



St Mary's Catholic Academy

16 to 19 Bursary Fund Policy 2021-22

St Mary's Catholic Academy is a caring faith community. Our mission is to provide an outstanding whole-person education through which all are challenged to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-esteem and closeness to God.

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education. There are two types of bursary:

- Vulnerable bursary – up to £1,200 per year for young people in a defined vulnerable group.
- Discretionary bursary – awarded to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

Eligibility

These eligibility criteria apply to both types of bursary. Students must be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2021.

Vulnerable Bursary

To apply for a vulnerable bursary, students must be in one of the following defined vulnerable groups:

- In care;
- Care leavers;
- In receipt of Income Support (or Universal Credit in place of Income Support) because they are financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner;
- In receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right.

Students must provide evidence that they are eligible, for example, a letter from DWP stating the benefits the student is entitled to or written confirmation of their current or previous looked after status from the relevant local authority.

Discretionary Bursary

Discretionary bursaries are offered to support the costs of:

- Purchase of books/equipment (to be returned on leaving the sixth form)
- Purchase of specialist clothing
- Purchase of laptop (to be returned on leaving the sixth form)
- Contribution to a bus pass for travel to and from sixth form
- Contribution to breakfast in the on site canteen
- Contribution to cost of activities/trips (related to the curriculum)
- Contribution to cost of attending university open days and interviews



- UCAS registration
- Other costs deemed appropriate by the Discretionary Bursary Panel

To apply for a discretionary bursary, students must meet one of the following criteria:

- Household income of less than £25,000
- Eligible for free school meals in Year 11
- Student carer

Students must provide evidence that they are eligible, for example, proof of household income or benefits, a young carers assessment or evidence of Carers Allowance.

The Discretionary Bursary Panel (Headteacher, Head of 6th Form Learning House and Trust Business Manager) will meet on a termly basis to review applications received. Please note that submitting an application does not guarantee a full award.

Where possible, the academy will pay for resources and provide them to the student e.g. a Chromebook. If this is not possible, a payment will be made to the student before the start of each half term to cover the costs of, for example, a bus pass.

To continue to receive support, students must satisfy the following conditions:

- Attendance above 75%;
- No breaches of the Sixth Form Learning Agreement

Impact on Benefits

Receipt of bursary funding does not affect receipt of other means-tested benefits paid to families, such as Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. However, if the student is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments) and Employment Support Allowance or in receipt of Universal Credit, parents can no longer receive certain household/family benefits for that child, such as child benefit.

Applications

Applications should be made by students online through the academy website.

Evidence of eligibility should be passed to the Finance Team.

Applications can be made at any time during the academic year if circumstances change.