



St Peter's School
YORK

Inspiring Futures

A guide to Help With Fees

If your child would thrive in an academic environment, with access to an outstanding programme of music, drama, sport and activities, then we'd love to hear from you.

This booklet contains all you need to know about:

- The age of children who we make Help With Fees Offers to
- The application process
- How we decide whether or not to make an offer of a place
- How we decide how much financial help we can give you
- Who at St Peter's can give you more information and help

What is Help With Fees?

We offer Help With Fees bursaries to children whose families cannot otherwise fund a place.

All enquiries and applications are handled in confidence. Your details will only be known by the very small team that processes and assesses your application, and awards of fee assistance/bursaries are kept confidential throughout a child's time with us.



How much of the fees will the School cover?

Our fee awards are means-tested.

We can cover between 10% and 100% of school fees, depending on your financial circumstances.



For those who need 100% support, we can also contribute towards the cost of uniform and some trips and activities.

Our assessment of how much help you need will take into consideration all your financial circumstances. As well as income and savings, we will also consider assets, including the family home, and your outgoings.

At what age can children apply?

Help with fees is usually only available to pupils entering Year 7, Year 9 or Sixth Form.



If your child is not yet old enough to apply, you may wish to register an early interest and we will be in touch at a future date.

Do we have to re-apply every year?

No, you do not need to reapply, although we will check your circumstances again at the end of Year 8 and Year 11. We will also ask you to complete an annual declaration, confirming that your circumstances have not changed.

If your family's financial circumstances change, though, you must tell us as soon as possible.

If your income or assets increase significantly, we may need to reduce the level of fee assistance we offer, or withdraw it altogether. We have limited funds available for fee assistance, and it is important that they are allocated to those most in need.

What sort of pupils are successful?

We have made awards to Help With Fees to a wide range of pupils over a number of years, for both day and boarding places.

Many are attending an independent school for the first time and we are experienced at helping pupils and their families settle in quickly and feel part of the St Peter's family.

Bursaries at St Peter's are not connected to academic scholarships, which at our School are honorary and do not carry a reduction in fees. Music Scholarships do include a financial payment.

You can find out more about our Music Scholarships at www.stpetersyork.org.uk/st_peters/life_at_st_peters/music/music_awards

Pupils likely to be successful at application will have a strong academic record and are likely to have other interests and talents, such as (but not exclusively) sport, music or drama, which will help them make the most of the opportunities at St Peter's.

The majority of our awards are for day pupils and for that reason a large number of our fee assistance awards are made to pupils in York and the surrounding area.



We have helped dozens of pupils and their families through the process of applying for Help With Fees and will be delighted to give you personal advice and answer any questions that you may have.

The application process

Stage 1: Get in touch

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If you think you may need fee assistance, please get in touch as soon as possible, as every year we receive more applications than we are able to grant assistance to.

We have helped dozens of pupils and their families through the process of applying for Help With Fees and will be delighted to give you personal advice and answer any questions that you may have.

Get in touch as soon as possible.

Stage 2: Visit us

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We will invite you to visit us informally so that you can meet teachers and pupils, as well as see our facilities and campus.

It's important that you feel you have all the information that you need, so we encourage you to ask as many questions as you have, and return for another visit if you feel it would be helpful. We can also arrange for you to meet specific members of staff to help with any particular areas you wish to discuss.

Visit us a few months before applying.

Stage 3: Submit your application

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Fill in our Application Form and our Help With Fees form.

It's important that we receive these forms together. If you cannot submit both forms at the same time, you must let us know you wish to apply for fee assistance when you submit your application form.

We will check your application and ask you for any further details or supporting evidence that we need.

You should submit your application by 31 December.

Stage 4: Entrance exam

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We will invite your child to sit our entrance exam at the school. The same entrance exam is taken by all pupils applying to St Peter's, regardless of whether they are applying for Help With Fees.

Our entrance exam takes place. No additional study or preparation should be needed.

November for Sixth Form, January for Year 7 and year 9, for a start date the following September.

Stage 5: Home visit

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If we decide after the entrance exam that we wish to offer a place, we will contact you to arrange a time for us to visit you at home.

The visit will normally be from our Admissions Officer (who you will have talked to and met several times by this stage) and a colleague.

The home visit is simply an opportunity for us to verify the address, living arrangements and other information you have supplied to us.

March for a start date the following September.

How we make the decision



There are two separate decisions that the Head Master, Bursar and Governors need to make. Firstly, whether your child will be offered a place at the School and secondly, whether or not the School will offer help with fees and the amount of financial support we can offer.

The offer of a place

We will consider the examination and interview performance of each applicant but we will always consider your child's potential. Reports from your child's current school as well as their performance in interview will give us an indication of this and will be considered alongside actual achievement. The pupil's entrance interview and previous school reports will assist in forming a view in this regard. Bursary funds are limited and, all things being equal, priority will be given to those likely to gain most from the educational provision at St Peter's.

Each pupil to whom support is offered must, in the opinion of the Head Master, be likely to make sound academic progress at our school and have the potential to develop the quality of his or her work, and benefit from participation in the wider, extra-curricular activities on offer at the school.

We will also look at what previous school reports say about your child's behaviour.

The offer of Help With Fees

If we decide to make an offer to help with fees, how much we offer depends on the extent of your family's financial need. It does not depend on and is not affected by your child's academic or other performance.

The following questions are typically considered by the Head Master, Bursar and Governors when deciding on the level of award:

- **Does your family have the ability to improve its financial position?**
For example, where there are two partners, we would expect both to be working in paid employment unless one is prevented from doing so through illness, or because one partner needs to care for very young children or for other dependents.
- **Could you use funds that you already have?**
If you have significant savings or investments, or have a lot of equity in your house, we would expect you to use this before we could give Help With Fees.

- **Where parents are separated, what contribution is made by the parent who does not have custody?**
- **Do you have other sources of household income?**
We may need to take this into account.
- **Are you paying fees to other schools or universities?**
If so, our level of support will need to take this into account.

We would be extremely unlikely to grant a bursary if your family has:

- Frequent or expensive holidays
- New or luxury cars
- Investment in significant home improvements
- A second property

Other factors

We recognise that, as well as academic ability and financial constraints, your family's full circumstances need to be taken into account when we assess your application.

It's important you tell us if any of these, or similar facts, apply to you and your family:

- Where your child has brothers or sisters already at St Peter's.
- Where there are specific social problems with your current schooling (for example, if your child is being bullied at their current school).
- Where a parent is terminally ill or is unable to work due to poor health.
- Where parents are separating or have recently separated and Help With Fees can help provide continuity for your child.

Current pupils whose family circumstances change

Where we can, we will consider cases of sudden, unforeseen need from the families of children already at St Peter's at any time of the year.

Parents/guardians with a child at the school whose financial circumstances suddenly change may apply for a Bursary to the Bursar.

Parents/guardians should contact the Bursar's PA on Bursar@stpetersyork.org.uk to ask for an application form, explaining their situation.

Such awards are subject to the availability of funding and cannot be guaranteed.

Confidentiality

For as long as your child is at the school, the fact and level of any bursary will be known only to a very small number of people responsible for the assessing and payment of awards as well as to House Parents, who are responsible for the welfare of children.

Once pupils have left the school, we hope that they will want to help promote bursaries and encourage the generosity of donors who make Help With Fees possible.

With that in mind we may contact them shortly before they leave the school, or afterwards, to share their St Peter's experiences and the difference Help With Fees made to them so that others may benefit from similar support.

What now

If your child would benefit from and contribute to our School, but paying our fees is simply not an option for your family, please speak to us. We are here to help.

You can call us on 01904 527305 or email g.bland@stpetersyork.org.uk

You can request a copy of the application form at www.stpetersyork.org.uk/helpwithfees



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