

# *St. Michael's College*



## *Bursary Programme*

*(October 2023)*

## **Introduction**

***Believe, Belong, Become:*** St. Michael's College is an Irish Catholic School under the guidance of the Spiritan Congregation inspired by Christian ideals to create an environment in which the whole school community can achieve its social, intellectual, physical, emotional, cultural and spiritual potential in a friendly and caring atmosphere. The College is committed to a programme of social inclusion and responsibility. We believe that all students, parents and teachers are entitled to be treated fairly in relation to important educational decisions which affect their lives, especially concerning admission, attendance, inclusion, assessment and provision for those with any special educational needs.

## **Bursary Programme**

In line with our Mission Statement, the College provides an independently funded Bursary Programme for eligible pupils. This is primarily aimed at local DEIS schools. The vision is that boys of less fortunate economic backgrounds and circumstances have the opportunity to benefit from a Spiritan education to help them realise their potential to become agents for social change, not only within their local community, but also in the wider world. The College believes such a bursary would benefit the recipients as well as the whole College community.

St. Michael's College Bursary Programme is independently funded by the entire St. Michael's College Community including parents. As the programme grows, the College will seek contributions from a wider variety of sources, such as past pupils and the business community. The programme provides a number of Board of Management specified places on an annual basis. Places are restricted only by the amount of the resources at the Board's disposal to support the programme. The Bursary Programme as an integral component of the St. Michael's College ethos and commitment to Development Education, serving as a living example of the challenge of the school motto - "*Quis ut Deus -- Who is like unto God*".

## **Process for a Student Applying for a Bursary**

### **Number of Places**

The Board of Management of the College shall annually determine the number of places in the school to be reserved through the Bursary Programme. This independently funded programme is for students who could not otherwise attend the College due to their family's financial challenges. Application does not mean automatic right to enrolment. The Board of Management reserves the right to give final approval to the successful applicants. In the event of the number of applications exceeding the

number of bursaries available, the Board of Management and/or its designated representatives will decide who most accurately fulfil the criteria for selection.

### **Application Criteria**

Applications for the St. Michael's College Bursary should meet some of the criteria set out below:

1. Family has an income of less than €60,000 per year or such sum as set annually by the Board of Management.
2. Applicant has a demonstrable interest in academics, music, or sports that they believe will be nurtured and fostered in the College and whose parents /guardians can demonstrate an inability to pay school fees.
3. Family has a Medical Card or GP Visit Card.
4. Family receives a Means Tested Social Assistance Payment
5. Single parent family.
6. The applicant is currently attending a school as approved by the Board of Management for this programme. At present, St. Patrick's BNS, Dublin 4 is approved.

### **Commitment of Parents and Guardians of Applicants**

The College wishes to see in the parents/guardians of applicants a strong support for the Mission statement of the College. A commitment to the values embodied in the College's ethos and a willingness to involve themselves as parent(s)/guardian(s) in the life of the school is essential.

Especially important is evidence of a commitment to the promotion of the faith, a desire that their son develops his spiritual values and grows in concern for others. In the senior cycle (including Transition Year), students will be offered a wide choice of opportunities that challenges them to think, reflect, discuss, pray and act upon what they believe. The College would like parents/guardians to be enthusiastic in supporting their son's participation in this programme.

### **Commitment of the Applicant**

A primary consideration to be ascertained is whether or not the boy himself wants to attend St. Michael's College. Research from similar programmes has shown that a boy who really wants to go to his local school and is forced by his parents/guardians to avail of a bursary may end up unhappy and not reach his full potential. This is not a desired outcome. Therefore, it is important that the boy himself must express a desire to attend the College.

Students who have a desire to attend and apply themselves to their studies will benefit most from what the College has to offer. St. Michael's College is a school that places a high value on good academic performance and boys are expected to work to the best of their ability to fulfil their academic potential.

Students who become involved in the College's extra-curricular activities are more likely to enjoy their time at St. Michael's College. The College offers a rich and diverse programme of extracurricular activities including drama, choir, sport and music and there are a variety of clubs in the College, e.g., STEM Club. The College operates on the principle of mutual respect. Students will find that they are gradually treated more and more as adults as they progress through the College. Boys who are respectful, concerned for the well-being of others and generous of spirit make for the happiest students at St. Michael's College.

### **Written Application**

Expression of interest for enrolment through the St. Michael's College Bursary Programme is by way of written application. The [Bursary Programme Application Form](#) (see Appendix 1) is available on the College's website under Admissions or may be obtained from the College's Development Office, Telephone: 01-2189421 or Email: [development@stmc.ie](mailto:development@stmc.ie).

It is important that all of the application details, documents, etc., are submitted with the application form. Parents may submit additional information other than that required by the College's enrolment application form. All information submitted will be treated in the strictest confidence.

### **Time Frame for Applications**

Written application for the College's Bursary Programme should reach the College on or before **January 31<sup>st</sup>** in the year the applicant is in **Fifth Class** in primary school. **For example**, application forms must be completed and returned to the Development Office, St. Michael's College, Ailesbury Road, Dublin 4 by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 for enrolment in August 2026. Acknowledgement of receipt of application will be forwarded to Parent(s)/Guardian.

### **Early/Late Applications**

No priority is given to those who apply earlier than others. The Board reserves the right to amend the date of application due to unforeseen circumstances, for example, the Covid-19 crisis.

## **Application Interview/Meeting**

An applicant who most appropriately meets the criteria for the available places, along with his parent(s)/guardian(s), will meet two delegates of the Board in the applicant's home and/or school. This meeting will take the form of an interview and information dissemination process.

## **Confirmation of Application**

Should both parties agree that the College is a suitable environment in which the boy should pursue his second level education, the parent/guardian will complete the standard Enrolment Application Form. It must be noted that this is not an entitlement to a place in first year. It is at the discretion of the Board to offer a Bursary to an applicant. As the Board is the final arbitrator, there is no appeal process.

## **Offer of a Bursary**

All bursaries are for a six year period covering fees and miscellaneous expenses such as books and uniform. Classroom materials are not necessarily covered under the Bursary Programme; however, where the need arises, these expenses may also be covered. Other expenses will be at the discretion of the Board of Management. In the event of a professional assessment being required, the Bursary Programme funds will cover such expenses. The ultimate financial value of any Bursary is strictly confidential between parents, the Principal and the School's financial management. Pupils will not be told the size of the awards. The Board of Management makes the offer of the Bursary places to the parents/guardians of the suitable applicants.

## **Confirmation of Acceptance of Offer of a Bursary.**

Applicants who are being offered a bursary will be invited to confirm, in writing, acceptance or otherwise within 14 days of the posting of the offer. **Failure to accept the place** in writing within 14 days will result in the place being forfeit.

A tour of the school for both applicants and parents/guardians will be arranged by appointment before the start of First Year.

## **Information**

For further information arising from the policy please contact Mr Liam Hogan, St. Michael's College Bursary Coordinator or Ms Judith Hally Development Manager.

# St. Michael's College

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