

# ***16-19 Bursary Fund Policy***

## ***2025/26***

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 16-19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help learners overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education.
- 1.2 There are two types of 16-19 bursaries:
- Bursaries for defined vulnerable groups.
  - Discretionary bursaries which institutions award using policies they set, in line with these funding rules

## 2. Eligibility

### 2.1 Eligibility for 16-19 bursary funding: age requirement

A learner must be aged 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August 2025 to be eligible for help from the bursary fund in the 2025/26 academic year.

Learners aged 19 or over are only eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16-18 (19+ continuers) or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) Plan. These two groups of aged 19+ learners can receive a discretionary bursary while they continue to attend education (in the case of a 19+ continuer, this must be the same programme they started before they turned 19), as long as their eligibility continues and their institution considers they need the support to continue their participation.

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

### 2.2 Eligible education provision requirement

Learners 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 one of these groups:

- Funded directly by the Department for Education (DfE), or by the DfE via a local authority.
- Funded or co-financed by the European Social Fund.
- Otherwise publicly funded and lead to a qualification (up to and including level 3) accredited by Ofqual or on the DfE list of qualifications approved for funding 14-19.
- A 16-19 traineeship programme.



## 2.3 Eligible groups

- (i) Young people in defined vulnerable groups:
- in care;
  - 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 Payments (PIP) in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or UC in their own right;
  - unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who are treated as looked after children and are eligible for a bursary for vulnerable groups ('in care' group), where they have a financial need.

The academy will require proof that learners meet the criteria for consideration as vulnerable learners.

- (ii) Accompanied asylum seeking children, provided their application has not been refused.
- (iii) Learners with proven financial need as defined below.

## 3. Allocation of funding

- 3.1 The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a limited fund and the academy prioritises allocation. There are three priority groups categorised as high, medium and low.

- High priority

Learners aged under 19 on 31 August 2025 and who are in a defined vulnerable group as set out in 2.3 above. Learners with a gross annual household income of below £25,000 as evidenced by individual assessment, with proven financial need.

The costs of transport, uniform, equipment and resources and expenses for university open days/interviews and job interviews will be met for eligible learners. Payments will be made on submission of receipts or direct to suppliers for uniform, equipment and transport (less any costs paid directly by the academy).

- Medium priority

Learners with a gross annual household income of below £27,000 as evidenced by individual assessment, with proven financial need.



Eligible learners in this group may be eligible for:

- a contribution towards the cost of transport, essential course equipment, trips, uniforms, materials, etc.
- financial support towards revision guides, exam re-sit fees if aged 19 or under on 31 August 2025.

Payments will be made on submission of receipts or direct to suppliers for uniform, equipment and transport

- Low priority

Learners with a gross annual household income of between £27,001 and £32,000 as evidenced by individual assessment, with proven financial need.

Learners in the low priority group will be considered for funding based on the academy allocation and subject to available funding after those in the high and medium priority groups have been awarded. Learners may receive a contribution towards the cost of essential course equipment, uniform and transport costs.

Payments will be made on an as needed basis or direct to suppliers for uniform, equipment and transport.

#### 4. Applying for 16-19 bursary funding

- 4.1 An application form is available on the academy's website or by emailing [finance@jcbacademy.com](mailto:finance@jcbacademy.com)

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#### Signatures:

Principal: .....

Chair of the Board of Trustees: .....

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