal National Children’s SpringBoard Foundation (Website: www.royalspringboard.org.uk)

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.

Scholarships are typically not means tested but may be awarded alongside a means-tested bursary.

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 Head. In the Sixth Form, a scholarship will only be considered if a pupil has achieved at least five 8 or 9 grades or eight 7 to 9 grades at GCSE. Only in exceptional circumstances will an academic scholarship be offered to a pupil in the Junior School. The value of the scholarship awarded is at the discretion of the Head but the remission will be no more than 25% of the full fees.

Sport scholarships at Silcoates may be awarded to existing and new Year 7 pupils and Sixth Form students who demonstrate outstanding ability in a sport for their age group.



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Charity number: 1158796

Head: Mr Phil King
BA (Sheffield) PGCE (Sheffield) NPQH (BPN)

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Sport Scholarships are aimed at recognising students with an outstanding level of performance in their specialist sport and supporting enhanced development through a dedicated Silcoates' mentoring and support programme.

Sports Scholars will be expected to contribute to the sporting life of the School, demonstrating commitment, dedication, and leadership in School sport. Sports scholars must take part in all sporting teams that they have been selected for in addition to the individual sport for which they have been awarded a scholarship. Silcoates offers a wide range of sporting activities. Scholars are expected to participate in a broad range of sports.

Examples: (in alphabetical order):

Athletics
Basketball
Cricket
Gymnastics
Hockey
Netball
Rugby
Swimming
Table Tennis

Scholars will attend training on a regular basis for all sports that they have been selected for, as well as strength and conditioning sessions arranged by the PE department.

Applicants in Year 11, should already be performing at a County standard in their specialist sport or a suitable level in their talent ID pathway. If your child does not fulfil the above criteria but has an alternative pathway for sporting excellence, they may be entered for a scholar's assessment.

Sports scholarship assessment will be undertaken by the Director of Sport, the PE Department and/or other appropriate school staff.

Following an informal interview with the Director of Sport to discuss an applicant's sporting experiences to date, and their ambitions for the future, a recommendation will be made to the Head for his consideration.

The Head shall make all final decisions regarding the award of sports scholarships, and his decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Music Scholarships at Silcoates may be awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding ability in Music for their age.

Applicants in Year 6 (for 11+ Music Scholarships) should be at least ABRSM Grade 3 (or equivalent standard) in their main instrument.

Applicants in Year 11 (for 16+ Music Scholarships) should be at least ABRSM Grade 7 (or equivalent standard) in their main instrument.



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Successful applicants will be invited to an audition morning where they will be required to perform two contrasting pieces of any length on their first instrument. In addition, they will be interviewed by the Director of Music

The Head will make all final decisions regarding the awarding of music scholarships, and his decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Music scholars will benefit from up to 10% fee remission and free weekly tuition on their main instrument with one of our instrumental specialists.

Music scholars are expected to continue to make positive contributions to the musical life of the School, demonstrating excellence, dedication and leadership. Scholars are expected to pursue Music as an academic subject at GCSE, attend all School concerts and productions (approximately one per half term), attend relevant weekly musical groups and support relevant open days and open evenings.

Confidentiality

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to parents and recipients and prospective recipients are expected to do likewise.

All personal and financial information will be processed in line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Information may be shared with external partners involved in the assessment process where necessary, under appropriate data sharing agreements.

The School will implement this policy in a manner that is fair, inclusive and accessible to all pupils and their families, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary to ensure equitable access and participation.

If you require any information about our policy towards bursaries and scholarships, or any further information on how to apply, please contact Mrs Mackay in Admissions, at admissions@silcoates.org.uk.

Related Policies and Documentation

Admissions Policy

Parent Contract (Terms and Conditions)



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The School is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the School's Equal Opportunity Policy document.

Reviewed by:

Mr Phil King - Head
Mrs Emma Sanderson - Bursar

Date of last review:

June 2026

Date of next review:

June 2027



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