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# Help with Fees



# A GDST school

The Girls' Day School Trust is a unique family of 25 schools across the country and specialists for 150 years in girls' education.

## The GDST's Values are:

- We always put **Girls First**. They are the focus of everything we do.
- We are **Forward-thinking**. We stay ahead through purposeful innovation.
- We are **Fearless**. We act and speak with conviction and commitment and we are not afraid of thinking differently.
- We are a **Family** of schools. We support each other and share our learning across our unique network.

*In sharing these values, we have specific aims as a school, which guide us in everything we do.*

## Wimbledon High Aims

### Stepping In

**We aim for every girl to feel known, supported, confident and able to shine at Wimbledon High.**

### Striding Out

**We aim for every girl to leave us prepared to shape the society in which she lives and works.**

**We will do this, across the whole school by:**

- Encouraging resilience, independence and kindness;
- Nurturing curiosity, scholarship and a sense of wonder;
  - Promoting excellent teaching and learning;
- Running a broad, inspiring co-curricular programme.

On the website you will find all school policies on matters such as safeguarding, special educational needs, data privacy and health and safety (hard copies available from the school office should you wish), as well as information about the curriculum, co-curricular activities and pastoral care, the terms and conditions of acceptance of a place and practical details about the school day, etc.

**[www.wimbledonhigh.gdst.net](http://www.wimbledonhigh.gdst.net)**

# Applying for help to pay the fees at Wimbledon High School

**If you are interested in applying for Wimbledon High School but are not in a position to pay the full fees for independent school, then read on to find out about the assistance you may be eligible for from our parent body, the Girls' Day School Trust. The GDST was founded on the principle of making excellent education available to bright students, whatever their family circumstances. Further information is available in the GDST Bursary leaflet.**

**There are many great schools in South West London, including free but equally highly competitive grammar schools. We have included here some of the benefits of choosing Wimbledon High School as we see them.**

## What is a Bursary?

A bursary is an award of financial help to families. The award is means-tested, so you have to provide proof of income, financial resources and family assets to the GDST. The GDST then assesses whether you meet the criteria to be eligible for assistance with Wimbledon High School fees.

## How much is a Bursary worth?

A bursary can mean getting all school fees paid, plus other expenses, possibly including uniform, travel, etc – this is a 100% bursary.

Families who do not meet the criteria for a full 100% bursary may be awarded anything from 95% to 30%. This would mean that you would have to contribute the remaining amount to your daughter's school fees and you will have to pay for school uniform, etc.

## Am I eligible for a Bursary?

Please have a read of the GDST website to find out the specific criteria that affect eligibility for a bursary. These criteria include the level of family income, number of family dependents, savings and/or other assets.

Most higher-value bursaries are awarded to pupils from families with a total income of less than £44,000 per year (or £49,500 for London Schools) and who have no capital assets other than their home.

It is highly unlikely that a bursary would be awarded to a family whose annual income is greater than £102,000 (or £107,500 for London Schools), other than in very exceptional circumstances.

If you choose to apply you will have to fill in a specific form with details of all your family finances. The GDST then makes its assessment. Your daughter will also have to pass the school's entrance exam.

**You can find more information on the GDST website:**  
<https://www.gdst.net/about-us/fees-and-bursaries/#bursaries>

## How long does the Bursary last?

The GDST has an annual renewal process, meaning that once granted a bursary, your family will continue to be eligible for financial help unless your circumstances change.

## How does a Bursary differ from a Scholarship?

Scholarships enable us to recognise and celebrate gifted and talented students, whatever their background. Scholarships are not means-tested, so family income is not taken into account when awarding these.

Academic scholarships are awarded to students who perform exceptionally well in the entrance examination and no separate application is required. These are offered at the Head's discretion and only to the top performers in the exams.

You do not need to make a separate application for an Academic Scholarship.

The school also awards Sports and Music Scholarships at 11+ to candidates who have a particular talent in either. All scholarships are worth between 5% and 20%, at the discretion of the Head.

Details of how to apply for Sports and Music scholarships are available on the admissions area of the website.

## Can I apply for a Music or Sports Scholarship as well as a Bursary?

Yes you may. Please see the Admissions area of our website for full details of how to apply, and the criteria for Music and Sports scholars.

Applications are made online, separately for each discipline. Simply tick the box on your 11+ Application Form to confirm your interest and a separate scholarship application form will be made available to you on the portal.

## Apart from the fees, what other costs should I expect?

**Starting any school incurs costs. Here are some other benefits for families in receipt of a 95% or 100% bursary:**

- Free school lunches
- Uniform grant
- Travel to / from school (if more than 3 miles)

**Other costs that may be paid by the school, and at the Head's discretion, would be discussed with you at the time of offer of a place for Year 7 entry. These would be available only to those candidates offered a bursary at the level of 95% or 100%.**

- Field trips / school visits that are a required part of the curriculum.
- All year trips (excluding recreational trips).
- Music Lessons for one instrument (35 minutes a week, times 10 weeks a term) plus instrument hire OR Boat Club fees for rowing from Year 8 OR Tennis Academy OR LAMDA.
- Laptop suitable for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

**Families receiving lower levels of bursary support may be able to apply for financial help for trips and activities as the Head would not want a student to miss out because of cost.**

**Please note that school text books and exercise books are included in the fees.**

## **Are Bursary candidates assessed differently / is there a different pass mark for them?**

No, we assess all candidates in the same way and all must achieve the same academic standard in order to be offered a place.

## **Are Bursary students treated differently?**

No, all students are treated the same.

## **What are the benefits of accepting a Bursary place at somewhere like Wimbledon High instead of my daughter attending a grammar school?**

We cannot speak for the grammar schools, which, along with best comprehensive schools offer excellent teaching to rival independent schools. However, we believe that our facilities and co-curricular programme (sports, music, drama, etc) together with good teacherstudent ratios and a high level of pastoral care make us stand out. We really do get to know our students well and there is a special atmosphere – fun yet hard-working, aspirational yet extremely supportive.

In addition, the fact that we are a GDST school ensures that our students get excellent opportunities – access to an alumnae network of 70,000 former GDST women who have gone on to success in a variety of careers and professions, mentors who can, when your daughter is older, help advise on jobs and university courses.

## How do I apply?

Tick the box on our online school application form. When the GDST open their bursary applications processing system in October, you will be sent a link to create an account through which you will submit your bursary application form and supporting documents relating to your finances. The GDST will provide instructions for completion of the forms and they are available to speak to on the phone if you are having any difficulties. You must apply for our 11+ by 1 November 2023 and a complete GDST bursary application must be submitted by 1 November 2023 .

## Do I have to pay the registration fee?

**If you are in receipt of means-tested benefits, and you have visited the school for an open event, you can request to have the registration fee (£150) waived.**

**Please contact our Head of Admissions, Mrs Bronagh Preston, at the time of registration: [b.preston@wim.gdst.net](mailto:b.preston@wim.gdst.net) or phone her on 020 3123 0856 to arrange for the registration fee to be waived.**

**If the registration fee has been waived, we will ask for evidence that a bursary application has subsequently been submitted on the GDST website. Otherwise you will have to pay the registration fee before your daughter sits our assessment in November 2023.**





## The Impact of the Bursary Programme

*“I feel really privileged to have been granted the opportunity to attend Wimbledon High School, as it helped me achieve the high grades I needed to get into my dream course at University College, London. Academically, I was able to reach new heights and completely exceed my own expectations of my capabilities.”*

Emily G, 2010-2012

*“My time at Wimbledon High was life changing. Coming from a single parent home on a council estate, the opportunities I had for a high quality education were extremely limited. I discovered the value of ambition and determination, of networking and hard work, and the strength that I had in myself to achieve. I credit my current position in life - an LSE masters graduate and management consultant with KPMG, down to the lessons I learnt at Wimbledon High. My time at school opened doors for me and I will always be thankful to the Bursary Fund for its invaluable help.”*

Laura J, 2001-2008

*“I am extremely grateful to all the Bursary Fund donors for enabling me to take up my place at Wimbledon High. I had inspiring teachers who helped me to achieve the results I needed to take up a place at Cambridge to read medicine.*

*The study habits, friends and general outlook from WHS was an excellent preparation for the rigours of a medical degree and my subsequent career as a doctor. I had a wonderful time at school and made friends I am still very close to.”*

Victoria N, 1997-2003

Wimbledon High School is conveniently situated in the heart of Wimbledon. The station is a few minutes' walk away, serving National Rail, London Underground and Tramlink. Buses 93, 493, 200, 57 and 131 stop nearby. We encourage active and sustainable travel to and from school wherever possible. If you are driving to Wimbledon to visit the

school, please use one of the two public car parks marked on the map and allow plenty of time. Parking in Mansel Road and surrounding roads is limited to a few metered bays. We regret that there is no visitor parking available on the school site. Our playing fields are at Nursery Road, a ten minute walk down Worple Road.



Wimbledon High School  
Mansel Road, London, SW19 4AB  
wimbledonhigh.gdst.net

Head  
Ms Fionnuala Kennedy

Contact  
T 020 8971 0900  
E info@wim.gdst.net

 **WIMBLEDON**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
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