

Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School

Scholarships Policy

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Rationale

At Strathcona, we support each individual girl to develop her own voice and identity, as well as health, mind and spirit. Learning is the heartbeat of our culture and throughout the history of the School each student has been instilled with the self-belief and resilience to embrace new opportunities and the confidence to pursue their passions so they make their way bravely, faithfully and happily through life.

Strathcona offers a limited number of Academic, Music and Special scholarships on an annual basis. Scholarships recognise achievement, enable success and assume a commitment to the School.

The number of scholarships and their values (percentage of concession of fees) will vary from time to time and are dependent on the School's enrolment capacity and the sources of support, as some scholarships are possible due to the generosity of donors.

They are determined annually by the Principal. Each category of scholarship has varying limits of concession as detailed in the policy, but applicants should note that the School holds an expectation that all families should make their fair annual financial contribution.

Strathcona stresses the holistic formation of its students and sees education as a partnership with families. Families are expected to share the philosophy, priorities and aims of the School, as set out in the School prospectus, and to support the ethos of the School. The School expects scholarship recipients to follow all School expectations and show broad commitment to school life beyond single areas of interest.

Policy Statement

Scholarships are generally tenable for the student's years remaining at the School. Scholarships are open to both prospective and current students and are advertised externally via the School website, digital and social media and through other advertising forms.

All scholarships carry substantial concession of fees throughout the student's time at the School. The scholarship application process is consistently over-subscribed and thus it is important that the scholarship holder is subject to annual appraisal and review. No scholarship is awarded on academic excellence alone; in other words, those who score the highest results are not necessarily the ones who receive scholarships. The school reserves the right to withdraw a scholarship in the event of unsatisfactory progress. Only one Scholarship Concession can be held by a student at any one time.

All scholarships are awarded subject to satisfactory behaviour and involvement. In the case of Music scholarships, the successful student is expected to maintain her interest and involvement in the school music program and to participate in music recitals and programs as requested by the Music Department.

In most cases, scholarships provide for some concession of tuition fees only. Strathcona believes that families should share the educational investment; therefore, in addition to the remaining tuition not covered by a scholarship, parents are expected to meet other expenses, such as:

- Uniforms
- Books
- Extra-curricular activities
- Annual Composite Levy

Scholarship applications are considered based on certain criteria and supporting documentation, as set out in the application form/process. Given the strong interest in scholarships, applicants may be competing against girls with wide and varying abilities and backgrounds that are factors in their possible selection, and only some applicants will be short-listed for interview.

Full Fee Paying Overseas Students are not eligible for these scholarships.

Enabling Structures

All scholarship applications are expected to meet the following criteria:

- A commitment to embrace the philosophy and ethos of the School
- Acceptable performance in an academic examination according to the criteria set by the School, and, for music scholarship applicants, acceptable performance in both a music audition and an academic examination
- Demonstrated commitment to learning and involvement in the life of the school via past reports, references, academic awards and achievements
- Specific background performance or participation for special / general excellence awards

Academic and Music scholarships are advertised online and in the media each year. Scholarships examinations are held at the School on the advertised date.

The final decision on awarding scholarships will be made by the Principal. All families who have been interviewed will receive notification of this decision.

The School will not enter into discussion concerning reasons for awarding or not awarding either interviews or scholarships. The School respects the confidentiality of each applicant and, as such, does not publicise information about scholarship recipients at any stage in the selection process. Similarly, results of scholarship examinations and music auditions are confidential and not released by the School.

Academic Scholarships

All applicants must sit an academic examination. The examinations are administered by an external agency. The examination process is subject to the payment of a fee. The results from the external body to the Principal will provide guidance for the shortlisting of applicants who will be invited for interview. The interview panel, chaired by the Principal or her delegate, will then select the successful candidates. Applicants will be required to bring academic transcripts, previous school reports, awards and documentation demonstrating academic capabilities.

Generally, academic scholarships are awarded at 50% of Tuition Fees for the life of the student's enrolment. A higher concession would be at the Principal's discretion based on family circumstance, positions available and all-round credentials of the applicant, as an example. The number and value of scholarships offered will vary from year to year and be at the discretion of the Principal noting strategic and budgetary requirements.

Academic scholarship students will be subject to an annual review. The student will be expected to actively participate in the life of the School and meet all behavioural and conduct expectations. The student will need to maintain a satisfactory academic performance and attendance record.

The academic review may involve an interview with the student to discuss progress, learning strategies and setting personal goals.

Where any concern is held on performance, a meeting with the family will occur with prescribed objectives set for a defined period to ensure the student understands the minimum requirements of the scholarship going forward. Where such standards are still not met, the Principal may resolve to remove the scholarship.

Music Scholarships

Strathcona offers Music scholarships annually for students. Auditions take place on the advertised date.

As academic achievement is also taken into consideration for Music scholarship applicants, such candidates must also sit the academic examination. The Musical auditions are conducted by members of School personnel (and external specialist musicians, if applicable).

Generally, scholarships are awarded at 50% of Tuition Fees and up to 100% of Instrumental Music Tuition Fees for one instrument, subject to conditional means testing in some cases. The Principal has the discretion to consider amending the concession amount where family and school circumstances determine such a need.

The process for Music Scholarships is set out in the attached protocol (Appendix).

Music scholarship expectations and review. The successful music scholarship applicant is expected to take an active part in the musical life at the School. This includes attendance at lessons, classes, rehearsals and specified events/activities. Each successful applicant is expected to be part of one or more ensembles that have a specific need for their instrument. The ensemble involvement is determined by the Head of Performing Arts through the letter of offer to the successful applicant.

It is also expected that Music scholarship recipients will participate in the elective music curriculum program at Years 9, 10 and VCE. An annual review of all scholarships will be undertaken by the Head of Performing Arts to ascertain the progress of the student.

An annual review meeting may be conducted in the second semester between the student, parent(s) and Head of Performing Arts (a member of the School Senior Leadership Team may also attend) in order to determine the ongoing tenure of the scholarship based on the progress of instrumental study and the commitment to musical life at the School. This review will assess any objectives set by the Head of Performing Arts with the student at the beginning of each year. The Head of Performing Arts will make a recommendation to the Principal regarding the continuation of the scholarship and the Principal will advise the family of the review decision thereafter.

Special Scholarships

General Excellence Scholarships are awarded from time to time at the discretion of the Principal. Such scholarships are awarded where an applicant demonstrates a significant level of achievement in a particular co-curricular or social justice activity or pursuit. The student will be of fine character and may either have demonstrated a concern for the broader community, excelled in a wide range of interests and talents (normally at an elite level), actively participated in their school community, and/or shown fine leadership skills with a commitment to her academic studies and ability.

The School has been fortunate to have benefactors who have supported endowments for a number of specific purpose scholarships including:

- The Ruth Bunyan Endowment Fund – to assist one student who is a daughter of an Alumnae who without the support of a concession would otherwise not be able to attend the School.
- Old Strathconian Association Scholarship – awarded to one current student to complete their studies at the School subject to a specific advertised application process and criteria.
- Beth McLaren Smallwood Scholarship Program – this scholarship is funded by the Beth Smallwood Trust to support prospective students who have a hearing impairment. The application is subject to hearing and academic assessment in addition to a family means test.

Each Scholarship type will have a specific application process and clear criteria statement set out online including details of what the applicant must provide.

The Special Scholarships are subject to review in accordance with the respective terms and conditions of the trust, donor or agreement in place. All Scholarship holders are expected to actively participate in the life of the School and meet all academic, attendance and behavioural requirements.

Expectations, Commitment and Review

All scholarship holders, together with their parents / guardians will be required to accept and sign a Scholarship Agreement that will detail the concession conditions. This will include committing to the ethos, program and expectations of the School. The agreement will also include details of the annual performance review.

Withdrawal

In the event that a student who receives a scholarship departs the School prior to completing their schooling at Strathcona, the family will be required to pay the equivalent of tuition fees that have been discounted for the period enrolled under the scholarship arrangement. The amount to be reimbursed by the family may only be changed at the discretion of the Principal in circumstances such as the family having to relocate interstate or internationally due to parents work commitments.

Reporting and Review

The Program will be subject to review and reporting by the School Senior Leadership Team. The Policy will be formally reviewed every three (3) years.

Appendix

Music Scholarship Protocol

DATE ADOPTED: 20th August 2019

Appendix

Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School Music Scholarship Protocol

Application Process

Each applicant for a Music Scholarship will undertake a practical audition process. Auditions are held at the advertised date and applicants will be required to register for an audition on the day.

Applicants will perform (subject to annual review):

- Two contrasting pieces (no more than 10 minutes duration in total)
- Technical work (a study or vocalise, scales and arpeggios)
- A sight reading exercise (provided by the Head of Performing Arts)
- An aural test (pitching of notes, scale recognition, chords)
- A short aural theory test based on basic musical knowledge.

Applicants who learn more than one instrument may audition in more than one instrument. Each applicant must provide her own accompanist. The use of backing tracks is NOT allowed. Applicants must provide a copy of each work to the Head of Performing Arts before the start of the audition.

Successful applicants who have auditioned on more than one instrument will only be awarded a Music Scholarship on one instrument.

Applicants for Music Scholarships should have attained the following levels at the time of application:

| Year Level | Instrument | AMEB Grade or Equivalent |
|------------|---|---|
| Year 7 | Violin / Pianoforte Other String Instruments Woodwind Brass Percussion Harp Voice | Grade 5 Grade 4 Grade 4 Grade 4 Audition only Audition only Not available at this level |
| Year 9 | Violin / Pianoforte Other String Instrument Woodwind Brass Percussion Voice Harp | Grade 7 Grade 6 Grade 6 Grade 6 Audition only Audition only Audition only |
| Year 11 | Violin / Pianoforte Other String Instrument Woodwind Brass Percussion Voice Harp | Grade 8 Grade 7 Grade 7 Grade 7 Audition only Audition only Audition only |