



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

Bursary Policy

General

The Council of Marlborough College is committed to broadening access to the school by offering to eligible parents means tested financial support with the payment of school fees.

Such support may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 85% on boarding fees payable or 100% on day fees payable depending on the financial, compassionate or other relevant circumstances of applicants.

Awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. Awards are assessed on the basis of a completed confidential Statement of Financial Circumstances (on a form recommended by the Independent Schools' Bursars Association).

The assessment determines the appropriate level of parental contribution in relation to their net resources and thus the level of the award that will be offered. The level of the award may also be influenced by compassionate or other relevant circumstances.

New Entrants to the College

Awareness

Information provided by the College alerting the parents of potential pupils to the possibility of gaining means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees is included in:

- the Scholarship Prospectus;
- the College website.

The Application Process

Bursaries may be made available to parents of children entering the College in the Shell and Lower Sixth years in the following qualifying categories:

- Academic, Art and Music Scholars;
- Sports Award holders;
- All rounder Award holders;
- Children of Clergy;
- Children of Service families;
- Closed Award holders.

Further details of these awards and of the application procedures both for the awards and for financial assistance are given in the Scholarship Prospectus.

Bursaries are awarded at the discretion of the Council. The Senior Admissions Tutor and the Bursar are responsible for the management and co-ordination of the process.

The Case for Assistance

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

- *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 need. Each case is assessed on its own merits and awards are made accordingly, subject to the College's ability to fund these within the context of what is viable within its overall budget. It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay school fees will be personal. However, the College has a duty to ensure that all bursary grants are well focussed 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.
- acknowledging that others might have a different view, the College 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, in addition to academic ability and financial constraints, there may be other circumstances which should be considered. These include:

- where the social needs of the child are relevant (e.g: may be suffering from bullying at their present school);
- where a parent is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment due to poor health.

Existing Pupils – Change in Family circumstances

Within overall budget funding the College will in normal circumstances set aside funds each year for cases of sudden, unforeseen need or where applications meriting bursary assistance are received out of the normal calendar cycle for bursary submission, scrutiny and award. This sum will be set within budgetary constraints. Parents with a child at the College whose financial circumstances suddenly change may apply for a bursary to the Bursar explaining their situation and requesting assistance. Such awards are subject to the availability of funding and cannot be guaranteed.

Annual Review

All bursary awards are subject to repeat testing of parental means each year and may be varied upwards or downwards depending on parental circumstances. Current bursary holders will be issued with repeat means-testing forms at the beginning of May each year for return by the end of the month. For those previously in receipt of bursaries, the College may reduce or withdraw an award not only where a pupils' progress, attitude or behaviour has been unsatisfactory but also where the parents have failed to support the school, for example by the late payment of any contribution they are making to the fees.

Confidentiality

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

Other Sources of Bursary Assistance

In addition to the College's funds, 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. The College 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:

Director of Corporate Resources
Marlborough College
Wiltshire
SN8 1PA

e-mail: pnb@marlboroughcollege.org

The Educational Trusts Forum *and also* The Joint Educational Trust
6 Lovat Lane
London
EC3R 8DT

e-mail: admin@jetcharity.org
Website : www.jetcharity.org