



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
READING • BERKSHIRE

Financial Assistance
with Fees



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UPPER REDLANDS ROAD, READING,
BERKSHIRE, RG1 5JT

0118 966 1000
ADMISSIONS@SJCR.ORG.UK
WWW.SJCR.ORG.UK



Financial Assistance with Fees

We are committed to widening access to St Joseph's

College and each year we are able to offer some financial support to a limited number of pupils whose parents would otherwise be unable to afford the fees.

In addition, the College makes provision for the award of hardship bursaries to assist families who experience sudden and unexpected hardship.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Bursary?

A bursary is a means tested award offering financial contribution towards school fees.

Bursaries are available to pupils joining the Senior School for both external candidates and pupils moving up from the Prep School.

How do I apply?

External candidates are required to register by completing the Registration Form and paying the registration fee. On the Registration Form please ensure that you have ticked the appropriate box to indicate that you are interested in applying for a bursary. Following this a Bursary Assessment Form will need to be completed and returned. A copy of the Bursary Assessment Form is available from the College website.

External candidates will also need to sit the relevant entrance assessment.

Is there a deadline for a Bursary application?

All completed Bursary Assessment Forms must be received by the College by early December for bursaries to start the following September. All external candidates must have also registered with the College for a place in the following September, prior to submitting the Bursary Assessment Form.

If I fulfil the financial criteria will I automatically receive an award?

Neither the offering of a place, nor meeting the eligibility criteria for financial assistance, mean that an award will necessarily be made. The College has limited funds available from which to make awards.

Bursaries are popular and therefore as demand will exceed availability it is not guaranteed that every family who applies and meets the criteria will receive an award.

Are there a fixed number of Bursaries available?

No. Although we have a budgeted amount of funds available to support bursaries we try to make these funds help parents who wish to apply. Some may need only a small amount of help, others much more.

How will the College decide which pupils will receive an award?

When making judgements about the bursaries awarded a number of factors will be considered.

The child's suitability for the College is the first consideration in granting support. Each pupil to whom support is offered must be likely to make good academic progress following admission and possess the potential to develop the quality of his or her work and benefit from participation in the wider extra-curricular activities on offer at the College.

All awards are subject to means-testing of family income, capital and expenditure.

Assistance will be on a sliding scale such that parents in receipt of family income in excess of £70,000 would not normally receive fee assistance. Where there are two parents both would be expected to be employed unless there are good reasons not to.

Other factors will also be taken into account including family circumstances (e.g. the number of children, any other persons dependent upon them) and compassionate or other pertinent considerations.

If I am successful how much am I eligible to receive?

Bursaries of up to 90% of school fees are possible, although the majority of bursaries awarded are around 25%.

Is my application confidential?

Yes. All information in a bursary application is treated in strict confidence.

When will I find out if I have been awarded a Bursary?

Decisions on bursaries are made during the first few weeks of the spring term. All families who apply for a bursary are notified in writing by early February along with the offer of a place.

Please note that the value of any offer is provisional at this stage and based on the financial information you have supplied. The bursary amount will be finalised once the financial information has been confirmed and supporting documentary evidence supplied.

How will the financial information be checked?

Following completion of the Bursary Assessment Form a home visit may be arranged, which provides the opportunity to discuss the means testing documents in a relaxed environment.

As bursary funds are limited the College has a duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure their correct allocation.

If I am awarded a Bursary do I have to re-apply each year?

A Bursary Assessment Form will be required annually and the amount of the bursary will be reviewed by the College. The bursary may be adjusted, increased or reduced, if your financial circumstances alter.

How long does the Bursary award last?

Subject to your financial situation not changing significantly, and your child progressing satisfactorily, bursaries are awarded for the full length of your child's secondary education through to age 18.

Every bursary is a discretionary privilege, subject to high standards of progress, attitude, behaviour and attendance on the pupil's part.

Are extras included in the Bursary?

There is no financial support available for transport, school lunches or uniforms. There is support towards the cost of some academic trips, for which we have a separate fund to help families with these. An application needs to be made for each trip.

For pupils with a talent for music and/or drama there is limited financial support towards the cost of individual peripatetic lessons.

For further information on this please contact the College.

We are not very well-off financially so will my child fit in at St Joseph's if most children are full fee payers?

We have no doubt that your son or daughter will fit in extremely well. During our long and successful history boys and girls from all backgrounds have studied with us. We know that our broad social mix is something that we all value very highly and provides for a harmonious school community.

