



HELP WITH FEES - BURSARIES

Information for Parents

At Morrison's Academy, we would like as many children as possible to benefit from the opportunities that a Morrison's Academy education provides. Consequently, a number of means-tested bursaries are awarded each year.

Bursaries are available for pupils entering Primary One and above. Bursaries are also available for existing pupils, where a significant change in a family's circumstances may result in the withdrawal of a child.

Bursaries are awarded using a combination of academic merit (as tested in the Entrance Assessment) and financial need. Awards take the form of a discount on tuition fees and will be subject to annual testing of parental means. The School should be notified of any changes to financial circumstances that occur out with the mean-testing process. The scale of awards is reviewed annually to reflect any changes in fee costs and the availability of funds at the time.

All bursaries are means-tested based on gross household income and, as a guideline, families with an annual total household income in excess of £70,000 are unlikely to receive support. We also take account of additional children in the family and any other fees being paid. As well as household income, the financial review will take consideration of savings, investments and realisable assets.

Morrison's Academy strives to ensure that bursaries are used to widen access to the School and to assist the greatest number of families who require support. Depending on circumstances, full fee awards may be available. It should also be noted that not all applications are successful as demand outstrips available funds.

Bursary Application Process

Step One - Identification of Need

If you identify a need for bursary support at any stage during the admissions process or after, email bursarysupport@morrisonacademy.org to commence the application process.

Step Two - Application

Parents wishing to apply for a bursary will be asked to complete a Statement of Financial Circumstances form via an online portal. The form is confidential and requires full information about the family's financial circumstances with supporting documentation.

The School uses an independent company, Bursary Administration Ltd (BAL), to review and assess bursary applications. This may include a home visit.

For new applicants there will be a one-off family administration fee of £100 to be paid in advance. If your application is successful and you are awarded a bursary, this fee will be refunded.

Step Three – Review

BAL reports back to the school and the report is reviewed by the Finance Manager and the Head of Finance. This is presented to the Rector and a joint recommendation reached. This recommendation is presented to the Governors for approval.

Step Four – Bursary Outcome and Offers

You will be advised of the outcome of the bursary application process once all necessary reviews have been completed.

A formal acceptance of a bursary offer, acknowledging conditions relating to it, must be signed by applicants within two weeks of the offer being made. All bursary offers are subject to the completion of the admissions process within four weeks of the bursary offer being made.

Bursary Frequently Asked Questions

How many bursaries are available?

There are a number of bursary awards available each year. Please be aware that the bursary programme is a competitive process, and that every year we receive more applications than there are awards available.

How do you decide who receives the financial help?

Bursary awards are granted using a combination of academic merit (how well the child does in the Entrance Assessment) and financial need (the financial position of your household). These two factors form the basis of how we decide who the recipient of each award is. Bursary applicants may be visited by BAL.

Applications from non-UK citizens are welcome, if families are able to provide documentary evidence of the right to remain in the UK for the duration of school years.

If I am awarded a bursary, do I have to pay any fees to the School, and how do I do this?

If you are awarded a 100% bursary award, no tuition fees will be due to the School however other fees and charges may apply. If you are awarded a partial bursary award, you will be required to pay the balance of the annual tuition fee plus any other fees and charges. The amount due will be invoiced to you and you will have the option of paying termly or by direct debit in 12 equal instalments commencing in July of the new academic year.

I am not sure if I can afford things like uniform, travel costs and trips. Can the School help?

A small number of bursary awards may include support for ancillary costs. However, bursary awards do vary and not every award includes this additional financial support. As such, families should still budget for the cost of uniform, travel costs, trips, equipment and other ancillary costs.

Do I need to repay the bursary at a later date?

No amount is repayable unless there are significant improvements to your financial circumstances which would affect the outcome of the financial assessment. If however, you wish to support the School for future bursary support we have a Bursary Fund that you can make future donations to.

The award is dependent on adhering to terms & conditions of enrolment, taking into account any notice of intention to withdraw your child(ren).

I am not sure if I can pay the fees if the School withdraws support. Is there a risk the support will be withdrawn?

Once awarded, the bursary would only change if your household financial position changed to the extent that you: no longer needed support; it merited a reduced level of support; or if the pupil's progress, conduct or attendance at the school does not meet the expected standards.

My earnings go up and down. Would this affect the support I can access?

Once awarded, the bursary is reviewed by the School every year on the condition that any significant change to finances be notified during the course of the award period. If there is no significant change to your finances, the bursary award will continue. If your household financial position has significantly changed, then the bursary award may be decreased or increased to reflect this.

You will be notified of bursary awards annually, following reassessment.

Does the School offer bursaries for especially gifted pupils?

Bursaries are means-tested and all applicants are considered for the awards on the same basis of both academic merit and financial need.

Where do the School's bursary funds come from? The School has supported the education of children since 1860. It owns investments purchased by funds donated by generous benefactors, and uses income from this, along with other donations raised to support the Bursary Fund through the School's development activities. The remainder of the funds are supported from annual tuition fee income.

I have other children. Can I apply for help for them to attend the School?

Yes, the School is happy to support more than one child from the same family. Please note, however, that if help with fees is offered for one child, it does not guarantee further support to siblings although the assessment process will take recognition of all other fees payable for other children. A sibling discount is also offered for families with three or more children attending the School.

When will I know if my child will be offered a bursary?

The percentage offer of any bursary award will be communicated at the end of the Bursary Application Process. A formal acceptance of a bursary offer, acknowledging conditions relating to it, must be signed by all applicants.

In May, after the Notice of Tuition Fees for the upcoming academic year is released, you will be issued with a letter confirming the bursary value.

Contact Information

To find out more about Admissions or Bursaries at Morrison's Academy, please contact:

Catriona Elliott - Admissions Registrar
Email: admissions@morrisonacademy.org

Morag Speak - Finance Manager
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