



# FOREST SCHOOL

## 11+ Scholarships, Bursaries & Assisted Places

In line with Forest School's Founding principles, the School is looking to increase the number of pupils who can access a Forest education, regardless of parental income. We wish to maintain the wonderful diversity of the Forest community and enable more pupils, who would not otherwise be able to attend Forest, to enjoy all the opportunities for learning and personal development that Forest provides for young people.

Bursaries (means tested awards to help parents pay the school fees) are currently linked to scholarships (awarded on merit) and allow pupils to take up a potentially fully funded place with a combination of a scholarship and bursary awards. We now want to use more of the money available to fund separate means-tested bursaries, available to anyone offered a place at Forest, not just to scholars.

Last year, we introduced a new type of means tested bursary called an "Assisted Place" which enabled four pupils to join Forest on fully funded places. For entry into September 2021, we will have eight Assisted Places available to pupils at 11+. These will be awarded to qualifying applicants according to need and households with income of £25,000 or below are more likely to be considered.

In the short term, the existing bursary and scholarship schemes will run alongside the 11+ Assisted Places as outlined below. However, in the longer term the ultimate goal is to reduce the number of non-means-tested fee subsidies and to move to a scheme where scholarships across the school would be offered on an honorary basis, recognising the academic achievements of able children, and thus ensuring that substantial fee discounts are targeted at those pupils with the greatest financial need. As a step towards this, we are reducing scholarship awards to a maximum of 25% from September 2021. This has enabled us to double the number of Assisted Places we can offer.

We understand that some families may have unusual financial circumstances which means that, although their annual income is low and on paper they are eligible for assistance, they are still able to enjoy a very comfortable lifestyle which may include owning buy to let properties, living in large properties (which may be family owned), employment through a family business or benefiting from sophisticated financial planning.

It is recognised that judgements about what sacrifices a family should make to pay School fees will be personal. However, the School has a duty to ensure that its limited charitable resources are only directed towards the most deserving cases, and for this reason an 11+ Assisted Place is not intended to support families who, with reasonable financial and personal sacrifices, could have otherwise afforded paying the full fee.

The explicit aim (and moral purpose) of the 11+ Assisted Places Scheme is to support able pupils, who could not otherwise be able to afford to attend Forest School.

### **11+ Scholarships and Bursaries (for entry September 2021)**

Academic, Music and Sport Scholarships are offered at 11+ entry. The maximum non-means-tested fee remission awarded in respect of any one pupil is 25% of full fees, whether in one area of excellence or in a combination of one or more areas of excellence. However, most scholarships will be awarded as a smaller percentage, usually 15%/10%/5%.

Bursaries are given in conjunction with a scholarship and are awarded to eligible candidates who would otherwise not be able to afford the remaining school fees. The combination of a scholarship and additional bursary money can equate to up to 100% fee remission; in other words, a free place.

Parents are asked to refer to the income bands on the School website to determine eligibility for bursarial assistance.

### **11+ Assisted Places (for entry September 2021)**

In addition to the bursary money offered in conjunction with a scholarship as outlined above, we also offer separately eight 11+ Assisted Places (100% fee remission i.e. a free place at Forest). Assisted Places will be awarded based on greatest financial need, as assessed by the School using the published means-tested financial bands and the processes outlined in Forest School's Assisted Places Policy to pupils who pass the entrance exam.

Families who want to be considered for an 11+ Assisted Place are asked to fill out a preliminary form (Form 1) online to establish eligibility before being required to follow the full application process. Form 1 needs to be completed **two weeks before the 11+ registration deadline (midday, Friday 13 November 2020)**. Applicants who have met the financial criteria will be contacted and invited to register their child to sit the Entrance Exam via our website and the registration fee for these candidates will be waived. Those who have not met the financial criteria to be considered for an Assisted Place will be notified and invited to register their child for 11+ entry, if not already done so.

Eight candidates who meet the financial criteria, pass the entrance examination, perform well at interview and have a sound supporting school report will be awarded an 11+ Assisted Place with 100% fee remission. 11+ Assisted Places can only be offered as 100% fee remission places: if Forest School does not receive applications from eight pupils who meet the means-tested criteria for 100% remission this money will remain in the 11+ Assisted Places fund.

*Candidates who have been awarded an 11+ Assisted Place will also receive financial assistance with additional expenses such as travel, uniform and equipment.*



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