Frequently Asked Questions about the Bursary application process

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Useful contacts

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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 at Eton. This is also referred to as Financial Support. School fees for the 26/27 academic year are £65,674 inclusive of VAT. Details of current school fees are available on the College website https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/fees/.

2. What is a scholarship?

A scholarship solely recognises a boy's achievement and does not carry any automatic fee remission. Scholarships are awarded in school Year 8.

If a boy is awarded a King's Scholarship, he takes up a place in College and has the letters KS after his name. Parents **cannot** apply for a bursary in connection with a King's Scholarship.

If a boy is awarded a Music Scholarship, he takes up a place in an Oppidan House and has the letters MS after his name. Parents **may** apply for a bursary in connection with a Music Scholarship if their son is applying to Eton for the first time during school Year 8. More details on the Music Scholarships can be found here- Music Awards (13+) - Eton College

3. What does the bursary cover?

A bursary may cover all or part of the school fee, which includes tuition and boarding. Unless otherwise specified, parents will be responsible for the payment of all extras. The level of bursary awarded is means tested and can vary between 5% and 100% of school fee.

4. Can a bursary cover extras?

Depending on the parents' financial circumstances, a bursary of 100% may be increased to provide additional financial support to cover all reasonable school extras. In certain cases, this may also cover the cost of uniform, laptop and the Acceptance Fee (£3,840 with respect to the academic year 26/27).

5. What are the costs of extras?

The cost of extras varies depending on the societies, clubs and activities in which a boy participates. However, there are standard extras that are applicable to all boys, and these include dry cleaning of school dress, House subscriptions 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 they could be more if they included the tuition of multiple musical instruments or school trips.

6. How many boys are in receipt of a bursary at Eton College?

In 2024/25, 300 boys received financial support; 89 of these boys paid no fees at all. The average bursary award was 77% of the school fee.

7. How do I notify the College that I would like to apply for a bursary for my son?

This will depend on the entry point into Eton. The first step is to register your son for admission to Eton. The registration process is completed online at application.etoncollege.com. If you have any additional queries, please contact the Admissions Department (admissions@etoncollege.org.uk).

For the F Block entry point (boys starting at Eton College in Year 9), a boy must be registered by 31st August at the end of the academic year, in which he turns 10 (i.e. by the end of UK school Year 5). As part of the registration process, the Admissions Department will email you a link to a Financial Declaration form before the end of August. All parents must declare in this form whether full fees can be afforded or if a bursary would be required for their son to be able to attend Eton. The Financial Declaration form must be completed by 30th September of Year 6.

If a boy is not registered for admission by the deadline of 31st August (when he has just finished Year 5), the only route of entry into Eton will be through a Music scholarship 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 the College website at https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/

8. When do I need to apply for a bursary?

If your son has passed the ISEB test and is moved onto Stage 2 of the Admissions process, and you stated in your registration form that you needed a bursary, 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 email correspondence.

F Block (Year 9) entry route into Eton	**Approximate date the link to start the process will be emailed to parents**	**Deadline for the bursary form to be submitted by parents**
Stage One <u>All parents must complete a Financial Declaration Form regardless of financial need</u>.	July and August, depending on date of registration.	30th September 2026
Stage Two: Full Bursary application	14th December 2026	15th January 2027

Important information:
Bursary applications must be submitted by the published deadline. Late applications will not be considered.
Bursary funding is allocated at least two years before a boy starts at Eton and once the available bursary funds have been fully allocated, no further awards can be made. For this reason, application deadlines are set early in the admissions process so that the College can manage the allocation of charitable funds responsibly and confirm the outcome of Bursaries Committee decisions to parents in a timely manner.

9. How does the bursary process work?

The bursary application process is coordinated and managed by the Bursaries Manager. It is separate from the Admissions process but runs concurrently. If you have indicated on your Financial Declaration Form that you will require financial assistance, you will be invited to complete a Full Bursary Application once your son has passed his ISEB test and has been invited to Eton for interview and testing.

The deadline for submitting the Full Bursary Application form is 15th January after the registration deadline and no late applications will be considered. The Bursaries Manager and Bursaries Assistant will be available to support you by email or by phone to guide you through the process.

Your financial circumstances will be independently assessed by Bursaries Administration Limited (BAL). BAL will make contact with you to arrange an appointment for a review of your finances. BAL will offer you three alternative appointment times and if none of these appointments are taken, they will refer the application back to the Eton so that the next steps can be discussed. On of the Eton bursaries team may also contact you by email or telephone to discuss your application, if the report provided by BAL needs further clarification.

The Bursaries Manager will present her summary of each case for the Bursaries Committee to review and to make a bursary award decision. Where a bursary is awarded, this will be confirmed in writing at the same time as the Admissions Department communicates the offer of a conditional place at Eton.

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

Parents should not assume that the initial bursary award will remain unchanged throughout their son's time at Eton. All bursary awards will be subject to an annual review which requires parents to provide updated financial information for reassessment. Awards may be increased or reduced to reflect changes in parental means. Where there has been no significant change in financial circumstances, and parents continue to demonstrate that their financial decisions prioritise the payment of school fees, the level of award would not normally be expected to change from year to year.

11. What happens if a third party (i.e. not a parent) pays some or all of my son's school fees?

In this situation the parties to the parent contract and the intended bill payer will be required to sign an Alternative Bill Payer Agreement during the Summer of Year 8. This is a legal document enabling a variation to the standard payment terms as laid out in the College's Terms and Conditions.

If there is a significant change in the finances of the alternative bill payer (i.e. family member, trust or company), and they are no longer able to afford fees, the College is not able to consider a bursary application.

12. Who decides on the level of bursary awarded?

Bursary awards are made at the sole discretion of the Bursaries Committee, which comprises the Bursar, Finance Director, Deputy Head (Partnerships), Director of Admissions, Bursaries Manager and Masters involved in the admissions process. Every application for a bursary is considered individually by the Committee.

The Committee calculates an 'in principle' award in relation to a family's financial circumstances (e.g. their savings, investments, pension funds and realisable assets, as well as their income, the size of their family, any other dependents and any other relevant factors). Parents can assume that any `in principle' award will not be changed in subsequent reviews unless a parent's financial circumstances have changed significantly. The Committee's decision is final and there is no right to appeal decisions.

13. If funds are limited, how do you allocate the funds between applicants?

The level of any bursary award is not influenced by the academic ability of the boy but by the extent of financial need. Although the College is fortunate to have significant bursary funds to broaden access to Eton, there are insufficient funds to meet all bursary applications received. Given this, bursary awards will be allocated by the College in accordance with a boy's ranking in the admissions assessment process.

14. What happens if my son is awarded a partial bursary and I 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 College makes a bursary award and you accept the conditional offer of a place at Eton, you will be expected to pay the contribution that the Bursaries Committee has deemed affordable. This may require you to make some adjustments or sacrifices to your financial priorities and spending. It is up to you to decide whether you are able willing to make those adjustments.

15. Which parent should make the application?

All parents who have parental responsibility for the boy applying for a place at Eton must submit their financial details in order for the application to be fully means-tested.

Where parents are living together, one parent can complete the Bursary Application Form including relevant financial information for both parents.

Where parents are divorced or separated, each parent will need to complete a separate Bursary Application Form in relation to 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.

If one parent has sole responsibility for their son 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 a 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 initial entry point to the Eton and parents should not wait to apply for a bursary.

If you register your son by the end of UK school Year 5 for a place at Eton for entry in Year 9, you should complete a Financial Declaration form by 30th September when your son is in Year 6 regardless of any intended future Scholarship application.

Boys will not be 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 Eton. 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 Eton as an unregistered candidate in respect of the Music Scholarship entry route, you will have the opportunity to apply for a bursary at that time. More details about the process and current timelines are available on the College website at https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/ .

Boys applying for a King's Scholarship in Year 8 **will not** be able to apply for a means-tested bursary concurrently.

17. What additional information will need to be provided with my bursary application?

You will be asked to upload some key documents as part of the bursary application process, and you will not be able to complete your Bursary Application Form without these. The form is comprehensive because the College is responsible for allocating charitable funds and must ensure that each application is assessed fully and fairly.

The type of documentation we would expect to see will vary depending on your personal circumstances. Typical supporting documents may include:

a. Pay slips for at least the last three months plus your most recent March pay slip.
b. HMRC tax returns and calculation pages for the last two complete tax years.
c. Full company accounts for any company of which you are a shareholder.
d. Current and deposit/savings accounts statements and credit card statements for the last three months.
e. Social Security Benefits confirmation letters.
f. Mortgage statements, not older than 12 months, for all properties owned.
g. Investment portfolio valuation reports.
h. Share ownership documentation.
i. Car finance documentation.
j. Loan documentation.
k. Pension information.

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

The College does not publish guidance on qualifying household income thresholds as each application is assessed on its own merits. Indeed, household income is only one of many factors considered. A family's assets, liabilities, household spending and overall financial circumstances are also taken into account. Understandably, significant discretionary expenditure (on lavish holidays or cars for example), substantial pension 'pots' and houses owned other than the primary family home, are all factors which may adversely impact the likely success of a bursary application.

19. I am not sure if I will need a bursary. Can I apply after the deadline set for my son's selected entry route?

No. Bursary applications must be submitted by the deadline applicable to your son's 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 in a 'good year', for example on the basis of unpredictable performance-related bonuses;
- Possible financial contributions from wider family members.

We appreciate that a family's financial circumstances can vary from year to year and that the bursary application process begins 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 can 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 Manager who will be able to advise you further.

Please note that if you decide not to pursue a bursary application by the deadline applicable to your son's entry point, funding will not be available at a later date. Funding is allocated at least two years before a boy starts at Eton and, subject to an annual review, will remain in place for the duration of their time at Eton.

The only exception would be where parents have experienced an unexpected and significant change in their circumstances for reasons beyond their control such as redundancy, bereavement or critical illness, supported by appropriate evidence.

20. If I have two boys, either already at, or applying for a place at Eton, can I receive a bursary for both?

The analysis of a family's financial circumstances will be conducted in the same way for both boys, but the resulting decision may differ for each child. There is no automatic discount for siblings. A separate application form must be completed for each boy.

21. If my son has siblings at other fee-paying schools, will this be taken into account?

The Committee will take into account the educational costs of other children in the assessment process but will not ordinarily expect the College's bursary funds to subsidise a parental choice to pay full or partial school fees for their other children educated elsewhere. There is an expectation that applications for bursaries or student loans will have been made to other educational establishments attended by siblings, so that the overall burden of educational costs is shared between relevant institutions.

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

If, during the bursary application or the annual review process, it has been found that a boy's parents have fraudulently, knowingly or recklessly provided false or incomplete information, the Bursaries Committee reserves the right to terminate or partially reduce the bursary award and redirect the College's charitable funds as it considers appropriate. In such circumstances, a boy's place at Eton may also be withdrawn and his parents may be required to repay all or part of the benefits received under the bursary award from the date on which the false or inaccurate information was supplied.

In exceptional circumstances, a bursary award may be withdrawn if in the opinion of the College Governors acting in good faith, a boy in receipt of a bursary fails to i) work hard in his studies, ii) contribute positively to the life of the College, iii) be a credit to the College or iv) set a good example to other boys at Eton.

If a family's financial circumstances have significantly improved since the bursary award was first made, the Bursaries Committee may vary or withdraw the bursary award with immediate effect. This ensures that the College's charitable funds are directed to support those families where the need is evidenced. The Committee will not reduce the bursary award unless it is satisfied that parents can afford to make a larger contribution towards school fees.

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

Information about bursary awards is treated in the strictest confidence and therefore is only shared with those who need to know. This includes members of the Bursaries Committee, members of the Finance Department who prepare the school bills, the Admissions Department and a boy's Housemaster and Dame. A boy's tutor or other teachers will not be aware that he is in receipt of a bursary. From time to time, a boy's bursary award may be funded by an external trust. When this occurs, the charitable trust will be provided with his details and reports on his progress at the Eton, but the reports will be anonymized.

The College respects the confidentiality of bursary awards and the families of bursary recipients, and the recipients themselves are expected to do likewise. It is the College's policy not to tell boys that they are in receipt of a bursary, nor to identify award holders to any other boy whilst they are at the College. If on leaving Eton, an Old Etonian who was in receipt of a bursary while at the College, wishes this fact to be publicised to the benefit of the College and to other potential bursary applicants, this will only be done with his express permission and there is no obligation for him to do so.

Parents are welcome to tell their son that they are in receipt of a bursary if they so wish, but in so doing should ensure that their son is fully aware of the confidentiality principles set out above.