



King's College

TAUNTON

Bursary Policy

*This policy applies to
King's College Prep School and King's College Taunton*

Policy Date: September 2025

Responsibility

Individual: Bursar

Council Committee: Finance and Estates

Review Cycle: (2 Yearly)

Next scheduled review: September 2027

Last interim review: March 2026



1. Introduction

Financial support is provided through King's College and the King's College Prep's (the Schools or King's) means-tested bursary programme which is at the heart of our ethos and charitable purpose today.

2. Bursaries

- 2.1. King's is committed to broadening access to the Schools by offering to eligible parents/guardians (parents) means-tested financial support for the payment of school fees. These bursary awards are important in helping to ensure children from families who would otherwise not be able to afford the fees can have access to the excellent education offered by the Schools.
- 2.2. Assistance with fees, or "bursaries" is designed to help those in financial need to afford the school fees at King's. Since demand for fee assistance always greatly exceeds supply, pupils must be registered candidates and "qualify" to be considered for fee assistance on the basis of achieving high scores in the entrance assessments, by winning a scholarship or exhibition award, or, for current pupils, to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk, for example in the case of redundancy of a supporting parent.
- 2.3. Means tested bursary awards are usually restricted to pupils joining Years 7, 9 and 12. However, application outside of those years, but not for Pre-Prep, can still be considered.
- 2.4. Once awarded to a pupil at King's College Prep, unless parental financial circumstances change, a bursary award will usually continue throughout their time at King's College Prep. Awards are then reviewed before entry to King's College and again for Sixth Form. Bursary awards are made on the basis of parental means - including other sources of support – or to relieve hardship where a pupil's education and future prospects would otherwise be at risk.
- 2.5. The Schools' practice is to allocate the majority of its available bursary funding on entry. The Schools' expectation is that parents who do not choose to apply for a bursary at the time that their child is being assessed will not require financial support throughout the time that their child attends the School, except in unforeseen circumstances.
- 2.6. King's offers the 110% Somerset Scholarship to candidates considered to have exceptional potential but in need of full financial support. Further details of this scheme can be found on our website here: <https://www.kings-taunton.co.uk/admissions/scholarships/>, or by e-mailing admissions@kings-taunton.co.uk.
- 2.7. All bursaries are subject to annual review and may be varied up or down if parents' financial circumstances alter but this will always be done in discussion and consultation with parents and dependent on the School's financial circumstances at that time.



3. The Application Process

- 3.1. In assessing means we consider the methodology promulgated by the Independent Schools' Bursars Association, which takes a number of factors into consideration. The School does not have a substantial endowment and the funds available for hardship bursaries are limited. When considering such awards, we have to be mindful that we must ensure a balance between those parents paying full fees, many of whom make considerable personal sacrifices to fund their child's education, and those benefiting from the awards.
- 3.2. All applicants must be registered with the Schools before a bursary application can be made. The Admissions Department, following agreement from the Head, will forward requests for bursary consideration to the Finance Office.
- 3.3. Applicants are particularly requested to adhere to the closing date for applications which is normally the start of the Lent Term prior to entry into the school. Late applications may be considered in exceptional circumstances; but, are less likely to receive an award given the limited nature of the funds available.
- 3.4. Means-tested bursaries can only be awarded upon receipt of a completed online financial circumstances form accompanied by supporting documentation. The normal process (with pictorial description at Annex A) is:
 - 3.4.1. Parents will be sent a link to an online form to submit their financial circumstances and supporting documentation. Fully completed applications will then be reviewed by the Finance Office in line with the provisions of this policy.
 - 3.4.2. In certain cases, an online meeting or/and a home visit may then take place with the Bursar or with a Bursary Administration Limited (BAL) representative who provides assurance of the objectivity of the Schools' procedures.
 - 3.4.3. A decision letter confirming any award and the level will be sent to parents. This will only be administered to any fees once formal acceptance has been received.

4. Award Decisions

- 4.1. Bursary awards are made on the basis of an assessment of the family's financial circumstances, including their income, savings, investments and assets, as well as major outgoings, the size of their family, any other persons dependent on them and other sources of financial support that may be available to the family. Parents will need to have considered exploring other opportunities for raising funds including disposal or mortgaging an asset. Consideration is given to the level of fees including whether boarding or day.
- 4.2. All assessments and awards are determined by the Bursar in consultation with the respective Head and also, where appropriate, with the Chair of the Finance and Estates Committee. All information provided as part of the bursary application process will be treated in the strictest confidence and shared only with those directly involved in the assessment and decision-making process. Applicants and recipients are also expected to maintain confidentiality regarding any bursary awards.



- 4.3. Where there is over-subscription for means-tested bursaries, awards will take into account an applicant's academic performance and potential and their ability to make contributions to the wider life of the School.
- 4.4. Bursary awards can be up to 50% of the total fees of the pupil or pupils that the family proposes to send to King's.
- 4.5. Continuation of awards are dependent on a number of factors including the pupil's continued hard work and good behaviour and timely payment of fees/extras (by the first day of the respective term or through the Schools' direct debit scheme). Non-payment will lead to the immediate removal of the bursary from the fees outstanding and future fees.
- 4.6. **The decision to award a Bursary in line with this Policy is entirely at the discretion of King's.**
- 4.7. **Any decision to offer a bursary does not guarantee a place at the school which is via normal entry procedures.**

5. Parameters:

- 5.1. The following are guidance examples for parents to consider prior to an application:
 - 5.1.1. For College entrance, if your family and other sources of income exceed £100,000 per annum or if you own significant assets, you are unlikely to qualify for a bursary on financial grounds. However, the threshold increases by c£30,000 for each child you have studying at King's. Families will need to consider how they can fund their share of the school fees even when in receipt of the maximum 50% bursary.
 - 5.1.2. Lower figures may apply when considering a bursary for entry to King's College Prep.
 - 5.1.3. It is unlikely that a family with a significant six-figure income, a large house or second property, or significant other assets (including significant pension) would qualify for a bursary.

