

OAK FIELD SCHOOL & SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

POLICY FOR 16-19 Bursary Fund

Vulnerable Student Bursary

In accordance with Section 1 of the Guidance notes the defined vulnerable groups for eligibility for the Vulnerable Student Bursary of £1200 are – young people in care, care leavers, those on Income Support or Universal Credit and disabled young people in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payment).

In September each year Oak Field School will identify young people in the defined vulnerable group and an application will be made for a Vulnerable Student Bursary. Payment of this bursary shall be conditional on the student's attendance and a signed agreement by the student (or with their carer) agreeing to abide by this condition.

The overriding principle of the 16-19 Bursary Fund is that it should respond to individual need where there is a barrier to participation. Oak Field School shall determine how the VSB shall be paid based on individual needs.

Discretionary Bursary

Oak Field School has determined that the students eligible to receive a discretionary bursary shall be all students aged over 16 and under 19 at 31 August before the academic year in question who hold a Statement of Special Educational Needs. 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 sooner.

It has been determined that school trips (both day and residential) are an invaluable educational/life experience for the students but the cost of these present a financial barrier to their participation.

The bursary will be set at a maximum of £200 per student per trip and is conditional on the student maintaining attendance throughout the year (medical absences exempt).

School will identify eligible learners and allocate funds accordingly to reduce costs of trips (based on students meeting criteria and budget availability).

Other applications for financial support to overcome a specific barrier to participation or retention will be considered on a case by case basis and will be dependent on availability of funding. Families should contact the School office to discuss this possibility.

In addition and in accordance with 2.10 of the Guidance notes, 5% of the total allocation of the Fund shall be used to cover the administration costs.