



North Ridge High School

16-19 Bursary Fund Scheme Statement

2023-24

The 16–19 bursary fund aims to help to ensure every young person has access to their studies, unhindered by financial restrictions.

Bursary payments are intended to meet participation-related costs only (e.g. transport, educational visits, books and equipment, open day visits and interviews) and will be targeted at individual students.

There are two types of bursaries available: discretionary and vulnerable. The ESFA set out the criteria for eligibility for the vulnerable bursary. The criteria for allocation of the discretionary bursary is determined by the school setting.

In all cases, the school setting will determine whether a bursary application is successful.

Eligibility

- To be eligible to receive a bursary in the 2023-24 academic year you must be aged 16 or over and under 19 on 31 August 2023. Students under 16 would only receive a bursary in exceptional circumstances.
- You must be ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.
- You must be participating in an educational course, which lasts for 30 weeks or more.

Vulnerable Bursary

Students who meet one of the following criteria are eligible to apply for a vulnerable bursary:

- Students in care
- Students who are care leavers
- Students in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in their own right
- Students in receipt of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right, as well as Employment Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit.

Any student who meets these criteria can apply for a vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200; this may be reduced where the school deems it appropriate to do so.

Alternatively, we may decide to allocate more than £1,200 if a student needs extra help to remain in education.

We are responsible for determining whether a student is eligible for a vulnerable bursary. If a student meets the above criteria, but we believe a bursary is not

required as they do not have any financial need and do not need further support, we may decide not to distribute a bursary to this student. This may include, for example, where:

- A student attends a specialist provision that covers their education costs in full.
- A student is in LA care and education costs are covered in full by the LA.
- A student is financially supported by their partner.

Discretionary Bursary

Discretionary awards are made to those who are most in need and face financial barriers to participation.

The school has based its assessment criteria for which students receive a discretionary bursary and how much bursary they receive on each student's individual circumstances and their actual financial need. This will vary from student to student, depending on, for example, eligibility based on household income, and their actual financial needs such as the distance they need to travel to school/HUB and the requirements of their education such as;

- Students currently eligible for free school meals and whose family income is below £16,190 per year
- Students previously eligible for free school meals and whose family income is below £16,190 per year
- Students from households on incomes less than £27,500 per year
- Any other circumstances which may lead to barriers to participation e.g young carers, sudden financial hardship, number of siblings etc

How To Apply

An application form is available on the school website under the Parent/Carers section. The completed application will be submitted automatically via the website, all supporting documentation to be returned to admin@northridge.manchester.sch.uk. Once completed all applications and supporting documentation will be forwarded internally to S.Read, Business Director.

The Senior Leadership Team will review all applications and make decisions on allocation based on the information provided.

If the application is successful you will be informed in writing by means of an award letter, detailing the total allocation and the payments 'in-kind' to be made.

If the application is unsuccessful you will be informed in writing, detailing the reasons for the decision.

Conditions of Payment

Receipt of both vulnerable student and discretionary bursaries will be conditional on you meeting the following agreed standards:

- At least 95% attendance, unless the absence is authorised
- Adherence to the behaviour and code of conduct policies

Payments will cease if:

- A student is absent for four consecutive weeks (excluding holidays)
- A student withdraws from school, no longer attending North Ridge
- The conditions of payment are breached

Payment of The Bursary

In accordance with the Education Funding Agency 16-19 Bursary Fund Guidelines for 2023-24 – best practice, North Ridge will be paying all bursaries ‘in kind’ rather than cash, for example;

- providing funding for school transport
- school meals
- curriculum trips/visits
- support for attendance at college open days
- costs related to work experience/placements