



Scholarships Policy and Procedure

For entry September 2021

Introduction

This Policy contains an overview of the scholarships currently in operation at Sidcot.

Sidcot School is a registered charity that is committed to providing significant public benefit. The school is aware of its obligations under the Charities Act 2006 and seeks to adhere to the public benefit principles identified by the Charity Commission. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis to take into consideration the latest guidance from the Charity Commission.

This policy, together with all ancillary documentation including the scholarship application form, is made available to existing parents and prospective parents on request.

Aims of the Scholarship programme at Sidcot

- To encourage students who are exceptionally gifted and talented to join the School and to recognise outstanding talent within the school at key transition stages.
- To continue the school's long tradition of providing public benefit.

Outline

The Scholarship programme is designed to enable students who have a particular talent or aptitude to perform at the highest level. Scholarship students receive extra support and a programme of advanced study and activity that challenges them and broadens their understanding and skills. They learn to take pride and enjoyment in their expertise, to understand what it means to excel in a particular field. Scholarship students also act as ambassadors for their subject, encouraging others to share their enthusiasm and exploring ways to communicate their expertise and ignite interest in their fellow students.

The award represents a reduction equivalent to the cost of 10% of day fees from September 2021. Fee remission is only on the day fees that you pay (after other remissions have been subtracted). Incidentals will be charged at the full amount.

For September 2021, Sidcot is offering the opportunity for prospective pupils to apply for a Scholarship on the basis of evidence of exceptional recent achievement, performance in the Scholarship test and an interview/trial/audition at the stages outlined below. Sidcot students currently in Year 6 or Year 11 can also apply as they are in transition to the Senior School and Sixth Form respectively. In exceptional circumstances Sidcot will consider offering a Scholarship to a student who is already at the School who has shown dramatic progress and commitment to a subject.

Senior School

On entry to Sidcot in Year 7, Year 9 and Year 10.

Sixth Form

On entry to Sidcot in Year 12.

Categories

There are three categories of Scholarship:

1. **Academic:** this applies to all programmes studied within our Sixth Form.
2. **Talent:** the specialist subjects include Art, Design Technology, Drama, Music, Sport and Equestrian – the criteria for each is included in the Scholarship brochure.
3. **All-rounder:** this applies to students who demonstrate significant intellectual potential in more than one area. Assessment will be through a combination of academic papers and tasks around a specialist field. Students will also show a real commitment to the life and ethos of the School.

As part of the application, students will need to provide the following evidence:

1. A personal statement. Candidates are required to write a short personal statement (approximately 300 words) about their work and interests in relation to the category of Scholarship to which they have applied. (Please address the guidance on the Application form.)
2. A portfolio containing evidence of their achievements:
 - Academic** – prizes and certificates, sample pieces of outstanding work, teacher references.
 - Talent** – portfolio of achievements including examination results, examples of outstanding work, recordings, match reports, references from a specialist club, evidence of county level sporting success.
 - All-rounder** – prizes and certificates, sample pieces of outstanding work, teacher references as proof of academic achievement as well as evidence of achievements that relate to the specific talent they have chosen to be judged on.

Without supporting evidence, applications for Scholarships will be rejected.

It is essential for all students to attend a Scholarship interview either in person or via on-line media.

Dates

Sixth Form

Scholarship application closing date	Monday 26 October 2020
Scholarship Assessment papers	Tuesday 10 November 2020
Special Talent Assessments	(Between Wednesday 11 November – Friday 20 November inclusive)

Senior School

Scholarship application closing date	Friday 8 January 2021
Scholarship Assessment papers	Saturday 16 January 2021
Special Talent Assessments	Wednesday 20 January and Thursday 21 January 2021

Scholarships are awarded subject to availability of spaces within the year group being entered. Pupils cannot apply for a Scholarship category for which they have previously made an unsuccessful application. For example, if you have previously applied for a talent scholarship you would only be eligible to apply for an academic scholarship or all-rounder scholarship in a subsequent year. Pupils can apply for one scholarship at a time.

Each Scholarship is subject to an annual review of progress and the Head reserves the right to withdraw the Scholarship if satisfactory effort and progress are not being made or if the student is not contributing to the life of the School in an appropriate manner.

Students who have already gained a Scholarship will retain their award and title throughout their time at the School, subject to an annual review of their performance and providing they continue to show the attributes of a Scholar. **Those moving from Year 11 to Sixth Form will have an interview, but will not need to take any formal assessment papers.**

For further information, please contact the Admissions Office by telephone on 01934 845212 or email scholarships@sidcot.org.uk.

Sixth Form Scholarship Application Process

1. Complete the Scholarship application form and return, along with a copy of your son or daughter's most recent school report and evidence to support the application to:
The Admissions Office, Sidcot School, Oakridge Lane, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD no later than **Monday 26 October 2020**.
2. The application will be reviewed and an email will be sent inviting successful candidates to attend for the written Assessments and interview on **Tuesday 10 November 2020**. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by email.
3. Assessments/auditions/trials for specialist subjects will be arranged on either **Wednesday 11 or Thursday 12 November**.
4. Scholarship awards will be notified to parents on **Friday 20 November 2020** with announcements at School on Monday 23 November.
5. In the event of a Scholarship being awarded and accepted, external candidates must then make a formal application and register to join the School. The offer of a place is dependent on a satisfactory reference from the candidate's current school.

6. Existing Senior School Scholarship students do not need to re-apply at the end of Year 11 for entry into Year 12, however their award will be subject to an annual review and interview by the Scholarship panel. Parents will be advised on Friday 20 November of the continuation of the existing scholarship.

Senior School Scholarship Application Process

1. Complete the Scholarship application form and return, along with a copy of your son or daughter's most recent school report and evidence to support the application to:
The Admissions Office, Sidcot School, Oakridge Lane, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD by **Monday 8 January 2021**
2. The application will be reviewed and an email will be sent inviting successful candidates to attend for the written Assessments and interview on **Saturday 16 January 2021**. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by email.
3. Assessments/auditions/trials for specialist subjects will be arranged on either **Wednesday 20 or Thursday 21 January 2021**.
4. Scholarship awards will be notified to parents on **Friday 29 January 2021** with announcements at School on Monday 1 February 2021.
5. In the event of a scholarship being awarded and accepted, external candidates must make a formal application and register to join the School. This offer is dependent on a satisfactory reference from the candidate's current school.
6. **For 2021 only**, any existing Junior School Scholarship students in J6 will not need to re-apply for a Year 7 Scholarship, however their award will be subject to a review and interview by the Scholarship panel. Parents will be advised on Friday 29 January 2021 of the continuation of the existing scholarship.

POLICY UPDATED 23 September 2020