



St Albans High School  
— for Girls —

## Financial Support - Frequently Asked Questions

- ✓ **We would like our daughter to join the High School, but we do not think we can afford the fees. Does this mean that she cannot attend the school?**

We believe that finance should not be a barrier to an exceptional education. We offer means-tested financial support up to 100% of the school fees, depending on individual circumstances.

- ✓ **Who is eligible to receive financial support?**

We welcome applications for financial support from anyone joining the school, from Reception to Year 12. Eligibility is means-tested, taking into consideration the income and assets of both parents.

As a guide, 100% fees assistance may be available to households where the total, gross income is less than £30,000. The ceiling for award of fees assistance is normally £70,000.

Following are some examples of families who have benefited from financial support at STAHS:

- 1) Both parents working; one in IT and the other as a nurse. They live in a modest house with a mortgage. Two children, one of whom is at STAHS with 25% financial support.
- 2) Both parents working; one self-employed and the other working as a teaching assistant. Modest home with a mortgage. One child, receiving 85% financial support.
- 3) Single mother; employed on low salary. Lives in small home. Two children, one of whom is a pupil at STAHS receiving 100% financial support.

- ✓ **Does financial support only cover the school fees?**

For families who are awarded 100% financial support, we offer a comprehensive package which may also cover additional costs like lunches, travel, uniform and school trips depending on parental circumstances.

- ✓ **What is the difference between the financial support and the Scholarships that you offer?**

Financial support is given based on a family's financial circumstances, while Scholarships are awarded to girls in Year 7 and Year 12 who do exceptionally well in our entrance exams and interview. Scholarships cover a percentage of a student's fees, but their family's financial circumstance are not taken into consideration, they are awarded solely on merit.

✓ **If we apply for financial support, is our daughter less likely to be offered a place at STAHS?**

An application for financial support does not in any way affect a girl's application for a place in the school - the two processes are run independently of each other. The offer of a place is based on meeting the school's normal examination and assessment requirements for entry.

✓ **If our daughter is accepted and we receive financial support, does this level of financial help continue throughout our daughter's time at the school?**

Any offer of financial support is based on the pupil making good academic progress and on an annual review of the family's financial circumstances. Whilst no guarantees can be given, it is the Governors' intention that, subject to funds being available and the criteria continuing to be met, support would be provided at a similar level throughout a girl's time at the school.

✓ **If our daughter joins STAHS and we receive financial support, will she be known as someone whose family cannot afford the fees?**

It is the school's policy that all pupils are treated equally, regardless of their family's finances. Please be assured that all applications for financial support are treated as highly confidential, and the only people within the school who will have any knowledge of the family's financial circumstances will be the Head and the Bursar.

✓ **If we do not qualify for financial support and our daughter starts at STAHS, but our financial circumstances deteriorate (perhaps due to redundancy), would our daughter have to leave the school?**

A proportion of the school's income is made available each year to provide financial assistance to parents who encounter financial difficulties.

✓ **If we would like to know more about financial support, what should we do?**

Please contact our Admissions team on 01727 792509 or email [admissions@stahs.org.uk](mailto:admissions@stahs.org.uk)