THE STEWARDSHIP OF FUNDS

The 1541 Club | King's Ely Bursary Fund

Founded in 970 AD to educate the children at the monastery of Ely, and granted its Royal Charter in 1541, King's Ely has always been committed to widening access to an exceptional education.

The 1541 Club continues that mission by ensuring that talented and deserving pupils can join the School, regardless of financial circumstance.

1541 CLUB

How Bursaries Work

Gifts to the 1541 Club provide means-tested bursaries that can cover up to 100% of school fees. In some cases, this support also helps with uniform, books, and essential extras such as educational trips and equipment.

Bursaries are offered to:

- **New pupils** who meet entry criteria but cannot afford full fees.
- **Existing pupils** whose families experience unexpected hardship.

All awards are made on the advice of the Principal and at the discretion of the Governors, who are committed to broadening access through means-tested financial support.

How the Process Works

Each bursary application is assessed confidentially and independently.

- **Assessments** are conducted by Bursary Administration Limited (BAL), who review family finances and may undertake a home visit.
- **The Bursary Committee (chaired by the Principal with oversight of Governors)** then considers the BAL recommendation and determines the award amount.
- **Decisions** are reviewed annually to reflect any changes in family circumstances.

Categories of Support

Requests for assistance fall into five broad categories:

1. Families able to contribute less than 15% of fees.
2. Scholars, Award holders, or Choristers whose parents cannot afford the full fees.
3. Applicants with particular need for or potential to benefit from a King's Ely education.
4. Existing pupils facing sudden or unforeseen financial change.
5. Other applicants whose parents cannot meet the full fees.

Priority is given to Categories 1–3, ensuring that those with greatest need and promise receive support first.

Governance and Oversight

The Governors of King's Ely have ultimate responsibility for all bursary funds and ensure that every award aligns with the School's charitable purpose and policies.

- Gifts to the Bursary Fund are ring-fenced solely for bursaries and never used for general expenditure.
- The Bursary Fund is professionally invested for maximum growth and income in accordance with the School's Investment Policy, under the oversight of the Governing Body.
- The Finance and Bursary Committee manages awards in line with charity law and best practice.
- All awards are means-tested, subject to annual review, and monitored for impact.

The total level of bursary provision is fixed annually by the Governors, ensuring responsible stewardship and long-term sustainability.

Your Impact

Every gift, from £15.41 a month to a transformational bursary endowment, helps a child:

- Access a life-changing education rooted in confidence, curiosity, and compassion.
- Belong fully to the King's Ely community, regardless of background. Through the 1541 Club, donors are helping to ensure that potential, not privilege, defines opportunity.

Find Out More

To learn more about how your gift supports bursaries, please contact:

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