

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ASSISTED PLACES AT

KING EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Further to your requesting your daughter be considered for an Assisted Place we would like to draw your attention to the following.

If having read this document, you understand that you do not qualify for Assisted Place funding, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we do not consider your daughter for funding unnecessarily. Contact Mrs Oakes, Director of Admissions and Outreach, admissions@kehs.org.uk.

The underlying ethos of the Assisted Places programme is to offer an exceptional education to the brightest girls in the Birmingham area, irrespective of their parents' ability to pay fees. Funding for Assisted Places comes from a substantial grant from the Governors of the King Edward VI Foundation and generous donations from Old Edwardians.

The presence of a significant proportion of able and well-motivated girls from a wide range of family backgrounds is a key ingredient of the ethos of the School and benefits the whole community.

Girls with a free Assisted Place will receive assistance with the cost of School uniform, travel to and from the School (depending on where they live) and for residential trips relating to the examined curriculum. They may also receive free School Meals (even if they are above the official income threshold).

An Assisted Place is awarded on academic merit based on the School's own 11+ admissions examination in October. There are also some Assisted Places available for external applicants in the Sixth Form. Assisted Places are means tested and are based on family income and assets. Families with an income below about £20,000 will pay no fees – and there is a sliding scale which provides a fee reduction for families with income up to about £72,000. The scale is available on the School website.

The main eligibility criteria are:

- Assisted Places at the School are available to applicants who have been on the School roll or formally home schooled in the West Midlands area for at least 12 months at the time of application.
- Gross household income must be under £72,000 (subtract £3,000 for each additional dependent child other than the 11+ candidate). Please note that the assistance is on a sliding scale, (available on the school website), which is dependent on household income. A family will need to have an income of under £20,000 to get a fully free place.
- Assets (including the market value of your house/s) must be under £500,000. **Families with gross assets over £500,000 are not eligible for this scheme.**

We understand that some families may have unusual financial circumstances which mean 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, with expensive holidays, extensive home improvement, extravagant birthday gifts (cars etc). Furthermore, they may have buy-to-let properties, live in large properties (which may be family owned), have employment through a family business or have sophisticated financial planning. Should a family also have significant 'capital assets', for example a house with no mortgage, substantial savings or investment in a family business, these will be taken into account when calculating the fees. KEHS reserves the right to conduct any appropriate credit checks or arrange externally organised investigations.

The following circumstances may mean that a family is ineligible to apply for an Assisted Place:

- Opportunities to release capital, significant capital savings, retained profits in a business, investments and equity in houses.
- Proven ability to borrow, where families have been able to secure additional mortgages on buy to let properties.
- Contributions to household costs and School fees by wider family members, any adults unrelated to the child or by outside sources.
- Other indicators of wealth, for example: frequent or expensive holidays, new or luxury cars, investment in significant home improvements, living in large properties (which may be family owned), having sophisticated financial planning.

Demand for Assisted Places far exceeds the funds currently available, so unfortunately not all girls who perform well in the examination and apply for an Assisted Place can be funded.

If your daughter does well enough in the Entrance Exam to merit a place at KEHS, but does not do well enough against the competition for an Assisted Place, **we will not automatically consider her for a fee paying place unless you instruct us otherwise** (current fees are £15,129 per year). This may result in your daughter not receiving an offer despite a strong performance in her examination. If you think you are able to afford fees with contribution from family members or savings, it is important you inform us before the exam so she can be considered for a full fee paying offer.

Before we make a full fee offer to a family which has requested financial assistance through the Assisted Places programme, the family will be asked to make an appointment to meet the Bursar to consider whether full fees will be affordable in the long term, and to provide evidence of how the fees will be afforded. If so, then they can go ahead and accept the place, bearing in mind that it is a significant financial commitment for any family.

If you do not wish your daughter to be considered for a full fee place, please notify us on admissions@kehs.org.uk.

Following the entrance exam, parents of girls being considered for an Assisted Place will be invited for an interview with the Principal. Following the interviews, parents may be called for an appointment with the Fees Office, usually in November and asked to complete a detailed means testing form. Fees payable will be confirmed before parents are asked to accept or decline a place at KEHS.

Should you accept an Assisted Place at KEHS for your daughter, you will be asked to submit financial information each year. Please note the level of Assisted Place funding you receive can differ from year-to-year if your financial situation changes.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Oakes, Director of Admissions and Outreach on: admissions@kehs.org.uk.

The full Assisted Places Policy is available on our website: <https://www.kehs.org.uk/useful-information/policies>

SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarships are awarded to the most able girls at the discretion of the Principal. Academic Scholarships are available each year and there is no separate scholarship exam. Academic Scholarships cannot be applied for and girls are able to receive both Scholarships and Assisted Places.

A Music Scholarship is also available and girls who achieve very highly in our entrance examinations, and who are also Grade 6 level or above in their musical instrument or voice, will be invited to audition. Please complete the separate sheet and return it with the Application Form.

