



Scholarships Policy and Procedure

For entry September 2025

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 and for the School, encouraging others to share their enthusiasm and exploring ways to communicate their expertise and ignite interest in their fellow students. They will also embody the Quaker values of Sidcot School.

The award represents a reduction equivalent to the cost of 10% of day fees from September 2025. 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. Families in receipt of the staff discount may apply for a Scholarship, which may be awarded in name if successful, but will not carry an additional financial remission.

For September 2025, 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 four categories of Scholarship:

1. **Academic:** this applies to all programmes studied within the applicable year group and to students who demonstrate outstanding intellectual ability in one or more areas, show a true aptitude for Scholarship and embody the School values. Assessment will be through a combination of academic papers and interview.
2. **Talent:** the specialist subjects include Art, Design Technology, Drama, Music, Sport and Equestrian – the criteria for each is included in the Scholarship booklet.
3. **Peace & Global:** available for students entering Year 12, who demonstrate Scholarly abilities and embrace Sidcot's ethos through work within the environment, social justice and who demonstrate global awareness.
4. **The Roger Croker Scholarship:** named after Old Scholar and benefactor. Available for students entering Year 12, who demonstrate an aptitude for adventure in their learning, in line with the School's strapline 'Live Adventurously'.

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, report grades.
 - 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.
 - Peace & Global** – present a project demonstrating how candidates have made a difference to the communities that they are part of, showing a passion for their concerns relating to world events.
 - Roger Croker** - present the ways in which candidates have demonstrated self-directed exploration of their studies, been courageous, or challenged academic boundaries in a positive manner.

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	Tuesday 29 October 2024
Scholarship Assessment papers	Week commencing 4 November 2024
Special Talent Assessments	Week commencing 4 November 2024

Senior School

Scholarship application closing date	Monday 2 December 2024 (Supporting portfolios may be submitted by Monday 8 January 2025)
Scholarship Assessment papers	Saturday 11 January 2025
Special Talent Assessments	Between Tuesday 14 January - Thursday 16 January 2025. Sports Assessment Day will be Saturday 11 January 2025.

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 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 may 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 child's most recent school report and evidence to support the application to:
The Admissions Office, Sidcot School, Oakridge Lane, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD or email to scholarships@sidcot.org.uk no later than **Tuesday 29 October 2024**.
2. The application will be reviewed and an email will be sent inviting successful candidates to attend for the written Assessments and interview **during the week commencing 4 November 2024**. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by email.
3. Assessments/auditions/trials for specialist subjects will be arranged **during the week commencing 4 November 2024**.
4. Scholarship awards will be notified to parents on **Friday 15 November 2024**.
5. In the event of a Scholarship being awarded and accepted, external candidates must also make a formal application and register to join the School. This may also be

conducted prior, or concurrently, to the Scholarship process. This offer is dependent on a satisfactory reference from the candidate's current school and satisfactory completion of the School's normal Admissions criteria.

- 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 may be subject to an annual review and interview by the Scholarship panel.

Senior School Scholarship Application Process

- Complete the Scholarship application form and return, along with a copy of your child's most recent school report and evidence to support the application to:
The Admissions Office, Sidcot School, Oakridge Lane, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD or email scholarships@sidcot.org.uk by **Monday 2 December 2024**.
- The application will be reviewed and an email will be sent inviting successful candidates to attend for written Assessments and interview on **Saturday 11 January 2025**. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by email. Current J6 pupils will be contacted to conduct their assessments and interviews within School.
- Assessments/auditions/trials for specialist subjects will be arranged on either **Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 or Thursday 16 January 2025**. Sport talent assessments will be held on **Saturday 11 January 2025**.
- Scholarship awards will be notified to parents on **Friday 31 January 2025**.
- In the event of a Scholarship being awarded and accepted, external candidates must make a formal application and register to join the School. This may also be conducted prior, or concurrently, to the Scholarship process. This offer is dependent on a satisfactory reference from the candidate's current school and satisfactory completion of the School's normal Admissions criteria.

POLICY REVIEWED AND UPDATED: 1 September 2024

Document Change History

Date of change	Detail significant changes and any new legislation / guidance taken into account
31 August 2024	Further clarification of criteria for Academic category. Removal of All Rounder category of Scholarships. Updates to dates. Further clarification to general admissions procedure alongside the Scholarship application.