



THE PERSE SCHOOL CAMBRIDGE

9 April 2020

PERSE BURSARY SCHEME AND THE PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING EMERGENCY BURSARIES

Background

The Perse is committed to the provision of means tested bursaries. During the academic year 2018-19, 108 pupils received a means tested bursary. These awards equated to 72 full fee paying places, worth £1.3mil pa.

All bursary awards are means tested to ensure fairness and consistency in the manner in which funds are distributed.

Most bursaries are awarded to pupils when they first join the Perse. However, every year, 'hardship' or 'emergency' bursaries are also awarded to families whose circumstances have changed since their child(ren) joined the Perse. Emergency bursaries support families facing a significant reduction in household income, typical situations involving the death or serious long term illness of a parent, and loss of income due to redundancy.

The process by which point of entry and emergency bursaries are assessed is set out in the Perse's Bursary Policy, available on the school website.

Parents experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact the Bursary. Communication and sharing of information is essential in order for the School to consider what support can be made available to parents at a difficult time.

Emergency bursary support during CV19

During the CV19 pandemic it is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in the number of applications for emergency bursaries, as parents lose their jobs and businesses close.

In anticipation of this increased need the Perse has set aside up to £1.0mil of charitable funds to provide support in the form of additional emergency bursaries. This additional funding will be used to support parents whose children are already at the Perse, and applications for emergency bursaries will be accepted from parents whose children are at the Pelican, Prep and Upper, regardless of the age of the child.

Emergency bursaries are intended to provide continuity for children at a difficult time, enabling pupils to remain at the Perse. Unfortunately it is not possible to offer emergency bursaries to families whose children are due to join the school at a future date.

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Awards will continue to be means tested, and applicants will be required to complete a bursary application form and submit relevant documentation. However, during the pandemic the process will not involve a home visit due to the current social distancing restrictions.

The School endeavours to assess applications quickly, in order to provide parents with clarity as to what support is available to them.

In assessing an emergency bursary the following factors are taken into consideration

- the quantum of the change in the family's financial circumstances
- level of ongoing income
- savings and capital, and the family's ability to access that capital quickly

Payment plans and instalments

Some families who experience a reduction in income may not qualify for a means tested emergency bursary because their level of savings or ongoing earnings remain relatively high.

Some families may experience temporary cash flow difficulties which will not necessarily result in an overall reduction in income over time, but which affect their ability to pay fees on the date they fall due.

If a family is experiencing difficulty paying the termly fee but does meet the threshold to receive a means tested emergency bursary, the School will work with them to agree a payment plan which matches their ability to pay. In some situations a monthly instalment plan or a short payment holiday is sufficient to assist a family through a difficult period.

The Perse is a registered charity and as such mindful of its obligation to assess bursary applications fairly and objectively, and to provide financial assistance according to need.