

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Financial Assistance



Gaining access to Sevenoaks School's exceptional teaching, resources and facilities can have a profound effect on a student's life by nurturing talents and broadening horizons. I was aware of how lucky I was to be able to attend Sevenoaks and sought to embrace every opportunity possible.

Kate Curran (Old Sennockian, financial assistance recipient)



Sevenoaks is a co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged 11-18, situated on a beautiful 100-acre campus next to Knole Park. Founded in 1432, today the school enjoys an outstanding reputation as one of the leading co-educational schools in the UK. Sevenoaks offers its pupils a wealth of opportunity and experience that will shape the rest of their lives.



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The school is proud of its long-standing tradition of nurturing talent, and is committed to ensuring that it is accessible to able students irrespective of parental income. Today more than 80 of our students are in receipt of means-tested assistance, and I know that many more talented young people would benefit from what Sevenoaks School has to offer.

Jesse Elzinga, Headmaster



Are you eligible for financial support?

The school gives financial assistance – which can range from 100% to 5% of fees – to as many students as possible within the constraints of our funds.

Whilst a family's financial circumstances are an important part of the decision-making process, there are a range of other factors that are also taken into consideration, such as prioritisation of education within the family finances, savings and other assets, dependents and so on.

As a guide, combined household income up to £50,000 would likely be considered for financial assistance. Combined income up to £100,000 would likely be considered for assistance with the level depending on other factors.

Combined income up to £150,000 may still be

considered in certain circumstances but would be limited.

Priority is given to those living in Sevenoaks and the immediately surrounding area (within 45 minutes travel time of the school).

Applicants must satisfy the normal entrance requirements and demonstrate that they would make the most of the opportunities offered by the school.



Frequently asked questions

1. I am worried that my children won't fit in at a school like Sevenoaks.

Sevenoaks is a diverse school with students from a variety of nationalities, cultures, religions and backgrounds. We are proud of this diversity and actively encourage it. A significant number of our pupils receive means-tested financial assistance, and they all have places here, not only because of their academic abilities, but also because we believe they can bring something to the school.

We are known for being a very friendly, welcoming school with a culture of kindness and mutual respect. The school has been described as 'cosmopolitan and unstuffy', and money is rarely talked about, especially among the students.

2. Does the school help with extra items like trips?

We are keen that all students should be able to take full advantage of the rich variety of opportunities at Sevenoaks.

An allowance is given in proportion to the level of financial assistance to help support the costs of residential trips and other extras.

For students on 100% assistance, some help is also provided towards essential costs such as uniform.

3. Do applicants for financial assistance have to pay the registration fee?

Most candidates for financial assistance pay the registration fee and we later refund it in proportion to the level of financial assistance awarded. However, we recognise that for some families the registration fee could be a barrier to application, so we will waive it in certain circumstance, for instance, for families in receipt of benefits. Families should contact financialassistance@sevenoaksschool.org for individual guidance.

4. Will everyone know that my child has a financially assisted place?

Only a very small number of staff are aware of the identity of students on financially assisted places, although sometimes it can become necessary to tell a particular teacher if it relates to the welfare or progress of the pupil. If students with assisted places wish to be identified or to become ambassadors of the public benefit programme to encourage others to apply, this is welcomed.

5. What support is offered to help my child settle in and transition?

Your child will have an allocated tutor and a divisional head. Both will be made aware of your child's financially assisted status, and their role will be to ensure your child is happy and settles well. Your child will have this tutor and divisional head for a number of years, so there will be continuity with the support they receive.

6. Will my child be able to cope academically?

Our application and testing process allows us to see potential as well as ability. The tests and interviews allow us to gauge whether a child will cope at Sevenoaks, and we only offer places to pupils who we think will thrive here.

7. Does my child have to be tutored to get in, as this isn't an option for us?

No, we do not expect children to be tutored. Our aim is to identify students with strong academic ability and potential, and not just a well-tutored candidate. We provide past entrance papers on our website so students can familiarise themselves with them, and we encourage candidates to do as many of these as possible, under timed conditions, in advance.





8. What if my financial circumstances change?

Financially assisted places are awarded on admission to Sevenoaks, with the expectation that the award is set at the same level for the duration of your child's education. However, we do reassess family income regularly, which allows us to adjust the amount of support if we see significant changes in family circumstances.

We also reserve some funds to help parents paying full fees who suffer an unexpected major change in circumstances while their child is at Sevenoaks. Depending on need, they may apply for financial assistance as temporary assistance, or one can be set for the remainder of the child's years at the school.

9. What is the application process for financial assistance, and how long does it take?

The process of applying for a place is the same for all candidates, regardless of how their fees are paid. For those who need help with the fees, we ask for notification that you would

like to be considered for an assisted place at the confirmation stage (pre-testing).

We work with Bursaries Associated Limited (BAL) to undertake means-testing. This will involve filling out an application form and a meeting with one of BAL's representatives.

We will endeavour to notify you of the outcome of your application before the academic testing takes place so you have the option of withdrawing your child from the tests if you wish.

10. What sort of information will we be required to provide?

The external team who assess our financial assistance candidates will need details of all your income and outgoings, assets and liabilities with verified proof of each. The proof will be examined during the meeting. The verified numbers, together with a written report, are sent to the school's public benefit committee, who make the final decisions.

If you have questions about financial support please contact

Olivia Power

financialassistance@sevenoaksschool.org
Tel: 00 44 (0)1732 455133

If you are interested in visiting the school or making an application, please contact the Admissions Office.

For entry at 11+ and 13+

Catherine Taylor, Registrar,
regist@sevenoaksschool.org
Tel: 00 44 (0)1732 467703

For entry at 16+

Emily Smith, Sixth Form Registrar,
regist6@sevenoaksschool.org
Tel: 00 44 (0)1732 467713

