

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL



Bursary Fund Policy

RESPONSIBLE PERSON – HEADTEACHER

June 2026

Purpose

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

The purpose of this policy is to determine the basis by which the 16-19 Bursary fund will be administered by Riverside School.

Background

The 16-19 Bursary Fund replaced the EMA (Ethnic Minority Achievement) Grant and is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post-16. The school is responsible for assessing eligibility and will examine evidence to support claim. Eligibility criteria will comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

There are two types of 16-19 bursaries:

1. Bursaries for defined vulnerable groups of up to £1,200 a year.
2. Discretionary bursaries which institutions award using policies they have set in line with the DfE funding rules.

The school will need to submit a claim for funding for vulnerable bursaries but receives an allocated sum of money to support with discretionary claims. The fund is managed by the school and this policy sets out the criteria by which requests can be considered to ensure that these needs can be met whilst remaining within the funds available.

The bursary can be used to help with costs associated with attending school during the academic year.

The costs could include;

- Transport
- books
- clothing required for school
- equipment to support learning at school
- help with educational visits
- Lunch on days you are in school/ college

Bursary Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a bursary:

1. You must be at least 16 but under 19 on 31st August 2026;
2. Study at a publicly funded school or college, or be in an unpaid training course;
3. Be entitled to residency in the United Kingdom

To continue to receive a bursary, the pupil must satisfy the following conditions:

- Minimum 90% attendance each term with no unauthorized absences
- The pupil must not have broken the terms of any school agreements

Vulnerable bursaries

Pupils can apply for a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 if they fall into one of the areas below:

1. The pupil is in or has recently left local authority care;
2. The pupil gets Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves;
3. The pupil receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA) **in their name** and either Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit (UC);
4. The pupil receives Personal Independence Payment (PIP) **in their name** and either Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit.

Discretionary bursaries

Pupils can apply for a discretionary bursary if they do not fall into any of the vulnerable groups, but need financial help to stay in education and are aged between 16 and 19 and in full-time or part-time further education or training. Payments will be to support specified educational purposes and will not be paid in cash value to families. It will be instead used for the following:

- Towards the cost of travel
- To buy essential books or equipment or specialist clothing (such as protective overalls for example)

These are items the pupil would otherwise need to pay for in order to participate.

No pupil will receive more than £300 per year.

Therefore; for a pupil to be eligible for a discretionary bursary a pupil should be **entitled to free school meals**.

As a school we have to ensure that funding reaches those pupils who are most in need of financial support. We have been directed by the DfE to use household income as a way to help establish the amount of support we can award a pupil, however, in line with recent guidance, pupils in either category will be funded to reflect the amount of support they need to participate based on an assessment of the actual participation needs and costs they have. For more information, please see guidance available [here](#).

Process

June 2026

Pupils are to be encouraged to apply for a Bursary as soon as possible after the start of each academic year. Application Packs can be requested from the office and will also be available to download from the school website.

A Remissions Panel will consider specific requests once a term. The Remissions Panel will consist of the Headteacher and Assistant Head Teacher.

Appeal

If a pupil is not satisfied with the decisions of the Remissions Panel, they should follow the school's established complaints procedure.