

Newcastle upon Tyne Royal Grammar School

Bursary principles

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Principles

The Royal Grammar School (RGS) is passionately committed to ensuring access to its fast-paced, challenging academic curriculum for boys and girls from the widest possible range of backgrounds (see the School's *Admissions policy*). In order to provide financial support for those candidates who would not otherwise be able to take up the offer of a place for which it judges them academically suited, the School has, in recent years, set up a strong *Bursary campaign*. It is grateful to a number of trusts and benefactors who fund additional bursaries. The efforts of the campaign and the support from its benefactors made it possible to provide financial assistance for *82 students in the past school year (2015-16), 53 of whom received support at a level of 90% or above.*

RGS bursaries are strictly means-tested and are awarded to a maximum of 100% of the fees. Documentary evidence of family income, assets and expenditure (including the number of siblings and expenses related to them) will be required, if your child successfully reaches stage 3 of the Bursary application process. The Trustees intend that, once the bursary has been offered, it will remain in force throughout the student's time in the School, subject to satisfactory attendance, work and progress, and subject to an annual review of the family's changing circumstances.

Please note: a voluntary reduction in family income will not be matched by an increase in the level of help - if, for example, parents give up employment by choice during their child's time in the School.

RGS offers only means-tested bursaries. There are no internal merit or competitive scholarships of any kind except the specialised Sixth Form **Reece Engineering Scholarships**. Details of these can be obtained from the Admissions Officer.

Value of bursaries

It is not possible to publish a precise scale relating family income to the level of help available, since so many different factors are taken into account when considering the award and fees for the following year are not announced until Easter. However, it is fair to say that for the current year a family with an annual income from all sources of less than £27,000 could expect to be offered a bursary at or close to 100% of the fees. The greater the family income from that point, the smaller the amount of help available. Currently, a family with a total income from all sources in excess of £50,000 would not normally be eligible for any bursary assistance.

Any parents who would like to find out more about the value of bursaries and what one might mean in their case are welcome to talk in confidence to the Bursar or Finance Officer (see details below). Families can be assured that, at all stages, the information they supply remains confidential to a very small number of staff in the

Finance Office, the Headmaster and a tiny number of senior teachers. Once children start in School with a bursary, students and teachers alike are quite unaware of those who have bursaries and those whose parents pay full fees.

RGS has an Outreach Coordinator to assist in the assessment process, which may include a home visit; in the case of some externally-funded bursaries, a home visit is a mandatory part of the assessment process. Her role will not be to check-up on families, but to judge how the School can help potential bursary holders and their families to make the most of the opportunities offered by the RGS.

Procedure

Bursaries are offered at all main entry points to the School. How many will be offered depends on the bursary funds available.

No bursary can be offered unless/until the applicant has first satisfied the School's academic requirements in order to be offered a place. Parents who will need a bursary to allow their child to attend the RGS, if offered a place, are urged to speak to the Bursar or Finance Officer at an early stage and to fill in the bursary application form. However, no action will be taken on that form until the academic assessment process is complete. Only at that stage will the school consider the bursary application.

Inevitably demand for bursaries will exceed the supply available. Although the school has been able to apply in excess of £750,000 each year to funding bursaries, about three times as many apply for bursaries. *This means that, even though applicants may satisfy the School's academic requirements (i.e. pass the exam and interview) and their family may qualify for financial assistance, they may still not be awarded a bursary, simply because there are not enough available. It is important that parents and candidates appreciate the likelihood of being disappointed.*

Hard choices have to be made. In allocating bursaries the School will consider all the information gained about candidates during the selection process. Although their examination performance will be an important factor, other aspects will also be taken into account:

- Their individual need for the kind of education RGS offers
- Other talents or aptitudes they might develop at, and contribute to, the School
- Evidence of commitment and tenacity in a field of activity (academic or otherwise) that demonstrates that they would make the most of the opportunities on offer at RGS.

When the school offers places, parents who have applied for a bursary will also receive a response to that application. Any children who satisfy the School's academic requirements but are not fortunate enough to be among the few selected for a bursary will be offered a full fee-paying place.

Parents should be aware that, if they do not apply for bursary assistance at the time of application and in the normal timescale for applications at that age-range, it will not be possible to consider any late applications.

For further information on Bursaries at RGS:

Please contact the Finance Office:

Telephone: 0191 212 8952

Fax: 0191 212 0392

Email: bursaries@rgs.newcastle.sch.uk

Sixth Form specialist bursaries

A number of specialist bursaries may be awarded to boys and girls joining the RGS Sixth Form from a non-fee paying school who intend to study particular subjects at A level. Award of these bursaries follows the same principles and procedures outlined above. Normally these subjects will be:

- Art and/or Design
- Music
- Chemistry
- Maths with Physics
- Medical and related sciences
- Science and/ or technology /engineering*

* includes sixth form Reece Engineering Scholarships (see above).