



Wallington
County Grammar School

16-19 Bursary Fund Policy

Policy Area

Key Document

Author

WCGS Finance Officer

Version

Final

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Statement of intent

At Wallington County Grammar School our motto 'per ardua ad summa' means 'through difficulties to the heights'. Students attending our sixth form need to reach those heights and we need to help them through the difficulties. We know some students face financial difficulties which hinder their ability to do well and so our aim is to help them overcome this specific barrier while they remain in our sixth form by promoting the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund.

We are dedicated to:

- Distributing 16-19 bursaries via a fair and equal process that is transparent, accountable and easily understood.
- Ensuring that information regarding the application, award and administration of 16-19 bursary is publicly available via the school website and from the Finance Officer at Wallington County Grammar.
- Widening access to, and participation in, 16-19 education.
- Monitoring and reviewing our policies to ensure effectiveness.
- Setting high targets and objectives to develop a culture of continuous improvement.
- Ensuring adequate resources are available to implement policies, as much as is reasonably practicable.
- Sharing and acquiring best practice through partnerships with neighbouring settings.

Overview of the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund

The Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA), are the body responsible for funding 16 – 19 education and training. The 16 – 19 Bursary Fund provides support to help students overcome specific barriers while in education. The School is regulated by the ESFA in the administration and management of the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund. The policy has due regard for the relevant legislation and statutory guidelines, but not limited to ESFA 16 – 19 Bursary Fund Guide 2024 to 2025 [click here](#) to read further and the Equality Act 2010.

This policy works in conjunction with Wallington County Grammar's Attendance policy, Behaviour policy, Complaint Procedure policy and the Data Protection policy.

There are two types of bursaries available:

- Vulnerable Bursary is available to specific students who meet the eligibility criteria and have been identified as most in need as defined in the vulnerable group as set out by the ESFA to receive up to £1200. Further information can be found on the next page..
- Discretionary Bursary is available to all students in our sixth form and the fund is awarded to students who meet the school's eligibility criteria as set out in this policy. The eligible student can apply to use their bursary award to meet their needs to cover the cost of travel, books, equipment. The student can make a request to the school, for consideration, if the request is required to meet their educational needs staying within the ESFA guidelines.

Eligibility Criteria: bursaries for vulnerable groups

- I. **Age** - A student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 years on 31 August before the academic year in question to be eligible for help from the bursary fund for this academic year.
- II. **Residency** - Students must have the legal right to be resident in the United Kingdom at the start of their study.
- III. **Defined vulnerable group** are students who are:
 - in care
 - care leavers
 - receiving Income Support (IS) if still applicable, 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
- IV. **Evidence of eligibility** –
 - For students who are in care or a care leaver, written confirmation of their current or previous looked-after status from the relevant local authority – the local authority looks after them or provides their leaving care services. The evidence could be a letter or an email but must be clearly from the local authority.
 - For students in receipt of IS or UC, a copy of the IS or UC award notice. This must clearly state the claim is in the student's name/confirm they are entitled to the benefits in their own right. The evidence must not state any conditions that prevent them from participating in further education or training. For students in receipt of UC, then the school must also see a document such as a tenancy agreement in the student's name, a child benefit receipt, children's birth certificates, utility bills and so on.
 - For students receiving UC/ESA and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payments (PIP), a copy of their UC claim from DWP. Evidence of receipt of DLA or PIP must also be provided.
 - Students applying for the first time must complete an application form and provide relevant evidence. Any student previously in receipt of the bursary fund may be asked to complete a new application form providing current evidence or will be asked to sign and date a self-declaration form to confirm their household circumstances are unchanged. The Finance Officer will inform those students on a case-by-case basis.

We may decide that although a student may be eligible for a bursary because they are in one or more of the defined vulnerable groups, they do not have any actual financial needs. This might be because their financial needs are already met and/or because they have no relevant costs. We may refuse a student's application on this basis.

Students will only receive the amount they actually need to participate in their studies and will not automatically be awarded £1,200 if they do not need the full amount.

Eligibility Criteria: discretionary bursaries

- I. **Age** - A student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 years on 31 August before the academic year in question to be eligible for help from the bursary fund for this academic year.
- II. **Residency** - Students must have the legal right to be resident in the United Kingdom at the start of their study.
- III. **Gross Household income** –
 - Level 1 gross household income is less than £16,190 per annum. The parents are in receipt of benefits and the student is entitled to free school meals.
 - Level 2 gross household income is more than £16,190 – less than £20,817
 - Level 3 is more than £20,817 less than £32,000
 - Level 3 No Recourse to Public Funds capital threshold £22700 per annum – no money will be given only items in kind
- IV. **Evidence of eligibility** –
 - Please see appendix 1. 16 – 19 Bursary Fund Overview
 - Students applying for the first time must complete an application form and provide relevant evidence. Any student previously in receipt of the bursary fund may be asked to complete a new application form providing current evidence or will be asked to sign and date a self-declaration form to confirm their household circumstances are unchanged. The Finance Officer will inform those students on a case-by-case basis.

Financial Needs

Students will need to provide a list of each item they will require financial assistance, which the school will consider. The student will need to explain why they need the items, which will enable them to attend sixth form and participate in their studies. Funding will be considered for:

- Travel if the student lives more than 8 miles from WCGS sixth form and is not covered by a 16+ or 18+ TFL Oyster Zip card. They will need to provide the following:
 - The train station travelling from.
 - The most cost-effective travel to sixth form by providing the cost per day with railcard discount
 - for 185 learning days or equivalent annual season ticket price
 - The statutory transport duty local authorities have. Each local authority must publish an annual transport statement that sets out the arrangements they will make to facilitate participation in education for students aged 16 – 19.
- Textbooks
- Uniform to meet the sixth form dress code max £150 for one suit, three shirts or blouses.
- Trips / visits that are essential to the student's course subject.
- Fees for university entrance tests, such as BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) and similar entrance tests.
- Travel cost to attend university open days or interviews authorised by Director of 6th Form.
- Specialist equipment such as, scientific calculator, or the loan of a Chromebook/ graphical calculator. We do not accept requests for purchase of a laptop or printers, ink cartridges nor software programmes.

- Discretionary meals provisions – This will be decided on household income or circumstances.

The school will either purchase the items for the student to use for the length of time of their studies or make a BAC payment to the student's bank account. Any items purchased by the school will have to be returned at the end of the student's study.

The bursary fund is not intended to provide learning support, counselling or mentoring, or to support extra-curricular activities where it is not an essential part of the student's studies.

Conditions

Students are expected to satisfy the following conditions:

- The student's level of attendance is expected to be above 95% and 96% punctuality.
- Unless there are satisfactory mitigating circumstances.
- The school reserves the right to withdraw funding if attendance falls below 95%
- Prolonged absence must be supported by medical evidence (if attendance falls below 95%)
- The student must be up-to-date with all work commitments
- The student must not have broken the terms of the sixth form Home School Agreement Contract or the Behaviour policy

Commitment to Raising Awareness of the Bursary Fund

The school will bring to the attention of students the 16 – 19 Bursary Policy in the following ways:

- Publish the 16 – 19 Bursary Fund policy and application form on the school webpage [click here](#)
- At admission stage when a verbal offer is made to the student
- On Induction Day
- Insert in the Home School Agreement
- Information posters in the sixth form block
- Reminders sent to sixth formers via SHOW MY HOMEWORK
- Contact any students who were in receipt of free school meal in Year 11 or have an EHC plan
- Send reminder emails in the summer term to current bursary students to reapply
- Provide Head of Year 12 & 13 bursary application forms for any student wishing to apply.
- Provide Director of sixth form application forms for any urgent application.

Application Process

- I. Students must complete an application form whether for the Vulnerable or Discretionary Bursary fund as soon as they start sixth form in the first 3 weeks of September, along with all the supporting documentation
- II. In-year application forms will be considered from students whose circumstances have changed and are in need of financial assistance. This is subject to remaining funds being available. The 16-19 Bursary is funded every year via the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
- III. Any student previously in receipt of the bursary fund may be asked to complete a new application form providing current evidence or will be asked to sign and date a self-declaration

form to confirm their household circumstances are unchanged. The Finance Officer will inform those students on a case-by-case basis.

- IV. All application forms and supporting documentations will be assessed and eligible students will be awarded bursary funds according to their needs. Students will be sent an award letter.
- V. For students who may need support when faced with exceptional circumstances during the year that may impact their ability to participate can submit an application
- VI. Applications not eligible will be sent a letter explaining why and invited to a meeting.

Students may submit an in-year application form if their personal circumstances change, however, this will be subject to what bursary funds are available.

Appeal Process

There will be application forms which the school will assess do not meet the eligibility criteria for any of the 16-19 Bursary Funds. Students are welcome to make an appeal to the Director of sixth form in the first instance explaining why they need the bursary fund, outlining the specific circumstances with supporting documentation.

Further appeals should be made using the Trust Complaints Policy, which is available from the school's website.

Fraud

Should it become known that false/incomplete information was given at the time of applying or thereafter, then we will investigate. If fraud is identified, then we will immediately notify the ESFA and withdraw all funds from the student.

Recycling Bursary funds

Wallington County Grammar School will always refer to the ESFA guidelines on how and when bursary funds can be reused, returned to the ESFA or accrued. Please refer to the ESFA 16 – 19 Bursary Fund Guide 2024 to 2025.

How We Handle Your Data

All data will be handled confidentially and stored securely in line with our Data Protection Policy which complies with the Data Protection Act 2018. Should you require further information you can contact the school office or our Data Protection Officer:

Craig Stilwell
Judicium Consulting Limited
72 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AE
Website: www.judiumeducation.com
Telephone: 0203 326 9174

Appendix 1. 16 – 19 Bursary Fund Documentations

BURSARY GROUP	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	DOCUMENTATIONS REQUIRED
For defined vulnerable groups	<p>The defined vulnerable groups are students 16 – 19 who are in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In care or a care leaver ● Receiving income support or universal credit in their own name as they financially support themselves. ● Receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payments (PIP) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA) <p>In some cases, a student may meet the eligibility criteria for the defined vulnerable group; however, they are not in need of the financial support or may not have any relevant costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In care or a care leaver are required to provide written confirmation of their current or previous status from the relevant local authority. Either a letter or email clearly showing it from the local authority. ● If you are in receipt of Universal Credit or ESA and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments: a copy of the Universal Credit or ESA award from the Department for Work and Pensions, as well as evidence of your receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment.
Discretionary Bursary Fund - Level 1	<p>For students aged 16 – 19</p> <p>Have a gross household income less than £16,190</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Are entitled to Free School Meals</p>	<p>Evidence of household income such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P60 AND last 3 months' payslips ● Self-employment income evidence ● Benefit award notice from DWP dated in the last 3 months. Older notices accepted if accompanied with recent bank statements naming benefit received ● Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit award notice ● Universal – 3 most recent monthly award statements to estimate assumed income for the full year ● Company or private pension statement if in receipt ● Support under VI of the Immigration Act 1999 award letter <p>Certified letter from the Local Authority regarding Free School Meals</p>
Discretionary Bursary Fund – Level 2	<p>For students aged 16 – 19</p> <p>Have a gross household income more than £16,190 and less than £20,817</p>	<p>Evidence of household income such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P60 AND last 3 months' payslips ● Self-employment income evidence ● Benefit award notice from DWP dated in the last 3 months. Older notices accepted if accompanied with recent bank statements naming benefit received ● Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit award notice ● Universal – 3 most recent monthly award statements to estimate assumed income for the full year ● Company or private pension statement if in receipt ● Support under VI of the Immigration Act 1999 award letter
Discretionary Bursary Fund - Level 3	<p>For students 16 – 19</p> <p>Have a gross household income more than £20,817 and less than £32,000.</p> <p>No Recourse to Public Funds capital threshold £22700 per annum – no money will be given only items in kind</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working Tax Credit/Child Tax Credit award notice ● Universal – 3 most recent monthly award statements to estimate assumed income for the full year ● Company or private pension statement if in receipt ● Support under VI of the Immigration Act 1999 award letter