

## **FEES ASSISTANCE POLICY**

**Regulation ISSR:**

**Reviewed and updated by: Mrs M Rigby (DFO)**

**Approval: Full Governor Board**

**Last Review: September 2024**

**Next Review: Summer 2025**



### **INTRODUCTION**

Alderley Edge School for Girls is committed to offering places to a range of pupils whose parents/carers might not ordinarily be able to afford the School's fees.

The School aims to achieve this by offering a range of financial incentives and discounts which are detailed below.

The School welcomes applications from all eligible candidates as part of its mission to be as socially inclusive as possible. However, the funds available to offer such discounts are limited and will not cover all applications and some children may inevitably be disappointed on application.

### **MEANS -TESTED BURSARIES**

The Governors of Alderley Edge School for Girls are committed to broadening access to the school by offering to eligible parents/guardians means-tested financial support with the payment of School tuition fees. Such support is known as a Bursary and these may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 100% on tuition fees payable, depending on the financial circumstances of applicants.

The School's Bursary Scheme includes both Admissions Bursaries for the parents of new pupils in Prep, year 7 and year 12. In addition short term Hardship Bursaries may be available for parents whose financial position worsens unexpectedly once their child is already at the School.

Please see the Bursary Policy for further information.

In addition to the School's Bursary Scheme, there are a number of educational and charitable trusts which provide assistance with tuition fees. In the majority of cases these are to assist children who are already attending a fee-paying school and due to a change of circumstances may be unable to remain.

### **OTHER DISCOUNTS**

Discounts may also be available if other qualifying criteria are met. These are subject to periodic review by the Governors, but currently include the following categories:

### Staff Discounts

A discount of 40% of the termly tuition fees is currently offered to all staff with a child at the School.

This discount is offered to any full or part-time staff member, irrespective of whether they are a member of the teaching or support staff and is not means-tested but will be made pro rata according to their hours worked.

The discount also applies equally to any further sibling children in School and lasts for as long as the child is a pupil at the School, subject to the School reserving its right to review or withdraw the discount at any future time.

### Sibling Discounts

A discount is offered on the termly tuition fees to the younger sibling(s) in a family, for families who are not in receipt of a Bursary.

The level of discount offered is dependent upon the number of children from one attending School at the same time:

- One Child – 0% discount
- Second Child – 10% discount
- Third Child – 20% discount
- Fourth Child – 50% discount

The discount is applied to siblings based upon the chronological order in which they join the School, as opposed to their chronological order of birth.

The discount is offered automatically where these criteria are met. The discount is not means-tested and lasts for as long as the relevant criteria are met.

### Annual Payment Discounts

A discount is offered on the tuition fees where a payment of the annual amount due is offered in advance by the parent/guardian.

The discount offered is currently 2% and this is reviewed regularly by the Governing Body in the light of commercial interest rates.

The discount is offered automatically where a parent/guardian indicates their intention to pay an academic year's fees in one instalment prior to the start of the academic year and is not means tested.

The discount is offered only in the above circumstance and so does not continue from year to year without the continuing settlement of fees on an annual basis.

### Combination of Discounts

The majority of discounts discussed above are not mutually exclusive and so parents/guardians may be entitled to more than one discount.

Bursary awards, which are a percentage discount on termly tuition fees, are therefore calculated on the net fees due after any other discounts have been applied. Sibling discounts are not available if the pupil is in receipt of a Bursary.

### **FUNDING OF DISCOUNTS**

The budget available to meet requests for tuition fee and other discounts will be reviewed annually, in line with the School's budget planning processes.

The School is a registered charity that is committed to providing significant public benefit. The School is aware of its obligations under the Charities Act 2006 and seeks to adhere to the public benefit principles identified by the Charity Commission. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis to take into consideration the latest guidance from the Charity Commission.

The School has a long history of providing financial assistance to pupils and their families. While the costs of running the School require that those who can pay full fees must do so, every year the School foregoes in fee remissions a % of total revenue through bursaries and other discounts.

The School therefore intends to make available a fixed sum of money each academic and financial year, to be split between each category of discount. Hence, the awarding of any discount will always be subject to the availability of money either within the overall discount fund, or within individual discount allocations.

The Bursary Committee will retain responsibility for the allocation of discounts within the overall limit agreed, on an annual basis, by the Finance Committee and subject to the limitations of the budget for that particular academic and financial year.

### **RELATED POLICIES**

- Bursary Policy