



Learning in England ∞ Independent school fees

30 > How much does it cost to send a child to independent school?

Each school may fix its own fees. Fees increase according to the age of the child. In this academic year 2019-2020 our research of ten schools shows wide ranging fees. This table is indicative only:

Children in	Also called	DAY -including lunches <i>Day pupil in a boarding school</i>	FULL BOARDING	WEEKLY BOARDING Going home after school on Friday and returning on Sunday evening or Monday morning	FLEXI BOARDING BY THE NIGHT
Nursery and Reception		£3,000 -£4,000	-	-	
KS1	Years 1-3	£3,500 -£4,000	-	-	
KS2	Years 4-6	£4,000-£6,500	Few schools will have full boarding until children are 11 years old	£7,500	£36- 42 per night
KS3	Years 7-9 [3 years]	£5,000 £7,000	Between £10,000 and £14,000 per term	£8,500	£36-42 per night
KS4	Years 10-11 /Fourth and Fifth Year [2 years]	£6,000 £9,000-£11,000 <i>to include a specified number of nights per term</i>	Between £10,000 and £14,000 per term	£9,500	£36-42 per night
KS5	Years 12-13 / Sixth Form [2 years]	£6,500-£10,000 £9,000-£11,000 <i>to include a specified number of nights eg35 per term</i>	Between £10,000 and £14,000 per term	£10,500	£36-46 per night



The fees cover

- > the tuition which is timetabled
- > examination fees [some schools will charge examination fees as an Extra]
- > use of computers [some schools have a lap top scheme so parents may lease a laptop or pupils may bring their own laptop]
- > accommodation
- > use of all the facilities
- > lunch for all pupils [this needs to be checked school by school. Some schools require pupils to have compulsory lunches, others provide lunches for an extra charge or allow pupils to bring in their own packed lunch]
- > breakfast and dinner for boarders
- > all books and materials required to study subjects [some schools will ask pupils to buy extra books for GCSE and A-Level courses; or art materials]
- > trips that are done to support learning at GCSE and A-Level eg to the theatre or a Geography Field Trip, or for matches. [This needs to be checked school by school]
- > laundry in boarding schools

Fees do not cover ‘Extras’

- > Uniform
- > School bus to and from school each day in term time
- > Extra lessons such as English for international students [EFL]; music lessons when learning an instrument; LAMDA lessons
- > Any costs arising when doing voluntary or extra-curricular activities such as Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- > Extra trips such as ski-ing or a summer activity holiday.

“Education is our priority. We have made some hard financial decisions to enable us to pay school fees: both of us work full time, we moved to a rural area so we could release some capital from our house, no holidays abroad, having an inexpensive car, stopping membership of the golf club.... (We don’t have any inherited wealth). The independent school where we send our two children has been very good. Our daughter is dyslexic. It is good to see her confidence and achievement grow. Our son is really focused. Predicted grades are very promising. It has been worth every penny.” Liz



When fees are paid

Fees are payable termly, in advance. Schools will send out an invoice and expect parents to pay electronically before term starts. A separate invoice will be sent out near the end of the term for payment of all the Extras. Some schools allow fees to be paid monthly by Direct Debit.

When a child leaves the school a full term's notice must be given, If not given, then fees are chargeable for the following term.

It may also be possible to pay the total fees that are expected to be paid while the pupil is at school. If a child is in the UK, say for two years for A levels, or four years for GCSEs and A Levels, it may be possible to negotiate to pay the total fees for the two or four years that are expected to be paid, while the pupil is at the school, with a small reduction.

Discounts

Some schools provide a sibling discount.

Insurance

If a child falls ill or has an accident and cannot return to school, fees are still due. It is possible to purchase a school fee insurance package. So, if advice is required on this, please call us.

Admission Fees and Deposits

Some schools require the parents of international pupils to pay a Deposit of one term's fees before the beginning of the first term. This sum will be repaid subject to the payment of extras such as fees for instrumental lessons at the end of the last term the pupil attends the school.

Admission Fees are payable when a pupil is registered. They will be between £100-£500. When you take up the place for your child you must pay an Acceptance Fee, which will be between £500 and £1000.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Scholarships are awards to honour pupils who have demonstrable academic ability or sporting prowess, or musical skill. They will be entitled to reduced fees or free training in sport or free lessons in their specialist musical instrument. Bursaries are reductions in fees, varying from 10% to 100%. Parents are means tested for their eligibility. Some schools are well endowed and can therefore give generous bursaries. International pupils are not usually eligible for bursaries. <https://www.scholarshipsandbursaries.co.uk/>



Fees seem high. Is it worth spending so much money, when you can have state education for free?



Parents choose to pay for their children's education for wide ranging reasons:

- > The ethos of the chosen school
- > Good teachers and pastoral care
- > The academic achievement of pupils
- > Small classes
- > Facilities and resources
- > Learning Support
- > The sense of joining a community for life, with strong Alumni relations.

Contact us at Paths to Learning by emailing or Skyping felicity.gunn@pathstolearning.com or by booking a call through our website at www.pathstolearning.com.