

16-19 Bursary Fund 2016/17



Information for parents / carers

1. What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was closed at the end of the 2011-12 academic year. The EMA was replaced by a limited 16-19 Bursary Fund and the School has been allocated an amount for the purpose of supporting financially disadvantaged young people taking up or continuing in their Post-16 education or training.

2. What is it for?

The 16-19 Bursary is a limited fund made available for supporting eligible young people with the costs of transport, food, books, educational visits or other course materials or equipment essential to successfully completing their programme of study. The school has decided to allocate a greater share of these limited funds to those qualifying students incurring significant transport costs

3. Who is it for?

The 16-19 Bursary is targeted towards those young people considered most in need of financial support. The Government has identified a priority group of Vulnerable Young people who are offered a **Vulnerable Bursary**.

After this group has been considered, the School expects to have funding available for other young people in need of financial support. The School has set **eligibility criteria** to ensure the remaining funds go to those who need it most. Any young person who meets these eligibility criteria can apply for a **Discretionary Bursary**.

4. What are the eligibility criteria?

Young people can apply for a Bursary if they are aged 16, 17 or 18 at 31st August 2016; meet the national residency requirements and at least one of the criteria listed below.

They can apply for a **Vulnerable Bursary** if they are:

- currently or have previously been looked after by the Local Authority including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and/or;
- in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit (UC) in their own right, and/or;
- Disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments).

They can apply for a **Discretionary Bursary** if either:

- your gross annual household income does not exceed **£16,190 (Group Two) and 25,251 (Group Three)** and/or;
- the student, or a brother/sister, qualifies for Free School Meals (FSM), **(Group Two only)**, or;
- you receive any of the following benefits:
 - Income Support
 - Income Based Jobseekers Allowance

- Support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, or Working Tax Credit.

5. Can they still apply if they don't meet the eligibility criteria?

Yes, providing they meet the age and residency eligibility criteria. The School is keeping back some of the available 16-19 Bursary Fund as a **Hardship Fund** for exceptional circumstances for one-off payments or additional support with course related costs.

6. How and when do they apply?

To apply, they must complete the **16-19 Bursary Fund Application Form** (available from the school's website and Reception), and submit this to the Assistant Principal 6th Form with the correct supporting evidence by **30th September 2016**.

They can apply for a Bursary and Hardship Fund at any point in the year but those applying before the date above will be given priority. Bursaries can only be made after that date if sufficient funds are available. Please refer to the School's policy for further information.

7. How much is the Bursary?

The **Vulnerable Bursary** is up to **£1,200** and the **Discretionary Bursary** is up to **£800** group 2, up to **£400** for group 3.

The exact amount is dependent on individual circumstances and funds available.

8. Will the Bursary affect any benefits I may be receiving?

No, it will not affect any benefits or financial support you are receiving from elsewhere.

9. How and when does it get paid?

If your son or daughter applies and is successful, they will need a bank account on their own name for the Bursary to be paid directly into. It will be paid in monthly instalments.

The timing of payments is at the School's discretion and payments are subject to the student meeting School's 6th Form Learning Agreement, attendance and behaviour conditions.

10. How do I find out more?

See the **16-19 Bursary Fund Policy** available on the School website which provides further information, including details on eligibility criteria and **supporting evidence** needed, or your son or daughter can talk in confidence to the Assistant Principal Mrs Wilson if you have specific questions or need help or assistance in supporting your son or daughter to make an application.

Further national information on the 16-19 Bursary Fund can be found on the Department for Education website.