



OUNDLE

School



**Laxton
Junior School**

OUNDLE

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 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.

Entry bursaries

Bursaries are available for any pupil joining Y4 and above for a maximum of 10 years.

Families who believe they may require bursary assistance must declare this when registering their child. Applications made after registration will not normally be considered unless there has been a significant and unforeseen change in financial circumstances. In these cases, documentary evidence of any such change will be required. Bursary funding cannot normally be considered after a place has been offered or accepted unless exceptional circumstances apply.

As part of the application process, families are asked to complete a means tested application form. Where substantial support looks to be required, we reserve the right to arrange a home visit.

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 from families with the FCDO or Armed Forces seeking financial support to bridge the difference between CEA funding and the required parental contribution of 10% of the full boarding fee. Once approved, the funding is secured for the duration of the pupil's time with us and is not

subject to an annual financial review. Families are, however, required to let us know should there be any materially significant changes to their financial circumstances at any point.

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 100%+ bursary, usually through one of our partner organisations such as the Royal National Children's Springboard Foundation (RNCSF). For these 100%+ awards, additional support 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.

Emergency bursaries are intended for families whose financial circumstances have changed unexpectedly since joining the School. They are not available where a family did not apply for bursary assistance at the point of entry and was unable to meet the ongoing cost of fees from the outset, or where short-term arrangements were made in the expectation that bursary support would later become available.

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, support will normally be provided only until the next break point in the child's schooling, commonly the end of the next key stage. Families whose circumstances have changed may apply for an entry bursary beyond that break point, with any further support subject to the availability of funds and the usual bursary assessment process. 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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Reviewer – LJS	REW
Post of Reviewer (s)	DH Admissions/Head of Admissions and Communications
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