



# HOWE GREEN HOUSE

## BISHOP'S STORTFORD

### BURSARY POLICY

ISI Reference	
Issue Number	
This policy is endorsed by	Governing Board and the Co-Heads
This policy is owned by	Compliance & Operations Officer
Review Body	Finance Committee

Most Recent Revision Date	Summer 2024
Last Reviewed by Governors	Summer 2024
Period of Review	Every year
Next Review Date	Summer 2025
Previous Reviews	

To be made available	YES
To be on website	NO
Internal staff only	NO
Internal students only	NO
Internal staff and students	YES

# **Bursary Policy**

## **Authority and Circulation**

1. This policy has been authorised by the Governing Body of The Howe Green Educational Trust Limited ("The School"). Its status is advisory only. It is addressed to parents of pupils and of prospective pupils and to all members of the teaching and administration staff of Howe Green House School only.
2. This policy contains an overview of the Bursary Scheme currently in operation at the School. The policy, together with a financial means questionnaire, is made available to all parents and prospective parents on request.

## **Aims**

3. The aims of this policy are:
  - to widen pupil access to the School and ensure that education is provided to children from a broad spectrum of society;
  - to support the School's ethos of providing public benefit;
  - to meet and, if possible, exceed the Charity Commission's public benefit requirements.

## **Introduction**

4. The School is a registered charity that is committed to providing public benefit. The School is aware of its obligations under the Charities Act 2006 and seeks to adhere to the public benefit principles identified by the Charity Commission. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to take into consideration the latest guidance from the Charity Commission.
5. The School's Bursary Scheme includes both Admissions Bursaries for parents of new pupils and Hardship/Emergency Bursaries ("Hardship Bursaries") (together the "Bursaries") for parents whose financial position significantly worsens unexpectedly once their child is already at the School. The Scheme is designed to assist parents or prospective parents on low incomes who, for financial reasons, might otherwise be unable to send or continue to send their child to the School.
6. Admissions Bursaries and Hardship Bursaries are both means-tested and are awarded to parents who are financially eligible and who meet the application requirements set out below in full. Hardship Bursaries are usually awarded on a termly basis, and Admissions Bursaries are usually awarded on an annual basis, though this is at the discretion of the Co-Heads. Due to the size of the School and the limited financial resources, not every eligible application for a Bursary will be successful.

**7.** Admissions Bursaries may include the costs of school uniform, lunches, educational trips, school clubs (unlimited free clubs and access to the before and after school care facilities may be included, but participation to additional 'paid' clubs is limited to two clubs per Bursary recipient a week), and all educational materials. Should additional funding be necessary, i.e. the provision of supplementary services such as specialist teaching services and / or professional services such as educational psychologists etc, this will be dealt with on a case by case basis and support given where possible.

**8.** All Bursary applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Applications for Bursaries discussed by the Finance & Premises Committee will have the applicants name removed. The applicants' names will only be known to the Co-Heads. Pupils will not be made aware that they benefit from a Bursary unless informed by their parents.

**9.** At any one time, pupils may benefit from a Bursary equivalent to between 10% and 80% of fees. In some circumstances up to 100% fee remission may be available.

## **Publicity**

**10.** The School views a socially diverse pupil population as a key component of a full and balanced education. Admission Bursaries are advertised as part of the School's normal promotional material.

## **Eligibility and Procedure**

**11.** All parents of school age children are eligible to apply for a Bursary and should contact the Co-Heads at the School in the first instance for more information.

**12.** All applicants for an Admission Bursary are required to complete a means tested process, which can include the utilisation of BAL (Bursary Administration Limited) or an equivalent body. The process is designed to provide a full picture of the income and assets of applicants so that the School can determine those to whom an offer of a Bursary would be most beneficial. Please note that families who may be classified as "low income", but who have substantial assets, may be ineligible to receive a Bursary.

**13.** In order to have their application for a Bursary considered by the School, parents must liaise with BAL (if required) via the school and provide any supplemental information that is requested. It is critical that parents answer all of the questions carefully, honestly, and in full. All Bursaries are subject to an annual or more frequent means-tested review. Nevertheless, should any of the information disclosed during the assessment process change at a later date, the School must be informed without delay. For example, should the financial position of the parents with a pupil already at the School worsen unexpectedly, they should contact the Co-Heads as soon as possible so that a way forward can be agreed. Failure to divulge

requested information or a change in circumstances to the School could lead to a Bursary being withdrawn or withheld.

## **The Bursaries**

**14.** The deadline for an Admission Bursary is 1<sup>st</sup> June for entry in September of the same year.

**15.** Admission Bursary applications are considered by the School throughout the year taking into account other Bursaries, which may already be in place and the constraints of the Bursary fund. The Co-Heads will notify applicants of whether they have been successful by letter within 21 days of the deadline.

**16.** Entry into the School: A child wishing to access the Admissions Bursary will be subject to the same entry procedures as applied to any other child wishing to join the School, i.e. including attending a taster day and carrying out assessments, in order to ensure consistency and fairness throughout. Successful applicants will be sent a letter of offer specifying the conditions of the Admissions Bursary and requiring them to complete and sign an acceptance form.

**17.** Applications for a Hardship Bursary will be considered by the School as soon as possible after the Co-Heads have been notified by parents of a change in their financial position.

**18.** Each Bursary offer will reflect the particular circumstances of the recipient and be expressed as either a percentage or fixed amount remission of fees. Admissions Bursaries are awarded for the 'normal' duration of the child's school career, ending at Year 6 (subject to an annual review of means), and remain subject throughout that period to the conditions of the award provided with the letter of offer. Hardship Bursaries may be awarded on a termly basis depending on the circumstances surrounding the provision of the award (again, subject to regular review as the School deems necessary).

**19.** All Bursary holders are expected, as an ongoing and strict condition of their award, to show commitment to the School, contribution to school life and display good behaviour. The parents are expected to support and encourage the pupil and to uphold the good name of the School at all times. The parents are also required to pay the balance of the account, if any, by the first day of term.

**20.** For the avoidance of doubt, all Bursaries are paid and awarded by the School in its absolute discretion. All Bursaries are subject to review by the School at any time and for whatever reason.

**Date of Policy Review: 13/05/24**

**Reviewed by: Finance Committee / Governing Board**

**Signed by – Alison White - Chair of Committee**