

16 to 19 Bursary Fund 2026/27 – Student Guide

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to eligible students aged 16-19 to allow them to remain in education. For full details please see the Bursary Policy on your school website.

Eligibility

There are two types of 16 to 19 bursaries that you may be eligible for, providing up to £1,200:

1. **Vulnerable Bursary:** for students in care, care leavers or those receiving certain benefits such as PIP, DLA and/or ESA in their own right.
2. **Discretionary Bursary:** for students from households with annual income below £32,500.

FAQs

What can I spend my bursary on?

The bursary can support you with items that you need for your course such as:

- Laptop: Some schools provide specific devices: please confirm with your school what their laptop policy is. Generally, a device can be purchased either by the students themselves and reimbursed (up to £350) or purchased directly by the Trust. We will only provide one laptop during your two years in sixth form.
- Curriculum materials such as books, stationery, calculators, a printer and printer ink
- Uniform, PE Kits, Dance wear
- Travel costs for university visits/university interviews
- Trips that are essential to your course
- School meals
- Public transport

What can't I spend my bursary on?

The bursary cannot be used to pay for things that do not relate specifically to your course or things that would not be purchased in time to be useful in year 12 or 13:

- Counselling, mentoring, tuition or Music tuition
- General living costs (rent, bills, wifi etc.)
- Clothes or equipment outside those required for your course. E.g football boots, fashion shorts, etc.

Will I be sent regular payments?

No, the school can provide items such as bus passes and laptops directly or you can purchase them and be reimbursed on provision of receipts, at your school's discretion. You can claim reimbursements for the cost of items such as your books, uniform and stationery.

Am I automatically eligible if I receive Free School Meals or Pupil Premium?

No, you would still need to provide evidence that you are either a vulnerable student or from a household with annual income below £32,500.

How do I apply?

You will be able to apply via an online system called Applicaa Bursary 16+. It is simple and quick to use and will allow you to fill in your personal details and provide evidence of your household income all in one place. A link to this system will be available on your school website.

If I was eligible last year, do I need to reapply?

You won't need to complete a full application. You will simply need to sign a declaration in Applicaa stating that your circumstances have not changed so your eligibility will continue into year 13.

Please be aware that this document provides a basic understanding of what the bursary is and how it works, so that you are aware of the support available, but it is not an official policy. This information is subject to change and will be finalised in the official Bursary Fund Policy for the 2026/27 academic year.