

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the bursary application process**

### **1. What is a bursary?**

Bursaries are means tested awards which are given to help families who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford some or all of the school fees. This is also referred to as Financial Aid. Details of current fees payable are available on our website <https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/fees/>

### **2. What is a scholarship?**

A scholarship recognises a boy's achievement regardless of financial need and therefore does not carry any automatic fee remission.

### **3. What does the bursary cover?**

The bursary covers full or part school fees, which include tuition and boarding. Parents will be responsible for the payment of all additional extras.

### **4. What level of bursary can be awarded?**

The level of bursary awarded is means tested and can vary between 5% and 100% of school fees.

### **5. Does the bursary ever cover extras?**

Depending on the parents' financial circumstances, a bursary of 100% may be extended to provide additional assistance in order to cover all reasonable school extras. This may, in certain cases, also cover the cost of uniform, laptop and the Acceptance Fee (£3,840 in respect of academic year 25/26).

### **6. What are the costs for additional extras?**

This is a difficult question to answer as it will depend on the societies, clubs or other activities in which your son participates. However, there are standard charges that are applicable to all boys and these include dry cleaning of suits, House subscriptions, membership of the Old Etonians' Association and tutorial outings. These charges total approximately £400 per term. For budgetary purposes we estimate that extras would range from £400 to £1,000 per term but it could be more if, for example, they included the tuition of multiple instruments.

### **7. How many boys are in receipt of a bursary at the School?**

In 2023/24, 247 boys received fee reductions; 99 of these boys paid no fees at all. The average bursary award was 71% of the fee.

### **8. How do I notify you that I would like to apply for a bursary?**

This will depend on the entry route into the School. The first step is to register your son with the Admissions Department ([admissions@etoncollege.org.uk](mailto:admissions@etoncollege.org.uk)).

For the normal entry route, a boy must be registered by 31<sup>st</sup> August, at the end of the school year they turn 10 (i.e. by the end of UK school Year 5). As part of the registration process, the Admissions Department will email a link to a Financial Declaration form during June and July. All parents must declare on this form whether full fees can be afforded or if a bursary is required. This form must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> September.

If you haven't registered your son by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August (when he has just finished Year 5), the only route of entry into Eton will be through scholarships or Sixth Form entry, which open in Year 8 (for Year 9 entry) and Year 11 (for Sixth Form entry).

More details about the bursary application process and current timelines are available on our website at <https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/>

### 9. When do I need to apply for a bursary?

Once your son has passed the ISEB test and has moved onto Stage 2 of the Admissions process, you will be required to submit a full bursary application form. Please use the dates below as a guide but the exact date will be communicated in any email correspondence.

Standard entry route into the School	Approx date that the link to our Bursaries form will be emailed to parents	Deadline for the bursary form to be submitted by parents
<b>Stage One</b>		
All parents must complete a Financial Declaration Form regardless of financial need.	July and August (depending on date of registration.)	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
<b>Stage Two (after ISEB results)</b>		
Parents who require a bursary of 80% or more ( <b>regardless of boy's month of birth</b> )	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2026	19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Tranche 1 (Boys who were born between September to December.)	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Tranche 2 (Boys who were born between January to April.)	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2026	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Tranche 3 (Boys who were born between May to August.)	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026

A bursary application which is not received by the published deadline will not be considered. Funds are allocated at least two years before a boy starts at the School. Once the total bursary funds available are allocated, no additional bursary awards can be made. It is therefore necessary to set the deadline for the submission of bursary applications at an early stage in order to manage the allocation of charitable funds and confirm the outcomes of the Bursaries Committees to parents in a timely manner.

### 10. Does the bursary award last for my son's entire time at Eton?

Prospective parents should not assume that an initial bursary award will continue throughout their son's time at Eton.

All bursary awards will be subject to an annual review which will involve the submission of your updated financial circumstances for reassessment by the Bursaries Committee. Where there are no material changes in financial circumstances, the level of award will not change from year to year.

### **11. Who decides on the level of bursary awarded?**

Bursaries are awarded at the sole discretion of the Bursaries Committee, which comprises the Bursar, Finance Director, the Deputy Head (Partnerships), the Director of Admissions, the Fees and Bursaries Accountant and School masters involved with the admissions process. Every application for a bursary is considered individually by the Committee, which makes its decision on the principle of collective responsibility.

The Committee calculates an initial award in relation to a family's financial and other circumstances (e.g. their savings, investments, pension funds and realisable assets, as well as their income, the size of their family, any other dependants and any other relevant factors). The awards are reviewed on an annual basis.

The Committee's decision is final and cannot be challenged unless there are extenuating circumstances for an appeal.

### **12. If funds are limited, how do you allocate the funds between applicants?**

The level of the bursary required is not influenced by the academic ability of the boy but by the extent of financial need. Although the School is fortunate to have significant bursary funds, designed to widen access to Eton, it does not have sufficient funds to satisfy all bursary applications received. Since funding is limited, bursary awards will be allocated by the School in accordance with the boy's ranking in the assessment process.

### **13. What happens if I am awarded a partial bursary and decide that I cannot afford to pay the remaining school fees?**

The bursary assessment process looks in detail at your ability to pay the fees. If the School makes a bursary award, and you accept the conditional offer of a place at the School, you will be expected to pay what the Committee has determined you can afford to pay. This may require you to make some adjustments or sacrifices. It is up to you to decide if you are willing to make them.

### **14. How does the process work?**

The bursary application process is coordinated and managed by the Bursaries Team. It is separate from the Admissions process.

If you have indicated on your Financial Declaration that you require financial assistance, you will be invited to complete a full Bursary application form. This will require you to make a complete and accurate declaration of your current income and expenditure as well as assets and liabilities.

The deadline to submit the full form will depend on the extent of your financial need and/or the month in which your son was born as shown in the table provided in Q9.

The bursary application form must be submitted by the given deadline. Our Bursaries Team will be available to support you by email or by phone to guide you through the process. You will be asked to agree to a home visit by an external Company, Bursaries Administration Limited and this is a condition of applying for a bursary.

It is quite usual for the Bursaries Team to contact you to discuss your application. This may be via email or on the phone. We reserve the right to request further information and documentation in order to validate your application.

The Bursaries Team present their analysis of each case for the Bursaries Committee to review and make a bursary award decision.

Any applicable bursary award will be confirmed in writing at the same time that the Admissions Department communicate the offer of a conditional place at the School.

### **15. Which parent should make the application?**

All parents who have parental responsibility for the applicant must submit their financial details in order to be means-tested.

For parents who are married, one parent can complete the bursary form including relevant financial information for both parents.

Parents who are divorced or separated will each need to complete a bursary application form for their own personal financial circumstances regardless of their current contribution to the applicant's educational costs or living expenses. In such cases, the details received from one parent will remain confidential and will not be shared with the other parent.

Please note parents will need separate email addresses in order to complete the bursary application for their son. If one parent has sole responsibility through a court order, then evidence of this must be provided.

### **16. My son would also like to apply for a King's Scholarship or Music Scholarship; can I wait until these routes open when he is in school year 8 before applying for a bursary?**

Any bursary application must be made in connection with the boy's principal and the initial entry route to the School.

If you register your son by the end of UK school Year 5 for a place at the School for entry at age 13, you should complete a Financial Declaration form by 1<sup>st</sup> September regardless of any future Scholarship application.

Boys are not eligible to apply for a means-tested bursary in relation to a Scholarship application at a later date, if they have not previously indicated a financial need when applying for a conditional place at the School. The only exception to this is if there has been a significant and unforeseeable change in circumstances which must be evidenced with supporting documentation.

If you register your son in Year 8 for a place at the School as an unregistered candidate in respect of the Music Scholarship or King's Scholarship entry routes, you will have the opportunity to apply for a bursary at that time. More details about the process and current timelines are available on our website at <https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/>.

### **17. What information will I need to provide with my bursary application?**

You will be prompted to attach some key documents as part of the application process, and you will not be able to complete your Bursary Application Form without these. The Bursary Application Form is comprehensive and the School makes no apologies for that as we are allocating charitable funds. The type of documentation we would expect to see will vary depending on your personal situation. Some typical examples include:

- Payslips (last 3 months), as well as your most recent March payslip.
- HMRC tax returns and calculation page (last 2 years)
- Full set of Company accounts for any company of which you are a shareholder.
- All bank accounts, savings, credit card statements (last 3 months)
- Social Security Benefits confirmation letter(s)
- Mortgage statement (not older than 12 months) for all properties.
- Investment portfolio valuation report.
- Share ownership.
- Car finance documentation
- Loan documentation.

#### **18. What is the threshold income to be eligible for a bursary?**

We do not publish guidance on qualifying income levels as each application is assessed on a case by case basis as income is only one of the many factors we consider.

#### **19. What are the factors considered in assessing applications?**

Bursaries are awarded solely at the discretion of the Bursaries Committee and each application is considered on a case by case basis.

#### **20. I am not sure I will need a bursary, can I apply after the deadline set for my son's selected entry route?**

Such a question may arise if, for example:

- You have savings to cover fees for only part of your son's schooling;
- You are unsure about the schooling requirement for other siblings;
- Your income varies widely from year to year, and you believe you could afford full fees on a good year;
- Possible financial contributions from wider family members.

The simple answer is No.

We appreciate that a family's financial circumstances can vary from year to year and that the timing for initiating the bursary application is relatively early in the Admissions process. However, we would expect a family to carry out financial planning in order to calculate the level of contribution they could make towards fees for their son and any siblings, taking into account any variables. If you would like to discuss your particular circumstances, please do not hesitate to call the Bursaries Team who will be able to advise you further.

You should bear in mind that if you decide not to pursue a bursary application by the deadline applicable for your entry route, it is unlikely that any funding will be available at a later date. The Bursaries Committee is unlikely to consider an application received in respect of a boy already at the School where no previous bursary application has been submitted. Funding is allocated at least two years before a boy starts at the School and remains in place for the full five years they are at the School (subject to an annual review).

The only exception would be for parents who have experienced an unexpected and significant change in their circumstances such as a bereavement or critical illness.

**21. If I have two children at the School, can I get a bursary for both?**

The analysis of a family financial circumstances will be conducted in the same way for each child but the resulting decision may differ for each child. There is no automatic discount for siblings.

**22. Can a bursary be withdrawn once it has been awarded?**

If during the bursary application or annual review process, it has been found that the parents have fraudulently, knowingly or recklessly provided false or incomplete information, the Bursaries Committee reserve the right to redirect the charitable funds as deemed appropriate and withdraw the boy's place at the School.

If your financial circumstances have significantly improved since his initial award was made, then the Bursaries Committee may decide to reduce or withdraw your son's award. This is to ensure that our charitable funds are directed to those most in need. The Committee will not reduce a bursary award unless they are confident that a parent can now afford a larger contribution to school fees.

**23. Who will know that my son is in receipt of a bursary award?**

This information is confidential and only provided to those who need to know. This includes members of the Bursaries Committee, the Fees and Bursaries Team, the Admissions team and the boy's Housemaster and Dame. Your son's tutor as well as your son's other teachers will not be aware as the information is kept strictly confidential. From time to time, a boy's bursary award may be funded by an external trust. Where this occurs, the charitable trust will be provided with his details and reports on his progress at the School.

The School respects the confidentiality of bursary awards made to families and recipients are expected to do likewise. It is the School's policy not to tell boys that they are receiving a bursary, nor to identify award holders to any other pupil. Parents are welcome to tell their son.

**24. Who should I contact if I have any queries?**

For Admissions queries, please email [admissions@etoncollege.org.uk](mailto:admissions@etoncollege.org.uk)

For Bursaries queries, please email [Bursaries@etoncollege.org.uk](mailto:Bursaries@etoncollege.org.uk)