

Dawlish Federation of Special Schools

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16-19 BURSARY POLICY

BACKGROUND

In March 2011 the Government announced a new 16-19 Bursary Fund to support the most vulnerable young people to participate in and benefit from Post 16 education and training, following the closure of the EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) Scheme. The funding is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post 16.

This Fund has been allocated to individual providers of Post 16 education for the following purposes:

1.1 Guaranteed Bursary

Bursaries of £1,200 to all young people in the nominated vulnerable groups (i.e. In care, care leavers, in receipt of income support).

1.2 Discretionary Bursary

The Bursary award should be targeted towards young people facing financial barriers to participation, such as the costs of transport, books and equipment. The discretionary bursary will not be paid to those young people in receipt of EMA payments under the transitional arrangements.

3. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to receive a bursary the young person must be over 16 on 1st September and be under 19 on 31st August in the academic year in which they start their programme of study. Where a young person turns 19 during their programme of study, they can continue to be supported to the end of the academic year in which they turn 19, or to the end of the programme of study, whichever is the sooner. In exceptional circumstances bursaries may be awarded to younger students where they are following an accelerated programme.

Young people must satisfy the residency criteria in the document YPLA Funding Guidance 2011/12: Funding Regulations. They must be participating in provision that is subject to inspection by a public body that assures quality (Ofsted) and is funded by the YPLA or the European Social Fund or otherwise publicly funded and lead to a qualification that is accredited by Ofqual or is pursuant to Section 98 of the Learning & Skills Act 2000.

3.1 Vulnerable young people

The most vulnerable young people will be eligible for a bursary of £1,200 (pro-rata for courses lasting less than 30 weeks a year).

This group covers young people who are looked after, care leavers, those in receipt of income support and disabled young people in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. Please note: This does not refer to young people whose parents/carers are in receipt of income support.

The school is responsible for identifying young people who are eligible for this payment and will seek appropriate evidence to support each claim. Students need to follow the application process so that their application can be considered.

Supporting evidence:

Letter from Job Centre Plus setting out the benefit to which the young person is entitled; Written confirmation from the Local Authority of the young person's current or previous looked after status.

Payment

Students must open or have a bank account as payments will be paid by BACS payment direct to the young person's bank account.

Payments will be made on a monthly basis as long as the student remains in school and meets the requirements of the post 16 agreement and the 16-19 learning agreement.

Should the student fail to meet these requirements the school reserves the right to withdraw bursary payments for each week for the time that these requirements have not been met.

3.2 Discretionary Bursaries

A bursary of £600 will be awarded to young people in receipt of free school meals and that meet the conditions relating to attendance and behaviour outlined in Section 5. The discretionary bursary will be paid by BACS payment direct to the young person's bank account.

Supporting Evidence:

**Confirmation from the Local Authority of your entitlement to Free School Meals
Any change in financial circumstances that will affect the young person's entitlement to Free School Meals must be notified to the Local Authority authorising the free school meal entitlement.**

5. QUALIFYING CONDITIONS

Once eligibility has been established, the young person will be expected to comply with the following conditions in order to qualify for payment:

Qualifying Period - Satisfy a qualifying period of study, i.e. at least six weeks

Attendance – No unauthorised absences

Behaviour - No cause for concern

The discretionary allowance may be withdrawn if attendance or behaviour is not satisfactory, at the discretion of the Principal.

6. RETAINED CONTINGENCY

The College will retain a contingency to cover the cost of bursaries awarded throughout the academic year due to changes in the financial or domestic circumstances of individual students. This contingency will be reviewed at the end of the academic year and any surplus distributed to eligible students as a 'bonus' payment dependent upon attendance, behaviour and attainment.