

Financial Assistance Policy

2026/27



1. Introduction

1.1 The financial assistance fund provides financial support to help parents¹ overcome the specific financial barriers they face in relation to the cost of the school laptop, academy uniform, academy transport and some compulsory academy trips.

1.2 There are eight levels of support available to parents which they can apply for:

1.2.1 New learners

- 100% financial support. Available to learners registered as being eligible for free school meals. This support covers 100% of the costs for the laptop, £100 uniform voucher per year which covers all four compulsory items, transport cost and some compulsory academic trips.
- 65% financial support - towards the learner's laptop and transport costs. This is available to households with income below £20,000 or learners in care, recently left care, have a disability and receive both ESA & DLA.
- 45% financial support - towards learner's laptop and transport costs. This is available to households with an annual income between £20,001 and £25,000.
- 25% financial support - towards learner's laptop and transport costs. This is available to households with an annual income between £25,001 and £27,500.

1.2.2 Existing learners

- Full financial support. This covers the full cost of the school laptop, £100 voucher towards school uniform and academy transport.
- Partial financial support - transport support £500.
- Partial financial support - transport support £250.
- Partial financial support - transport support £125.

¹ Within this document, the term parent refers to those with parental responsibility for a learner



2. Eligibility for new learners

2.1 Full financial support for new learners

Available to learners registered as being eligible for free school meals.

You may be eligible for Free School Meals, if any of the following apply to you;

- You receive Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

2.2 Partial financial support for new learners

If your total household annual income is below £27,500 or if the learner is in care, recently left care, has a disability and receives both ESA & DLA, you may be eligible for Financial Assistance.

3. Eligibility for existing learners

3.1 Full financial support for existing learners

Available to learners registered as being eligible for free school meals.

You may be eligible for Free School Meals, if any of the following apply to you;

- You receive Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit



3.2 Partial financial support for existing learners £500

- The learner is living in care
- The learner is leaving or has recently left care
- Learner/parent is disabled and receiving both ESA and DLA
- Gross annual household income is less than £20,000

3.3 Partial financial support for existing learners: transport £250

Gross annual household income is between £20,001 and £25,000.

3.2 Partial financial support for existing learners: transport £125

Gross annual household income is between £25,001 and £27,500

4. Allocation of funding

4.1 There are two categories of funding, categorised as full or partial support.

4.2 Allocation of funding for new learners

4.2.1 Full support for new learners - The JCB Academy will cover costs for laptop, uniform, transport and some compulsory academic trips. Parents/carers must enrol with EDDE for laptop warranty coverage. The £100 uniform voucher can be used at The JCB Academy's uniform event or reimbursed upon receipt submission after purchasing the school uniform.

4.2.1 Partial financial support for new learners - The JCB Academy will subsidise the laptop and transport cost by the allocated discount (65%, 45%, 25%), with parents/carers covering the remaining balance via monthly direct debit.

4.3 Allocation of funding for existing learners

4.1.1 Full support for existing learners. The academy will cover the full cost of the academy transport and contribute towards the school uniform. The £100 uniform allowance will be by payment following submission of receipts after purchasing the school uniform.

4.1.2 Partial support for existing learners: transport £500. The cost of the academy transport will be reduced by £500 and parents/carers will pay the remaining balance by monthly direct debit.

4.1.3 Partial support for existing learners: transport £250. The cost of the academy transport will be reduced by £250 and parents will pay the remaining balance by monthly direct debit.

4.1.4 Partial support for existing learners: transport £125. The cost of the academy transport will be reduced by £125 and parents will pay the remaining balance by monthly direct debit.



4. **Applying for financial assistance funding**

- 4.1 An application form and further information are available on the academy's website or by emailing finance@jcbacademy.com.

Date of approval by Board of Trustees:	28 November 2024
Reviewed and reapproved:	11 September 2025
Reviewed and reapproved:	18 June 2026

