



Nether Stowe School

16 -19 Bursary Fund Policy 2023-24

The 16-19 Bursary Fund

The Bursary Fund is designed to help support 16-19 year olds in full-time education with the costs of continuing education such as travel, books, educational visits and equipment. The scheme is funded by the ESFA (Education & Skills Funding Agency) to provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers.

The scheme is made up of two parts:

- **Vulnerable Bursary (Level 1)** - a payment up to £1,200 to a small group of the most vulnerable students
- **Discretionary Bursary (Levels 2 and 3)** - for schools, colleges and training providers to distribute at their discretion. The discretionary fund is allocated to eligible students and is dependent on the amount of funding and number of applications received in the academic year.

Eligibility Criteria for 16-19 Bursary Funding

Students following government (ESFA) funded full time or part-time courses, who are 16 years and over and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:-

- **For Level 1** – Students aged at least 16 and under 19 years of age on 31/08/23 who are in care, are a care leaver (defined as previously looked after for a period of 13 weeks consecutively (or periods amounting to 13 weeks), which began after the age of 14 and ended after the age of 16), are in direct receipt of Income Support (or Universal Credit) or are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payment).
- **For Level 2** – Students who are economically or socially disadvantaged and at risk of not taking up or continuing in their education. This group includes students with physical or other disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning difficulties.

Students who have been in care, on probation, are young parents or are otherwise considered at risk.

UASC (Unaccompanied asylum seeking children) under the age of 18. Over the age of 18, UASC who have an asylum claim in their favour can receive the bursary; UASC who have had their “Appeals Rights Exhausted” (ARE), are not eligible.

Students with a total gross household income of less than £25,000.

- **For Level 3** – As per Level 2, but with a total gross household income of less than £30,000.

Applying for the 16-19 Bursary Fund

Students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The deadline for initial applications is 6th October 2023.

Completed applications should be handed in to the sixth form office.

We will aim to notify successful applicants by October half-term.

How does Nether Stowe School assess applications and allocate 16-19 Bursary funding?

Vulnerable students eligible for Level 1 will receive their bursary funding from a central fund held by the Student Bursary Support Service. Students eligible for a Level 2 or Level 3 bursary will receive their bursary payment from The Nether Stowe School 16-19 Bursary Fund; this is a limited fund and the school will prioritise allocation in accordance with this policy. Payments will be made by BACS transfer directly into the student’s account on a half termly basis, as soon as possible after the end of each half term.

What criteria do students need to meet for continued payment of 16-19 Bursary Fund?

Students' performance will be monitored and reviewed on a termly basis. Payments during each term will be based on the criteria outlined below for the previous term e.g. Spring and Summer term payment will be based on meeting the criteria throughout the Autumn term and Spring term respectively.

Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Bursary –

- Continued attendance at Nether Stowe School on a full programme of study
- No change in household financial circumstances
- Meet expectations of all sixth form students as outlined in the Home/School agreement
- **Have an attendance rate of a minimum of 96%**
- Be punctual to all lessons and registration
- Attend all assemblies and enrichment sessions
- Complete a leave of absence in advance for any time you need to take off
- Make satisfactory progress against your targets and attend all examinations

Nether Stowe Bursary Fund at a glance:

Bursary	Amount of payment*	Frequency of payment**	Criteria for eligibility – students aged under 19 on 31/08/2023	Criteria for continued payment of bursary
Level 1 (defined vulnerable groups)	Up to £1200 per year dependant on personal circumstances	Paid on provision of receipts for goods purchased in accordance with items listed as necessary to support progress on the course. Payments will be made at the end of each half term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are currently in care (as defined by social services).• Are leaving or have recently left care after being in care for 13 weeks since age of 14.• Are in receipt of Income Support/Universal Credit in their own name.• Are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (Personal Independence Payments).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued attendance at Nether Stowe School on a full programme of study.• No change in household financial circumstances.• Meet expectations of all sixth form students as outlined in the Home/School agreement.• Have an attendance rate of a minimum of 96%.• Be punctual to all lessons and registration.• Attend all assemblies and enrichment sessions.• Complete a leave of absence in advance for any time you need to take off.• Make satisfactory progress against your targets and attend all examinations.
Level 2 (discretionary)	Dependant on number of applications and personal circumstances	In cases where funds are required before purchase a purchase order will be made by school to order requested items. These requests can be made at any time in a half term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a gross annual household income of below £25,000	
Level 3 (discretionary)	As per Level 2 but lower value		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a gross annual household income of below £30,000	

* The school reserves the right to pay pro rata for students on a part time course

** The school reserves the right to change the frequency dependant on individual circumstances

Bursary Fund appeals procedure:

If a student wishes to appeal against the allocation of the 16-19 bursary fund this will need to be put in writing, along with any evidence to support the appeal and sent to the Head of Sixth Form and The Headteacher. Each appeal will be reviewed on a case by case basis against the published criteria for eligibility.