



Albyn School Widening Access Scheme – Financial Assistance with Fees

Albyn School was founded over 150 years ago by Harriet Warrack, a pioneer of girls and young women's education here in Aberdeen. Our founder, and the school's second Head, Alexander Mackie, both played significant roles locally in widening access to education for young women, in particular preparing them for entry onto courses at the University of Aberdeen. So much so, that Albyn Former Pupils were amongst the first 20 women to study for degrees at the University of Aberdeen in 1898.

In the late 19th Century, it was girls and young women who lacked access to a university education, but fast-forward to the present day and there are still many children and young people in the city and wider region who do not have the opportunity to go to university because multiple deprivation hinders their ability to access a good education. Albyn School, once again, intends to play a leading role in enhancing social mobility through education, exactly as it was founded to do over 150 years ago.

Albyn School is committed to enabling talented pupils from who otherwise could not afford the tuition fees to attend the school via our Widening Access Scheme. The Board of Governors determine the value and availability of the Widening Access fund annually and places are offered on the basis of a child's performance in our entrance assessments and the means-tested financial circumstances of the family.

Widening Access

When offering Widening Access places at Albyn School, priority will be given to children who:

- live or go to a school in SIMD20 or SIMD40 postcode areas. (These areas are in the lowest 20% or 40% of households as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.)
- are care experienced
- are a refugee or asylum-seeker

We automatically get the postcode and school information from a child's application form. Additionally, for those who are care experienced, a refugee or an asylum seeker, we ask for further relevant information. Our admissions team may also get in touch to clarify anything that is unclear. We do not look at factors such as gender, ethnicity, parental occupation, or whether applicants have a sibling at Albyn School/any prior connection with the school.

Once we have all the information we need, we give priority flags to applications where we have identified any of the Widening Access criteria.

Financial Assistance with Fees

Assistance with fees, in the form of a Bursary, varies from 20% to 100% of the fees and is dependent on an assessment of the parents' financial circumstances. The Bursary is reviewed annually and may increase or decrease in accordance with changes in financial circumstances.

The assessment of financial circumstances considers the value of things you own (assets), including the family home, savings, investments, pension provision and other realisable assets, as well as income, the size of the family, and any other dependents.

As a general guide, a family with a total gross household income of more than £80,000 is unlikely to qualify for support.

For those pupils assessed as having the greatest need, there will be additional support with the cost of items such as uniform, books and trips. Additional support is dependent on the funds available at the time.

Eligibility

Bursaries are available for new pupils and also for existing pupils where a family's circumstances may have changed leading to a need for assistance. The School will consider a number of factors when assessing whether, and to what extent, any support will be awarded. The principal consideration will be a child's suitability and the likelihood of them thriving at the School.

It must be emphasised that being eligible for fee assistance in no way guarantees a successful application, as the annual fund available for fee assistance is finite.

Suitability

An applicant must be likely to thrive at Albyn School, both academically and through participation in the co-curricular activities on offer. For a new pupil they must also meet the School's academic requirements and perform well in the assessment process. Previous school reports will be consulted. Bursary funds are limited and those judged most suitable by the School will be given priority. For existing pupils requiring hardship support, their attitude to learning and approach to School life will be taken into consideration.

Separated Parents

The School recognises that family separation can be a painful process for all members of a family and may be particularly stressful for children. The School values the quality of its pastoral care and does not wish to increase the pressure that pupils may suffer as a consequence of parental separation or divorce. At the same time, the School reminds parents of the commitment (which in most cases will be a joint commitment) that they have made to pay School fees and expects that joint commitment to be honoured in the event of separation or divorce. Separation or divorce is not, of itself, likely to be sufficient to prompt the award of a Bursary.

The School recognises that the financial arrangements of and between parents who live separately can be complex. However, in general, the financial circumstances of both parents will be assessed.

If either of the child's parents is absent, the School will decide to what extent the absent parent's financial circumstances should be assessed. In all situations, the financial information collected from each parent will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed without explicit consent.

In the case of divorce, court orders and financial agreements regarding the care of dependents must be submitted with the application.

Application Process

External Bursary Awards are available to parents of pupils entering Primary 6, Primary 7, Senior 1, Senior 5 and Senior 6. They are awarded at the discretion of the Governors. The Headmaster, Bursar and Admissions Team are responsible for the management and coordination of the process.

The application form is available at: <https://www.albynschool.co.uk/admissions/financial-assistance/>. If you require assistance in order to complete the Application Form, please contact admissions@albynschool.co.uk.

Confidentiality

The School respects the confidentiality of Bursary awards made to families and recipients are also expected to respect such confidentiality.

Acknowledgment of and 'Giving Back' in respect of Financial Support

Albyn School celebrates the opportunity to widen access through the provision of financial support and, with the perpetuation of such support in mind, it is deemed to be a condition of an award that parents and recipients of Bursaries will not only support the aims and objectives of the School in general, but, in particular, support and promote the School's Bursary Awards process and ethos. To this end, it will be an expectation that those who have benefitted from an award will contribute, in any way and as their means allow, to future Bursary campaigns and funding opportunities and that they may be contacted during their final year at Albyn School or as Former Pupils by the School to share their Albyn experiences and the difference the Bursary made to them so that others may benefit from similar support.

Timeline

Tuesday 11 January 2022 – Deadline for submission of applications for fee assisted places. No applications for fee assisted places will be accepted for academic year 2022 – 2023 after this date

Saturday 15 January 2022 – Upper 1 (S1) Entrance Assessment

Saturday 22 January 2022 – Lower 5 to Lower 7 (P5-P7) Entrance Assessments

Assessments relating to entrance into other years will be arranged directly with the Admissions Team

January/February 2022 – Applicants may be subject to interview

Friday 4 March 2022 – Candidates receive outcome of application

Monday 7 to Friday 11 March 2022 – Admissions Team available for post-offer tours

Friday 11 March 2022 – Deadline for acceptance of place

Applications Forms should be submitted to the Bursar

Email: Kelly.Mackay@albynschool.co.uk

Post Private & Confidential
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The offer of fee assistance is entirely at the discretion of the Board of Governors.