



16-19 Bursary Policy

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Date Approved by Governing Body: | October 2025 |
| Review Period: | Annually |
| Next Review Date: | October 2026 |

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Aims | 3 |
| 2. Guidance | 3 |
| 3. Definitions | 3 |
| 4. Roles and responsibilities..... | 4 |
| 5. How we use the bursary fund | 4 |
| 6. Eligibility criteria for the 16 to 19 bursaries..... | 4 |
| 7. Application and payment process | 7 |
| 8. Change in circumstances..... | 8 |
| 9. Record keeping | 8 |
| 10. Unspent funds..... | 8 |
| 11. Monitoring arrangements | 8 |
| 12. Application Form | 9 |

1. Aims

Our school aims to:

- Have clear and transparent processes for the use and allocation of 16 to 19 bursary funds
- Make clear to parents/carers and students the type of support that is available and the means of applying for it
- Make clear to parents/carers and students the attendance and behaviour conditions for receiving the funds

2. Guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on the [16 to 19 bursary fund for the 2024 to 2025 academic year](#).

3. Definitions

- 'In care' is defined as: children looked after by a local authority on a voluntary basis (section 20 of the [Children Act 1989](#)) or under a care order ([section 31](#) of the Children Act 1989)
- 'Looked after child' is defined as: a child in the care of a local authority or who is provided with accommodation by the authority in the exercise of any functions for more than 24 hours ([section 22](#) of the Children Act 1989)
- 'Care leaver' is defined as:
 - A young person aged 16 and 17 who was previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16, or
 - A young person aged 18 or above who was looked after prior to becoming 18 for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16
 -

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for approving and monitoring this 16 to 19 bursary fund policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the headteacher.

4.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with this 16 to 19 bursary fund policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Our staff are responsible for implementing this 16 to 19 bursary fund policy consistently.

The senior leadership team (SLT) will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents/carers

Parents/carers are expected to notify staff or the headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding this 16 to 19 bursary fund policy.

5. How we use the bursary fund

Financial support is available to eligible students from the 16 to 19 bursary fund. See section 6 below for details of our eligibility criteria.

The fund is intended to support students aged 16 to 19 in overcoming specific financial barriers to participation so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- Bursaries for defined vulnerable groups; and
- Discretionary bursaries

We use the fund to provide students with support to fund:

- Transport
- Books
- Equipment
- Field trips and other course-related costs
- The costs of attending further education and placement interviews and open days
- Other support to enable students to attend on a regular basis, where a family's financial position is acting as a barrier to accessing education.

6. Eligibility criteria for the 16 to 19 bursaries

Please note: the following eligibility criteria will be assessed **in addition** to the individual student's actual financial needs. No student will automatically be awarded an amount of funding without an assessment of the level of actual financial need they have.

6.1 Age

To be eligible for either bursary in the 2024 to 2025 academic year, students must be at least 16 years old but under 19 years old on 31 August 2024.

Students aged 19 or over are eligible only for a discretionary bursary if they:

- Are continuing on a study programme or course that they began when they were aged 16 to 18-years-old, or
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan

Students aged 19 or over are not eligible for bursaries for defined vulnerable groups.

In exceptional circumstances, where students under 16 years old are on a funded 16 to 19 study programme at our school, we may use our discretion to pay bursaries to these younger students. However, if these students are enrolled at another institution that receives public funding for them, they will not be eligible for bursary funding.

6.2 Eligible education provision

Students must be participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body that assures quality (e.g. Ofsted). The provision must also fall into 1 of these groups:

- Be funded directly by the ESFA or by the ESFA via a local authority;
- Be funded or co-financed by the European Social Fund;
- Be otherwise publicly funded and lead to a qualification (up to and including level 3) that is accredited by Ofqual or is on the ESFA's list of qualifications approved for funding 14 to 19; or
- Be a 16 to 19 traineeship programme

Non-employed students aged 16 to 19 who are participating in a Prince's Trust Team Programme are also eligible to receive a bursary in the same way as any other student participating in an eligible, publicly funded course.

Students are not eligible if:

- They are on an apprenticeship programme; or
- Are on any waged training

Students who are studying via distance learning are eligible for either 16 to 19 bursary, but are likely to require financial help on a more infrequent basis (e.g. travel to exams). If this is the case, we will provide support in-kind, such as a travel pass, details of which shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

6.3 Residency

Students must meet the residency criteria in the [ESFA funding regulations for post-16 provision](#).

6.4 Asylum seekers

Accompanied asylum seekers under 18 with an adult relative or partner, and asylum seekers aged 18 and above are entitled to education but are not entitled to public funds. If necessary, they can apply to the Home Office for suitable housing and cash for essentials.

We will provide in-kind support such as books, equipment and a travel pass to asylum seekers who have not had asylum refused.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children:

- Are the responsibility of the local authority;
- Are to be treated as 'looked after' children; and
- Are eligible for a bursary for vulnerable groups, where they have a financial need

When these students reach 18-years-old, we will consider their immigration status. They will still be eligible for a bursary as a student from a defined vulnerable group if the asylum claim is in their favour and will be treated as a 'care leaver' until they reach the upper age limit.

6.5 Bursaries for young people in defined vulnerable groups

Students with a financial need, who meet 1 of the following 4 criteria below, in addition to the criteria outlined in sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 above, can apply for a bursary for vulnerable groups.

The defined vulnerable groups are students who are:

- In care (NB: those who are privately fostered are not classed as looked after);
- Care leavers;
- Receiving Income Support (IS) or Universal Credit (UC) because they are financially supporting themselves, or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner; or

- Receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIPs) in their own right, as well as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or UC in their own right

UC has now replaced IS, as well as other benefits above, for current and future young people aged 16 to 18. However, students aged 19 to 25 and funded from the 16 to 19 budget (19+ continuers and students with an EHC plan) may still receive the legacy benefits listed above.

Students who meet the criteria for a bursary for vulnerable groups are not automatically entitled to a bursary. Students will not receive the bursary if they do not have any actual financial need (for example, because their financial needs are met from other sources and/or because they have no relevant costs).

Where a bursary is provided, the funds will generally be up to £1,200 per year for study programmes lasting 30 weeks or more. When calculating the amount, cases will be looked at individually and the outcome based on a particular student's needs. Students will only receive the amount they actually need to participate and will not automatically receive £1,200 if they do not need the full amount.

We can use our discretion, on a case-by-case basis, and provide more than £1,200 per year if such would be necessary in all the circumstances for the student to remain in education. Any such additional payment will be paid either from our discretionary bursary allocation or our own funds.

If a student's study programme lasts for less than 30 weeks, they will be paid a pro-rata amount. We will also consider the number of hours involved in a student's study programme when deciding whether a pro-rata payment is more appropriate.

We will review the student's eligibility position each academic year. Students will only continue to receive a bursary for vulnerable groups if they continue to satisfy the criteria.

We will provide this support for students from the bursary fund by making payments in kind where possible. It will not be provided as regular payments for living costs.

6.6 Discretionary bursaries

In addition to the criteria outlined in sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 above, students can apply for a discretionary bursary if they satisfy 1 or more of the following criteria:

- Your household income. Please note, the Bursary is aimed at supporting students from households whose income is primarily less than £30,000 per year (evidence to be provided as detailed on application form).
- Applications from students in receipt of Free School Meals will be considered without the provision of further evidence following receipt of the completed application.

Students who meet the criteria for bursaries for vulnerable groups are not entitled to a bursary if they do not have financial needs and/or their financial needs are covered from other sources.

Please use the relevant form below to apply for either the vulnerable groups bursary or the discretionary bursary. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Students who do not satisfy any of the criteria listed in this section, but who are able to demonstrate financial hardship arising from other reasons, may apply for a discretionary bursary.

There is no set limit for the amount of discretionary bursary that can be awarded to students. We will base all decisions around which students receive a discretionary bursary, and how much bursary they receive, on each student's individual circumstances and their actual financial need.

We will review the student's eligibility position each academic year. Students will only continue to receive a discretionary bursary if they continue to satisfy the criteria.

6.7 Evidence

All applications for 16 to 19 bursaries must be supported by appropriate evidence. Examples of acceptable evidence we may request are:

- A copy of the UC or IS award notice, in the student's name
- Documents such as a tenancy agreement in the student's name, a child benefit receipt, birth certificate or utility bills
- Written confirmation of the student's current or previous looked-after status from the relevant local authority
- A copy of the UC claim from Department of Work and Pensions

7. Application and payment process

7.1 Applications

Applications should ideally be submitted by 30 November 2024 to allow enough time for our school to assess the overall level of demand and make discretionary awards on a fair basis. This date will be clearly stated on the application form.

However, we acknowledge that students' circumstances may change and therefore the application process will remain open for the whole school year.

Applicants will be notified in writing (either via email or via letter) whether their application has been successful, together with the amount of funding awarded. If a student wishes to appeal the outcome of their application for a bursary, they must follow the school's complaints procedure.

7.2 Payment process

Payments are made using the following process:

- In-kind payments, such as travel passes, books, equipment or vouchers for meals
- Periodic payments by BACS transfer to the student's bank account following proof of agreed purchase

7.3 Conditions for the receipt of bursary payments

Payments of the bursary are conditional on students meeting the following conditions in relation to their standards of attendance and behaviour:

- Attendance above a 85% [subject to exceptional circumstances]
- Following the school's Behaviour Policy

All students are required to sign a declaration confirming that they agree to these conditions.

Students who fail to meet these conditions may have their payment withheld, but we will always take students' individual circumstances into consideration. This includes considering the impact on attendance that might be caused by illness, caring responsibilities or other exceptional circumstances.

We will stop payments where students have been absent for a period of 4 continuous weeks or more (excluding holidays) and where students have decided to withdraw from a study programme.

We reserve the right to take back money from students where it is not spent for the reasons it was awarded.

We will consider the impact of such an action on the individual student before taking a final decision to do so, and any decision will be confirmed to the student in writing.

8. Change in circumstances

If there are changes in circumstances that may affect eligibility for a bursary, applicants and/or parents/carers must notify the school without delay.

9. Record keeping

Any paperwork and documents we retain for audit purposes (for example, copies of application forms, documents as evidence and any agreements signed by students) will be kept securely in line with our data protection policy, privacy notices and record retention schedule.

10. Unspent funds

Funding for discretionary bursary funding cannot be carried forward for more than 1 year. Unspent funding must be reported to the ESFA using the [online enquiry form](#), specifying the amount of funding and the year/s it relates to, no later than 31 March each year. The ESFA will recover all unspent funds.

11. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the School Business Leader annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

16 to 19 Bursary Fund Application: Defined Vulnerable Groups Bursary

Defined Vulnerable Group Bursary: for students in financial need who are in care, care leavers, students receiving Income Support (or Universal Credit) in their own name and disabled students in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence payments.

Please read the School's Bursary guidance carefully before completing and submitting your application.

Section A (to be completed by the student or parent/carer)

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| Student's full name: | | Tutor Group: | |
| Student's full address including postcode: | | | |
| Contact telephone number: | | | |
| Email address: | | | |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| I wish to claim support from the 16 to 19 Defined Vulnerable Group bursary fund, and I provide the following information as evidence of my personal circumstances (please tick as appropriate and attach documentary evidence) | |
| | <i>Tick as appropriate</i> |
| Written Local Authority evidence of looked-after or care status, or of previous looked-after status. | |
| For students in receipt of Income Support who are financially supporting themselves / and someone who is dependent on them, a copy of the award notice in their own name. | |
| For students in receipt of Universal Credit who are financially supporting themselves / and someone who is dependent on them who is living with them, a copy of the award notice in their own name, plus a tenancy agreement in the student's name, a child benefit receipt, a child benefit receipt, child(ren)'s birth certificate, utility bills etc. | |
| For students in receipt of Universal Credit or Employment and Support Allowance in their own right , a copy of the claim / award notice, plus evidence of receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments. | |
| Other relevant financial evidence relating to household income or circumstances (please specify). | |

Information provided is for this purpose only and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

I confirm that I have read the school's attached guidance, and the information provided on this form is correct.

I understand that any false information given, or failure to notify the Post 16 administrator of a change in personal circumstances, will result in disqualification of support, and may result in further action.

I understand that I may have to repay part or all of this assistance offered if my attendance, conduct, or progress is not satisfactory.

I confirm I consider myself / my child to be in financial need.

Student signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian signature:

Date:

Section B (to be completed by the student)

Student Bank/Building Society Details

To receive payments, you must have a bank account in your own name. If you do not have a bank account, you need to open one before completing this form

Name of Account Holder:

Name of Bank:

Branch Address:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

Please note that if your application for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is unsuccessful these details will be shredded. For those that are successful, these details will be kept securely and confidentially, in line with ESFA requirements.

Section C (to be completed by Bursary Fund Administrator)

| | |
|---|------------------|
| I have seen the evidence required for the full bursary and have placed copies on the student's files. | |
| Bursary Committee members in attendance: | Date of meeting: |
| Award approved / amount: | |
| Actions agreed to reimburse student: | |
| Administrator name and signature: | Date: |
| Finance authorisation: | Date: |

16 to 19 Bursary Fund Application: Discretionary Bursary

Discretionary Bursary: for students from lower income households where support is necessary to overcome financial barriers and enable participation. This would typically include students from households in receipt of benefits OR students with an identifiable financial need.

Section A (to be completed by the student)

Discretionary Bursary Criteria

Your household income is one of the criteria which will help us assess your level of need. Please tick beside one of the bands below.

| Banding | Income | Tick |
|---------|---|------|
| Band 1 | My Household income is less than £16,000 per year | |
| Band 2 | My household income is more than £16,000 but less than £20,000 per year | |
| Band 3 | My household income is more than £20,000 but less than £30,000 per year | |

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------|--|
| Student's full name: | | Tutor Group: | |
| Student's full address including postcode: | | | |
| Contact telephone number: | | | |
| Email address: | | | |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| I wish to claim support from the 16 to 19 discretionary bursary fund, and I provide the following information as evidence of my household circumstances (please tick as appropriate and attach documentary evidence). All documentation should relate to the current financial year. Please note you do not have to provide all of the evidence below – any evidence you provide will be taken into consideration. | |
| | <i>Tick as appropriate</i> |
| Universal Credit, Income Support, or Employment and Support Allowance: all pages of the 3 most recent award statements showing earnings for each period. | |
| Disability Living Allowance, Carers Allowance, or Personal Independence Payments. | |
| P60 or 2 months' pay slips or 4 weekly slips dated within 3 months. | |
| Audited accounts or official tax return or tax credits showing self-employed income. | |
| Pension - official letter showing an ongoing pension. | |

| | |
|---|------|
| Council Tax Reduction - all pages of an official letter showing ongoing benefit. | |
| Child Tax Credit and Income above £16,190 per year - all pages of the tax credits award or bank statements showing 3 consecutive payments dated within 3 months. | |
| Entitlement to any other benefits - housing benefit etc | |
| Details of any other income / earnings | |
| Other relevant evidence relating to household income or circumstances (please specify), e.g. in receipt of free school meals in Year 11, number of dependent children etc. | |
| Information provided is for this purpose only and will be treated in the strictest confidence. | |
| Please detail what financial support you need and the costs applicable to the best of your knowledge when submitting the claim e.g. travel, essential books, equipment or specialist clothing (such as protective overalls, for example). | Cost |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Total costs applicable: | £ |

NB: For audit purposes all receipts, invoices, etc must be filed with this claim to verify payment.

I confirm that I have read the attached guidance, and the information provided on this form is correct.

I understand that any false information given, or failure to notify the Post 16 administrator of a change in personal circumstances, will result in disqualification of support, and may result in further action.

I understand that I may have to repay part or all of this assistance offered if my attendance, conduct, or progress is not satisfactory.

I confirm I consider myself / my child to be in financial need.

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Student signature: | Date: |
| Parent/Guardian signature: | Date: |

Section B (to be completed by the student)

Student Bank/Building Society Details

To receive payments, you must have a bank account in your own name. If you do not have a bank account, you need to open one before completing this form

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------|--|
| Name of Account Holder: | | | |
| Name of Bank: | | | |
| Branch Address: | | | |
| Account Number: | | Sort Code: | |

Please note that if your application for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is unsuccessful these details will be shredded. For those that are successful, these details will be kept securely and confidentially.

Section C (to be completed by school)

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| I have seen the evidence required for the full bursary and have placed copies on the student's files. | |
| Recommended by: AHT Post 16 <i>Comments:</i> | Signature: Date: |
| Approved by: HT or SBL <i>Comments</i> | Signature: Date: |
| Award approved / amount: | |
| Actions agreed to reimburse student: | |