



Gordano School 16-19 Bursary Fund 2025/26

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) allocate the 16-19 Bursary Fund to the Academy.

It is designed to support post-16 students in full time education with the financial challenges of their continuing education, therefore the funds must be used to support students in their learning.

A student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 on 31 August 2025 to be eligible for help from the bursary fund in the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

Students aged 19 or over are only eligible to receive a discretionary bursary if they are continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuers) or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursary:

- a bursary for students in vulnerable groups
- a discretionary bursary

Students (or their parents/carers) in receipt of the following are eligible for this support. The type of support available varies, depending on which of these categories a student (or parent/carer) is eligible for.

Vulnerable Student Bursary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young people in care or recently left local authority care• Young people receiving Income Support or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves, or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner.• Disabled young people receiving Employment and Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, or Personal Independence Payment in their own right.
Discretionary Bursary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students in receipt of free school meals or their annual household income is £22,000 or less.• Students whose parents/carers are registered as recipients of Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.

Please note, to receive their 16-19 Bursary payments, students must meet the eligibility criteria for attendance, behaviour and academic standards.

Further details follow, together with an application form to use if you meet the eligibility criteria. If your family circumstances qualify you for free school meals and you are not currently registered, you must make an application for free school meals at the same time as you complete the bursary fund application.

Types of payment

1. Bursary for defined vulnerable groups

Students from this group are eligible for a bursary of up to £1,200 a year, as laid down in the 16-19 Bursary Fund guide.

We will look at individual cases for these students, based on financial needs. Students will only receive the amount they actually need to participate and not automatically receive £1,200, if they do not require the full amount

Those eligible are:

- young people in care
- care leavers
- receiving Income Support, or Universal Credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner
- receiving Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right as well as Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit in their own right

Payment will be made by BACS payment directly into the young person's bank, in kind and after the costs have been incurred.

2. Discretionary bursary

Students are eligible to apply for discretionary bursary payments if their parents/carers are in receipt of free school meals or registered as recipients of Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit

Students are eligible for free school meals if they or their parent(s) are in receipt of:

- *Income Support*
- *Income based Jobseeker's Allowance or*
- *Income related Employment and Support Allowance*
- *Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *Guarantee element of State Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (as long as you're not also receiving Working Tax Credit and your annual gross income is £16,190 or less)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)*
- *Universal Credit – if you apply on or after 1 April 2018, your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)*

Application forms for free school meals are available from the school's Student Services Office, or from North Somerset School Admissions Team on 01275 884078 or email admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk

Discretionary bursary payments, may be made to support each of the following costs:

- Books and equipment (£100 max)
- Field trips and other course-related costs (£100 max)
- Examination retake fees (£100 max)
- Public transport for those who live further than two miles from school (£100 max)
- Costs of attending university interview and open days (£100 max up to 3 visits)

Funding commitments for both bursary payments will not exceed the total funding available via the ESFA 16-19 Bursary Fund. If there is greater demand than funding allows, then learners will receive a lower payment.

Most costs can be paid for directly through the Sixth Form, such as costs for field trips or text books.

Payments will generally be made by BACS payment directly into the student's bank account, after the costs have been incurred.

Payment or reimbursement for costs incurred to individuals can only be made with evidence provided, for example students must submit receipts for the expenditure they are claiming. Please ensure that you check with the Sixth Form prior to agreeing any costs to ensure that they can be covered through the Bursary fund. To find out more about what is and is not covered, please see the DfE's [funding guidance](#).

Payments for examination fees and field trips will be paid directly to the relevant school department.

Applications for the Bursary Fund

Applications for both types of bursary should be made using the online application form [HERE](#)

Applications must be submitted by 30 September, to make sure enough time is allocated, to assess the overall level of demands and make discretionary awards on a fair basis. However, as student's circumstances may change, the application process will remain open for the whole year.

If you require any further information, please email sixthform@gordanoschool.org.uk

September 2025