



## Introduction

A key priority for the government is to close the gap in attainment between those from less well-off and more affluent backgrounds, and to ensure every young person fully participates and benefits from a place in 16 to 19 education or training. The 16-19 Bursary Fund targets support towards the most financially disadvantaged 16- to 19-year olds; those who most need help with the costs of staying on.

This fund is made available from the government through its funding body, the Education Funding Agency (EFA), to provide assistance to students whose access to and participation in education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. There are two types of bursaries available: a vulnerable persons' bursary and a discretionary bursary (detailed below).

Little Heath School will determine the eligibility criteria for **discretionary** bursaries, and the frequency of and conditions for payments for all awards. The 16-19 Bursary will be awarded to a student that is eligible and facing genuine financial barriers to participating.

## Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a 16-19 Bursary in the 2020-2021 academic year, the student must be aged 16 or over and under 19 at the start of the academic year. Students aged 19 or over are only eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers') or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Students must also satisfy the residency criteria set out in the \*ESFA Funding Guidance 2019 to 2020. (*A person on 1 September who is settled in the UK, and has been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for the three years preceding the 1 September*). If you are in any doubt, please speak with the SENCo.

Students should be participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body that assures quality and funded within the relevant guidelines. (*Attendance at Little Heath Foundation Special School fulfils the criteria.*) The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a limited fund and Little Heath will prioritise allocation according to household income.

Students in the following defined vulnerable groups will be eligible for a bursary of up to £1,200 a year.

- Young people who are in care; young care leavers
- Young people in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own right
- Young people in receipt of both Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit in their own right.

The money will be spent in collaboration with the Key Stage 5 leader (KS5) and the SENCo to best support the attainment and needs of the student. Any monies left over will be transferred to the student's' bank account via BACS upon authorisation from the school that the student has satisfied all the attendance and behaviour requirements.

## Assessment

The KS5 Leader and the SENCo will assess each application with supporting documentation in the strictest confidence. Any parent who believes their child is eligible for funding from the 16-19 Bursary Fund should complete an application form and submit it in to the SENCo as soon as possible.

A student's parents in receipt of any level of bursary must inform the SENCo of any changes to family circumstances that may affect the support during the academic year.

Evidence of income and overall eligibility will be obtained and stored securely following the school's GDPR procedures.

## Fraud

Anyone found making a fraudulent claim for bursary funding will be reported to the police and will be required to refund all payments received.