



**Ormiston
Shelfield**
Community Academy

[OAT]
Ormiston Academies Trust
AN OAT ACADEMY

16-19 Bursary Fund Policy

2026-2027

Policy reviewed: September 2026

Next review: September 2027

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1. Summary

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- **Vulnerable Bursary** For young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups.
- **Discretionary Bursary** Awarded by the academy to meet individual needs i.e. help with the cost of transport to and from the academy, meals, books, equipment and school uniform/PE kit

You can find all the files required and the online application form using the following link:
<https://scacademy.co.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-bursary>

2. Eligibility Criteria

For students to be eligible for the bursary fund, students must meet the age and residency criteria as listed below:

- Be aged 16 or over and under 19 on 31st August 2026.
- Students aged 19 or over with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or continuing on a course you started aged 16 to 18 (known as being a '19+ continuer')
- Be enrolled on a full time course
- Meet the ESFA's residency criteria as set out in the DFE Funding Rules for post-16 provision.

3. Bursary Groups

This policy meets the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)'s 16-19 Bursary Fund Guide 2026-27, providing pupils with the opportunity to benefit from the fund at different levels according to individual circumstances. There are two groups at whom the academy policy is directed:

- **Bursary Level 1 – Vulnerable Student Bursaries**

The academy can approve up to £1,200 of bursary funding which will be paid to students who are in one of the following 'vulnerable groups' as defined by the EFSA:

- In Care or 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.

- Receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in addition to Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit (UC) – all benefits must be received by the student in their own right.

Students must be in receipt of DLA or PIP and ESA or UC to be eligible. Receipt of DLA or PIP alone does not meet the criteria.

If extra help is still required for the vulnerable student to remain in education, they can apply for a discretionary bursary.

- **Bursary Level 2 – Discretionary Bursaries (household income below £35,000)**

This is based on the financial position of the student's family, and their needs to continue in education. To be eligible, the student's family household income must be **below £35,000** per annum, to include income from employment, pensions payments, jobseekers allowance, universal credit, all tax credits including child tax credit and working tax credit, however, child benefit will be excluded.

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is limited. If funds remain after the above bursaries, students not in receipt of the above bursaries may apply towards the costs of transport, equipment, school trips in the UK, visits to universities etc. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, and must demonstrate a real need for assistance. Students applying will be required to provide evidence of family household income. Evidence of payment of costs will be required (please ensure you keep receipts where possible).

4. How to Apply

Students are required to complete the online 16-19 Bursary Funding application form in the presence of their parent/guardian via the following link [Bursary Application](#). The link can be accessed from the academy's website under the Sixth Form heading, then the Sixth Form Bursary section.

Details required:

- Student details
- Parent/Guardians details
- Household income details
- For vulnerable bursary applications – confirmation of status
- For discretionary bursary applications – confirmation of income
- Student Educational Needs
- Student's own bank account details (Bank account must be in the student's name)
- Declarations
- See Section 7 – Student Education Needs

Important

- Students and their parent/guardian must take great care to ensure information provided to the academy is correct and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief. Giving false or incomplete information (i.e. undeclared income) that leads to incorrect or overpayment may result in future payments being stopped and any incorrectly paid funds being recovered. It may also result in a referral to the police with the possibility of the student and/or their family facing prosecution.
- The bank account details provided must be in the **student's own name.**

Following the completion of the bursary application, the relevant evidence must be emailed to finance@scacademy.co.uk in order for the application to be assessed and processed. Please include the student's name in the title.

5. Evidence required:

Bursary Level 1- Vulnerable Student Bursaries

- **You** are living in care- written confirmation (email or letter) of current looked-after status from relevant local authority.
- **You** have recently left care- written confirmation (email or letter) of previous looked-after status from previous relevant local authority
- **You** are receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because you are financially supporting yourself, or financially supporting yourself and someone who is dependent on you and living with you, such as a child or partner- copy of IS or UC award notice.
- **You** are receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in your own right, as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in your own right- copy of ESA or UC award and evidence of receipt of DLA or PIP
- **You** must be in receipt of DLA or PIP and ESA or UC to be eligible. Receipt of DLA or PIP alone does not meet the criteria

Bursary Level 2-Discretionary Bursaries (household income below £35,000)

- Most recent award notices of any benefits received (this must clearly state the name of the person receiving the benefit). This does not include Child Benefit.
- Universal Credit - copies of 3 most recent monthly award statements prior to the application. Each copy must show all pages of the statement,
- If employed - payslips covering the 3 months prior to the application or latest P60
- If self-employed - authorised evidence of self-employment accounts
- Please give details of any unearned income i.e. shares/investments, savings and rental income

Important

All applications and evidence must be submitted by Friday 9th October 2026. Late applications will always be considered depending on funds remaining to be allocated, but payment cannot always be backdated.

6. Assessment Procedure

The awards listed below are the maximum payments, which can be made subject to the numbers of students who are accepted and **are not guaranteed**. They will be determined according to household income and costs expected by the student.

The amounts awarded to each student eligible for a level 2 bursary will also be determined by the total number of students who apply successfully before the deadline. The Bursary fund is a finite amount and, in cases where there are high numbers of eligible students, each student may receive less than the maximum. The Academy will seek to ensure total payments do not exceed funding provided by the ESFA.

Tier	Eligibility Criteria for Level 2 Bursaries	Maximum Bursary Awarded for whole year
A	Students in receipt of Free School Meals or family household income below £20,000 and in receipt of benefits	£1,000
B	Students with family income between £20,000 - £35,000	£800

Important

- For Tier B - evidence of household income for all parent(s) is required to support the application.
- Students who are in receipt of Free School meals (Tier A) will not be required to provide evidence of income – subject to confirmation from Walsall Council. You can find out if you are entitled to free school meals by visiting the Walsall Council website https://go.walsall.gov.uk/free_school_meals
- You will be notified by the academy finance team as to whether your application has been successful and how much bursary funding you have been allocated

7. Student Educational Needs

The list below is an example of the course related costs that students may receive bursary support for:

- Travel to and from place of education
- Academy uniform / sports kit / AVFC Football Academy kit
- Trips and UK education visits to achieve or support their study programme goals or course objectives -we may fund up to £200 for trips
- UCAS application fees
- University visits / interviews
- Curriculum materials / equipment, books, revision guides, consumables, etc.
- Examination fees including re-sit if applicable
- Music tuition fees – for tuition organised by the school.
- School meals – May be awarded a daily sum towards their meals
- Any other costs that will help students overcome financial barriers to participation in education

8. Payments

In order for students to be paid, they must complete the following steps:

- a) Students are required to upload their receipts via the following link [Claims](#).
The link can be accessed from the academy's website under the Sixth Form heading, then the Sixth Form Bursary section. Students must use their academy email address to access the Claim link.
- b) If a bursary is awarded towards school meals, a daily amount is credited to the student's meal account. Unused amounts cannot be carried forward. Students may have to top their account up for additional food
- c) The academy will endeavour where possible to make payments on behalf of the students. Please also note that some items may not be fully funded e.g. payment for an academy trip
- d) Payments are issued to students on a monthly basis, in arrears. At the end of each month receipts will be reviewed to ensure they meet the criteria of the bursary fund you were awarded. A BACS payment will be made into the student's bank account the following month.

Important

- It is imperative that all receipts are uploaded via the claims form above at the end of each month in order for payments to be made. Any receipts uploaded **after** the end of the month will be rolled over to the next claim period
- Payments may only be made with receipts that display full details of the purchase
- Full payment of the bursary to the student is dependent on the delivery of the **Conditions** listed in the next section

9. Conditions

Students must meet the following criteria in order to receive their bursaries:

- Have a target attendance of **95%**. Students with below 95% attendance are at risk of their bursary payments being withheld. Students with below 90% attendance will receive no bursary payments. *(Some allowance may be made for students for whom this is not possible, for example those with chronic or ongoing illness or other special circumstances that the school has previously been made aware of.)*
- Be punctual to all lessons.
- Demonstrate good behaviour.
- All work required by teaching staff will be submitted to the deadline set.

10. Confidentiality

The academy will ensure that applications are handled confidentially. For audit purposes, however, computerised copies of all documentation for learner support will be kept for a period of six years and will be held securely and in compliance with the Data Protection Act. The information will be made available for audit purposes.

11. Equal Opportunities

No applicant will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.