



**OUNDLE**

School



**Laxton**  
Junior School

OUNDLE

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## Bursary Policy

*The Corporation of Oundle School includes both Oundle School, a boarding and day School for pupils aged 11 – 18 and Laxton Junior School (LJS), a day School for pupils aged 4 - 11. This policy applies equally to both Schools and any reference to 'the School' relates to both Oundle and LJS.*

The aim of the Corporation of Oundle School is to provide an education of the highest quality. We believe we have a moral, social and educational responsibility to ensure that this is made available to as wide a range of children as possible. Entry bursaries exist to make Oundle and Laxton Junior School fees affordable and therefore accessible to families whose income would otherwise make this impossible.

We recognise, for example, that while a full bursary will be required by some families, for others even a 10% reduction of fees would make the difference. Equally, we want to be able to welcome families to the School for whom the step up from prep to senior school fees is unmanageable. We wish also to support those families who would choose boarding rather than day if they could afford the higher fee. We have a strong relationship with youth charities and Multi-Academy Trusts in placing children at Oundle.

We also believe that we have a duty to support current Oundle and Laxton Junior School families if their financial circumstances change unexpectedly to the extent that they are no longer able to afford the fees to which they are committed. Emergency bursaries exist to enable such pupils to reach the next natural break in their education. Commonly this will be the end of the next key stage as defined by the National Curriculum.

Decisions about the level of support that is appropriate are arrived at following a rigorous process on receipt of a Declaration of Means from any family wishing to be considered for support. The level of remission is reviewed annually.

### Entry bursaries

Bursaries are available for any pupil joining Y4 and above for a maximum of 10 years. Applications are considered within a gathered field each year between 18 and 24 months before entry (for Y4, 6 – 12 months), as part of which families are asked to complete a means test application form. Where substantial support looks to be required, we will arrange a home visit.

Any family wishing to enrol their child at Laxton Junior School before Y4 but who would not be able to afford the full fee may apply for limited support from a separate programme. For such young children, the criteria for selection are different and transfer to an Entry Bursary for Y4 cannot therefore be guaranteed.

Any family with a child or children already at Laxton Junior or Oundle School may submit an application for a subsequent child, but each application will be considered on its own merits.

We welcome applications for bursary support from families with the FCDO or Armed Forces.

With regret, we are unable to consider applications from families who are not domiciled in the UK because we are unable to assess such applications in line with our means test policy.

Funds are limited and our duty is to ensure that they are used to support those who would benefit most from the opportunity. So that we can disburse the funds available appropriately we assess each application with great care, and arrive at a decision based on all the evidence available to us. This includes:

- For Laxton Junior, an extended School visit enabling appropriate assessment and strong school references
- For Oundle School, testing that reveals the ability and/or potential to meet the demands of the academic programme, alongside strong school references
- A willingness to embrace the School's values and expectations
- A determination to make the most of the breadth of opportunity on offer
- A wish to contribute to the community of which they will be part.

The value of bursaries offered ranges between 10% and 100%+ of the current applicable School fee. We work with families to conduct an annual review of means throughout the child's time with us to ensure that the level of support remains appropriate. While we cannot guarantee that a need for increased support can be met, we will do all we can in such cases to ensure continuity of education for the child to the end of the next key stage.

We also recognise the need for enhanced pastoral support for some children joining us on a bursary. In the case of 100%+ awards, the additional element includes uniform and the funding of extras, such as trips, as appropriate.

### **Emergency bursaries**

Bursary support is available to help Laxton Junior or Oundle School families who experience unanticipated changes in circumstance, leading to financial hardship. This will be a difficult time for any family and our aim is to listen and to support wherever we can.

Given that these requests are by their nature unplanned, our ability to meet a family's temporary needs will depend on the funds available and, even where we can, will be provided only until the next break point in the child's schooling, commonly the end of the next key stage. Families may apply for an entry bursary beyond that break point, further bursary support being subject to the availability of funds. Emergency bursaries are subject to review.

### **Financing our bursaries**

The total value of the bursaries budget is reviewed annually by Governors and represents a proportion of the School's estimated gross fee income. This includes both School and donation funded bursaries. We are supported in this by the generosity of donors to the Oundle School Foundation who wish to support the education of children who would not otherwise be able to benefit from an Oundle or Laxton Junior School education.

### **Review of bursary holders**

All bursaries are reviewed annually. This includes a reassessment of means and a review of the pupil's progress. Bursaries may be withdrawn if the child is not thriving, but only as a last resort and following a period of enhanced academic and pastoral support and close consultation with the individual family.

**For further details please contact:**

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*From September 2024:*

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Reviewer – Oundle	ABB
Reviewer – LJS	REW
Post of Reviewer (s)	DH / AH Admissions
Review Date	01/09/2023
Reviewed and filed with both Schools	20/06/2024
Next Review (max 3 yrs)	20/06/2027