

## Means-tested Bursary Guidelines

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1. Eligibility for a means-tested bursary is dependent upon the candidate gaining the offer of a place at the Royal Hospital School (the School) together with a Scholarship, Exhibition or Award ("Award"). Confirmation of the level of any means-tested bursary will be made in conjunction with the offer of a place and any Award.
2. The maximum level of assistance by way of a combined Award and means-tested bursary is normally up to a 50% discount on the school fees, depending upon the financial or other circumstances of the applicant and subject to budgetary constraints of the school.
3. Applicants will be required to provide evidence of affordability so that the remainder of the fees, after the discount, can be met. This evidence will be collated by way of the means-tested bursary application form and a meeting with the Bursar.
4. It is recognised that judgements regarding the affordability of school fees will be personal and will vary. However, the School has a duty to full fee payers to ensure that all bursary grants are well focused and equitable. Therefore, as well as current earnings, other factors which will be considered in determining the necessary level of grant will include:
  - The ability of the family to improve their financial position or earning power;
  - Opportunities to release any capital. Significant capital savings and investments will be expected to be used for the payment of school fees as will equity values in properties (normally excluding the main family residence);
  - 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;
  - Where fees are being paid to other schools, the means-tested bursary may take into account these outgoings. However where other schools are involved there is a presumption that they too will contribute to the financial support provided to the family to facilitate independent education;
  - Generally speaking, the School considers that the following would not normally 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;
  - There may be other circumstances which would be considered including:-
    - Where a child has siblings at the Royal Hospital School;
    - Where the social needs of the child are relevant;
    - Where a parent/guardian is terminally ill or is unable to secure permanent employment owing to poor health;
    - Where a separation has resulted in the child having to be withdrawn from a school, adding to the stress of coping with the parents'/guardians' separation;
5. Bursary funds are limited and priority will be given to those likely to gain the most from the School's educational provision.
6. Bursary awards are subject to conditions and are confidential between the school and the applicant. Such awards should not be discussed with other parents
7. Bursary awards are subject to annual review and may be varied upwards or downwards, subject to such matters as changes in financial means, pupil progress, unsatisfactory attitude or behaviour and 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.