



ST MARY'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## YPLA 16-19 Bursary Fund Policy

### What is the 16-19 Bursary Fund?

The fund is made available from the government through its funding body, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), for 16-19 year olds, to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. The new 16-19 Bursary Fund has been put in place as a partial replacement for Education Maintenance Allowance.

**The fund is a fixed and finite sum and allocations may therefore not exceed the total sum available.**

### Who is eligible to apply for 16-19 Bursary Funding?

**Students following government-funded (YPLA) full-time or part-time courses who satisfy one or more of the following criteria:**

- Aged at least 16 and under 19 on 31<sup>st</sup> August of the academic year who are in care, are leaving care,
- are in direct receipt of Income Support or are disabled and in receipt of both
- Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance
- Students facing financial barriers to participation in post-16 education.

### How does the School assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary funding?

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a **limited fund** and the School only has a **small amount** of money to distribute. Students must fall into one of the following categories and students and their parents must be prepared to show evidence of genuine hardship.

**Financial support is also dependent on meeting agreed attendance and behaviour criteria.**

- There will be 3 priority groups categorised as high, medium and low.
- All applications must be received by 31st October for the academic year.

### High priority group

- Are currently in care (as defined by social services)
- Are leaving or have recently left care
- Are in receipt of Income Support in their own right.
- Are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and
- Disability Living Allowance

Eligible students may be granted a bursary to support them with costs such as transport and equipment etc.



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### Medium priority group

Students who fall into one or both of the following categories:

- Eligible for a free school meal
- Living in a household where the parent(s)/guardian(s) are in receipt of income support

Eligible students in this group may apply to the 16–19 Bursary Fund for a contribution towards; The cost of transport, essential course equipment, trips, uniforms, exam re-sit fees, etc. This may be a one off payment for specific items or a bursary for support according to need. Amounts paid will be subject to the number of students in the category and the availability of funds.

### Low priority group

Students who fall into the following category:

- Living in a household where the gross annual household income is less than £25,000.

Those in the low priority group will be considered for financial support, subject to availability of funds, after those in the high and medium priority groups have been awarded. Students in this group **may** get a **contribution** towards the cost of essential course equipment, transport costs or other expenses related to education.