

Wordsworth Singers

Policy on Bursaries

Final adopted 24th September 2025

Adopted as revised 14th September 2026

1. This policy sets out the principles and practice to apply where bursaries are offered to potential members of the Choir (also referred to in the Constitution as the Society).

Principles

2. The Trustees may offer a bursary to a potential member where it would be in the interests of the potential member and the Choir to do so, e.g. the potential member may be a student or unwaged or the Choir may have a need for new members in a particular section.
3. No more than two bursaries may be offered to run at the same time for all or part of the duration of either bursary.
4. The decision to offer a bursary shall be a decision of a simple majority of the trustees of the Choir attending a meeting where the decision is to be made.
5. The Trustees shall take into account the views of the Director of Music (DoM) when making their decision, as well as the views of the Treasurer of the Choir as to the financial viability of offering such a bursary.
6. The bursary shall last for up to 12 months from the start date fixed by the Trustees and shall comprise a payment of £50 to the recipient for each project in which they have participated and sung in the concert during the bursary period.
7. The Trustees may terminate the bursary at any time where they consider that the terms of the bursary are not being fulfilled or they believe it would be in the interests of the Choir to do so. In this instance, the recipient of the bursary will be given 14 days' notice of the intention to consider terminating the bursary.

The decision to terminate the bursary shall require a simple majority of the Trustees attending a meeting to consider terminating the bursary. The Trustees shall take into account the views of the DoM when deciding whether to terminate a bursary.

8. During a bursary period the recipient may be offered membership of the Choir in accordance with the Policy on Membership and the Constitution, but they shall not be required to pay any subscription to the choir for their membership during the period of their bursary.

Practice

9. The bursary shall comprise:
- payment of £50 for each project in which they have participated and sung in the concert during the bursary period;
 - free membership (for 2025/2026 this equates to £150);
 - music supplied free of charge;
 - the opportunity to receive expert coaching from a professional singer who teaches at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland;
 - free participation at any Choral Days and other Choral Workshops.
10. It will be the responsibility of any recipient of any bursary to promote the objectives of the Choir as set out in the Constitution and to engage fully in the preparation, rehearsal and performance of each project in which they participate. Recipients will:
- be expected to participate in a minimum of two projects for the season (save in exceptional circumstances);
 - be subject to the same attendance requirements as full members;
 - regard membership of the choir as a serious commitment and be prepared to learn the music before rehearsals begin.

Applications

11. Applications for the bursary should be sent to the Scheme Administrator by email finance@wordsworthsingers.org.uk Applicants should include the following:
- name and contact details;
 - voice part;
 - their singing experience;
 - how they think they would benefit from this opportunity; and
 - how they heard about the bursary.

12. Applications may be accepted from singers who have not yet reached their 18th birthday, subject to the Choir being able to provide adequate safeguarding arrangements.

SM 13.09.2026