



Slough and Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College



A Member of Slough and East Berkshire C of E
Multi Academy Trust

16-19 Bursary Policy

Owner:	Mr Mike Weeks
Ratified by Governing Body:	<i>James M. Scragg</i>
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16-19 Bursary Fund 2015/16

1. Background

In March 2011, the Government announced a new 16-19 Bursary Fund scheme to provide financial assistance to those young people who face a financial barrier to continuing in education or training post-16. The scheme has been put in place as a partial replacement for the Education Maintenance Allowance, which closed to new applicants on 1st January 2011.

The 16-19 Bursary Fund has been allocated by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) the funding agency for 16-19 education and training.

This policy sets out the arrangements for how Slough and Eton Church of England Business and Enterprise College (The School) will prioritise and administer the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

The School is committed to ensuring the Fund is used to support financially disadvantaged young people taking up or continuing in their education or training post-16 and achieving their learning aim(s). The named contacts at the School for all 16-19 Bursary support/enquiries is Mrs Bow.

The Governing Body must ensure that Slough & Eton Church of England Business & Enterprise College policies, procedures and training are effective and comply with the law at all times. Where inconsistencies or shortcomings are identified, remedial action will be taken.

2. Bursaries Available

There are two types of Bursary available:

i. Guaranteed Bursary

A Guaranteed Bursary is available to all young people who meet the general eligibility criteria as set out in this policy *and* who have been identified as being most in need, as set out in this policy.

ii. Discretionary Bursary

A Discretionary Bursary is available to all young people who meet the general *and* additional eligibility criteria as set out in this policy.

3. Bursary Amounts

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a limited fund determined by the EFA. The School will retain 10% of the 16-19 Bursary Fund to administer the fund and to use as a hardship contingency fund to respond to exceptional or circumstantial in-year change. The contingency fund will be reviewed in April each year and any remaining funds will be distributed to eligible young people.

- The Guaranteed Bursary amounts are **up to £1,200**.
- The Discretionary Bursary amounts are **up to £400** subject to availability of remaining funds after consideration of young people in the Guaranteed Bursary Group.

A proportion of any Bursary may be retained by the School and used to support the central costs of books, equipment, and educational trips.



4. General Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a Bursary, all young people must be aged 16, 17 or 18 at 31st August of the current academic year. Details of the administration of the funding are set out in the 16-19 Bursary Fund (<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>). This also details national funding residency requirements including those for Asylum Seekers.

5. Additional Eligibility for Guaranteed Bursary

A Guaranteed Bursary of up to £1,200 is available to all young people who are identified as being:

- currently or previously looked after (for a period of at least 13 weeks since the age of 14) By the Local Authority, and/or;
- in receipt of Universal Credit in their own right, and/or;
- disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance *and Personal Independence Payment*.

6. Additional Eligibility for Discretionary Bursary

A Discretionary Bursary of up to £400 is available, subject to availability of remaining funds, to all young people where:

- they are entitled to Free School Meals.
- their gross annual household income, as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs, does not exceed £16,190 and/or;
- a sibling, qualifies for Free School Meals (FSM), and/or;
- where the young person's parent/guardian/carer(s) are in receipt of one of the following:

Income Support
Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
Child Tax Credit TC602

Once we have awarded Bursaries to the above categories, we will then review other applications from students whose income falls below £25,000.

7. Contingency Eligibility

Any young person meeting general eligibility requirements and facing financial hardship due to exceptional reason or circumstance change can apply to access the contingency funds on an individual basis by submitting an application in writing.

8. Those Not Eligible

Applications to the 16 -19 Bursary Fund are not open to young people aged under 16 or over 19 at 31 August 2015.

9. Evidence



All applications to access the 16-19 Bursary Fund must be supported by appropriate evidence. Copies of evidence shall be retained by the School to provide financial assurance as required. All evidence will be treated as confidential and destroyed within one year of the young person leaving the School.

Acceptable supporting evidence for the **Guaranteed Bursary** will be either a:

- Statement from the Local Authority confirming the young person's current or previous looked after status;
- An entitlement to Free School Meals.

10. Payments

Subject to meeting the condition requirements as detailed below, payments will be made in the following instalments on the last working day of the month:

- October (50%)
- January (25%)
- April (25%)

Payments will be via BACS (Banker's Automated Clearing Services) to a Bank Account in the name of the young person. The young person must have a valid account in their name unless there are exceptional reasons which mean an appointee has been named to manage the affairs of the young person.

11. Qualifying Condition Requirements

Eligible young people will need to complete a qualifying learning period of 6 weeks before they are able to receive Bursary payments. However, any eligible young person can make an application ahead of the six week qualifying period and in a case of extreme hardship, consideration will also be given for payment in advance of the six week period.

All young people in receipt of a Bursary must meet weekly punctuality and attendance requirements of 94% to ensure continued support. In addition, all young people in receipt of a Bursary must behave appropriately and submit work of an appropriate level and to required deadlines. If the young person does not meet these conditions, the school reserves the right to withdraw or suspend Bursary payments.

These conditions will not be additional to those expected of any young person within the School.

12. Application

Applications for a Bursary must be made using the correct Application Form and should be by 25th September each year. Applications made after this date will be considered as long as sufficient funds are available. However, once the Bursary Fund has been used, it will not be possible to consider further applications. The full policy can viewed on the web-site.



Consideration must be given to assisting any young person to make an application where they are unable to do so due to a level of learning difficulty and/or disability.

Consideration must also be given to assisting any young person in making an application where they are not able to provide supporting evidence due to difficulties with engagement or support from their parent/guardian/carer(s).

13. Process

All applications for a Bursary or to access the contingency fund will be assessed by a 16-19 Bursary Application Panel, consisting of:

- Ms A Browne (Company Secretary/Finance Director)
- Mrs Bow (Head of Sixth Form)

The Panel will review the application, supporting evidence and any other personal circumstantial evidence and young people will be notified of the outcome within two weeks of receipt.

14. Appeals

If any young person or their parent/guardian/carer(s) are not satisfied with the outcome of their application, they should write to the Headteacher outlining their reasons why. The Headteacher will convene a 16-19 Bursary Appeals Panel, consisting of:

- Headteacher
- School Governor
- Administrator

The Panel will consider and respond to appeals within two weeks of receipt. If the appeal is upheld or partly upheld it will be referred back to the 16-19 Bursary Application Panel with recommendations. If the appeal is not upheld the appealing party will be signposted to the School's Complaint Procedure.

15. Confidentiality

Applications and supporting evidence will be confidential to the 16-19 Bursary Application Panel and in the event of an appeal, the 16-19 Bursary Appeals Panel. The applications and supporting evidence will remain confidential during processing, payment and storage. If it is necessary to obtain additional information to reach a decision, the young person and/or their parent/guardian/carer(s) will be told the reasons why this is necessary prior to sharing any information further.

16. Change of Young Person's Financial Circumstances



Any young person in receipt of a Bursary has a duty to inform the School should if their financial circumstances change, or those of their parent/guardian/carer(s) change (e.g. increase in household income that would affect the young person's entitlement to Free School Meals). This does not automatically mean any future Bursary payments will be stopped but would result in a convening of the 16-19 Bursary Application Panel to determine whether the payments continue or be stopped and the funds redistributed.

17. Young Person Transferring

Where a young person in receipt of a Bursary transfers out of the School to another education/training provider in-year, the School will liaise with that provider to ensure continuity of Bursary payments to enable the young person to complete the learning aim(s).

Where a young person in receipt of a Bursary transfers in to the School from another education/training provider in-year, the School will liaise with that provider to ensure continuity of Bursary payments to enable the young person to complete the learning aim(s).

18. Young Person Withdrawing

Where a young person in receipt of a Bursary withdraws from the School, and does not transfer to another education/training provider, Bursary payments made prior to the date of withdrawal will *not* be recovered but any scheduled payments to be made after the date of withdrawal will not be made.

19. Supporting Documents

In addition to this policy being openly shared with all young people and their parent/guardian/carer(s), the following documents will be used in the 16-19 Bursary process:

1. Application Form
2. Information for young people
3. Information for parent/guardian/carer(s)

20. Further Information

Further national information on the 16-19 Bursary Fund can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/16to19/studentsupport/a0076147/16-to-19-bursary-frequently-asked-questions#faq3>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndlearning/14To19/MoneyTolearn/16to19bursary/DG 06 6955>

<http://media.education.gov>