

Scholarships: Music and Dance Awards

Mission statement

'The aim of the scheme is to help identify and assist children with exceptional potential, regardless of their personal circumstances, to benefit from world-class specialist training as part of a broad and balanced education, which will enable them, if they choose, to proceed towards self-sustaining careers in music and dance.'

Statement agreed by the MDS Ministerial Advisory Group, 5 March 2001

School policy

At Elmhurst, the MDS focuses on classical ballet training in the Lower School (Years 7 – 11) with continuity of means-tested support for the most talented children entering Year 7. Under present arrangements, these Aided Places are allocated to the most gifted and eligible children aged 11 years on entry to the school each September. Subject to successful artistic appraisal in Year 9, MDS funding continues until the completion of Year 11.

MDS pupils in Year 11 who successfully audition for Sixth Form entry may continue to receive DfES funding through the award of a Dance & Drama Award.

Occasionally, Aided Places become available as the result of the withdrawal of award-holders from the Lower School. In this event, in order to identify the most deserving recipients, non-supported pupils from all Lower School year groups are artistically assessed alongside external candidates who have successfully auditioned for entry to the school.

Financial support

The Music & Dance Scheme is a means-tested scheme open to children who satisfy the age and UK residence qualifications. The level of funding provided is dependent on the gross parental income in the household where the child normally resides, with an allowance given for other dependent children in the household. As these notes are meant for general guidance only, it is not appropriate to go into the specific details of the scheme, but should any parent wish to discuss individual circumstances, please contact the Bursar's office. Set out below are some illustrative examples of the level of contribution parents would be asked to pay for one boarding pupil in the academic year 2008/9. Allow a deduction of £1,745 from total gross income for each additional dependent child.

<i>Gross income in the tax year 2007/8</i>	<i>Parental annual contribution</i>
£	£
10,000	0
20,000	717
30,000	1,929
40,000	3,429
50,000	5,187
60,000	6,999
70,000	8,898
80,000	10,890
90,000	12,888
100,000	14,889

In addition to the above, the DfCS will contribute towards the following:

- BUPA membership
- Music lessons for one instrument
- Ballet uniform
- Public exam fees and field trips
- Syllabus classes where applicable
- Uniform and travel allowances for some lower income families

Scholarships: Dance & Drama Awards

At present, Elmhurst receives 20 Dance & Drama Awards each academic year for distribution to the most talented students joining the first year of the Sixth Form Classical Ballet Course.

The Dance & Drama Award is a fixed-level grant awarded primarily on the basis of dance ability but with parental income as a secondary consideration. For the academic year 2008/9, a student winning an award will be billed approximately £2,320 per term for tuition and boarding fees. Parents can apply to the Vocational Dance & Drama Awards Fees and Maintenance Fund for means-tested assistance in meeting this cost. This fund is administered by Manchester City Council and parents make the application to them. Support is dependent on parental income.

In addition to the basic fees, pupils may be billed the following additional charges:

BUPA membership – if not already in a scheme	£180 per term
Personal accident insurance	£3.70 per term
School fees protection (voluntary)	1.5%

Saturday Syllabus classes are available at about £120 per term. These classes are voluntary but most students choose to take one or two. Theatre trips, outings, taxis, some books, exams and private music lessons are all recharged.