

Bursary policy and guidelines

2026 - 2027



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Author	APSS
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Bursary and Free Meals in Education Policy and Guidelines:

Introduction

At Frontier Learning Trust (FLT), we are committed to ensuring all students have equal access to quality education.

Please see the information below regarding opportunities to apply for financial assistance to support your education.

The Government has set aside funds for schools, colleges, training providers and local authorities to allocate to young people who need financial assistance to stay on in further education or training.

This is called the 16 - 19 Bursary Fund, and it can help you with any education-related costs that may arise during the academic year, including essentials like lunch or travelling to the Trust. Additionally, you might need help to buy books, clothing or equipment for your course, or to pay for educational visits.

To apply for the bursary, you must be aged between 16 and 19 and in full-time or part-time further education or training.

1. 16 - 19 Bursary Fund - 2026-2027

The 16 - 19 Bursary Fund is available to students who may need financial assistance to help them study at the Trust, participate without barriers and remain in further education. Any student enrolled can apply for this Bursary, provided they satisfy the eligibility criteria. Bursary funds are not available to support students on higher education courses. Awards are based on individual financial circumstances and particular needs.

2. Types of Bursaries

There are two types of bursaries available:

- a. Bursaries for students in defined Vulnerable groups – This defined group reflects students who are unlikely to be receiving financial assistance from parents or carers, so may need a greater level of support to help them to continue in their education.
- b. Discretionary Bursaries – Students who are not eligible for the Vulnerable Bursary can apply for the Trust's Discretionary Bursary. This bursary helps students from lower income households who might otherwise, not be able to stay in education without financial help. Most applications will fit into this category.

3. FLT eligibility criteria

Be in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Or

- If your household income is **£35,000 per year (gross)** or below

Our bursary covers a range of needs and resources such as:

- Travel
- Lunchtime meals from our College/School canteen
- Essential educational trips and / or activities linked to your A Level course
- Student learning resources
- Student learning resources
- Support with visiting universities for open days etc
- Essential equipment such as scientific calculators, foreign language books, DVDs etc
- Laptop Loans

These are just a few examples where the bursary can support the student's educational journey at the Trust.

The amount of financial assistance will depend on the funds available to the Trust and the number of students applying.

Please [click here](#) for our current guidelines which provide further details about student eligibility, how and when to apply and the costs it can support.

4. Payments

Flat or fixed rate payments will not be used; instead, assistance will be tailored to address the specific financial challenges faced by each student. The amount allocated to an individual may vary term by term as a result of government bursary allocations and the level and number of applications.

Bursary payments are made directly to students, via BACS, to a nominated bank account or to a service providers' account on behalf of the student, depending on the nature of the support.

5. Conditions of payment

Conditions for receiving bursary travel awards will be subject to satisfactory student attendance, behaviour and engagement with their studies. Satisfactory attendance is a minimum of 95% for all timetabled lessons (or authorised absences).

More details about student attendance expectations can be found in the Attendance Policy. Regular monitoring will be carried out to ensure compliance with these conditions and the Trust must be informed of any financial or other changes provided on application.

6. How to apply

Please apply for the bursary once you have your Student ID number.

See the PDF guidelines document (link above) that explains the process and how to apply.

Appeals

Change of a student's financial circumstances

If you have any queries, please contact us by emailing:

Woodhouse College: bursary@woodhouse.ac.uk

Imperial Maths School: office@imperialmathsschool.ac.uk.

Free Meals in Education

The Trust receives funding to provide a free meal to all eligible students for each day the student attends their study programme.

More information about free meals can be found on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities>

Free meals are offered to support students from economically disadvantaged households. From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, the government is expanding FCM eligibility to all students from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings. Free Meals are available to students in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

A student is only eligible to receive a free school meal where both:

- a claim for this support has been made
- their eligibility has been verified by the Trust

Households may also be entitled to a meal if they:

- are in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- receive the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- meet criteria set out in separate guidance for [families with no recourse to public funds](#)

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, transitional protections for Free School Meals will end.

Households must meet the FCM/FSM eligibility criteria from the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year to continue receiving provision.

Please let us know on the application form, if you were in receipt of Free School Meals during secondary school.

If eligible, the Free Meal allowance of £6.00, is added to the students' ID card daily, in confidence, via our canteen system. Students can access this allowance at any time (subject to canteen opening times). Students can of course top up their account with their own funds.