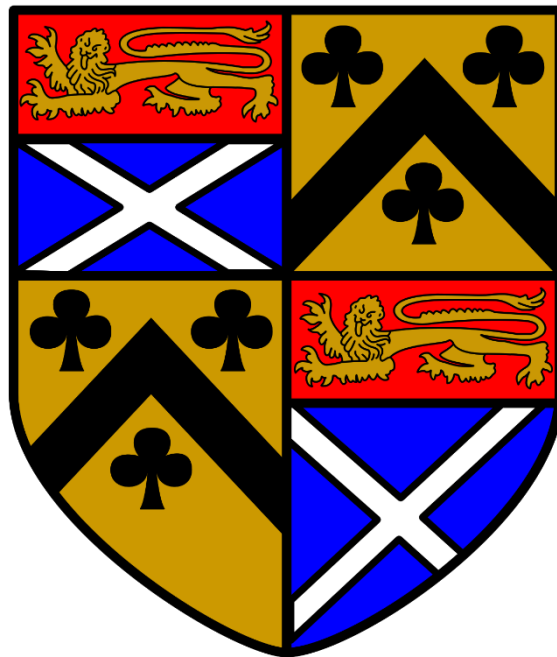


# The Rochester Grammar School

## 16-19 Bursary Fund Policy



This policy was adopted on	November 2023
The policy is to be reviewed on	November 2024

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- Level 1 bursaries for defined vulnerable groups
- Level 2 discretionary bursaries

### **1. Eligibility**

A student must be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2023 to be eligible for help from the bursary fund in the 2023-2024 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).

Students must meet the residency criteria in ESFA funding regulations for post-16 provision.

Student eligibility is dependent on the following:

- Maintaining attendance of at least 95%[\[1\]](#) except in exceptional circumstances.
- Adhering to the Code of Conduct and Sixth Form Agreement[\[2\]](#)

Any student who fails to meet either of these two criteria may have their bursary award limited, withheld until these criteria are met or withdrawn completely.

#### **Level 1 bursaries for defined vulnerable groups**

These students will receive up to £1200 per year, based on financial need. The defined vulnerable groups are students who are:

- 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

#### **Level 2 discretionary bursaries**

Awards for the Level 2 bursary in 2022/23 ranged from £700 to £1,200, and all awards are based on financial need. Students may apply for a one-off payment or for a sum that can be used throughout the year. Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The following list details some of the key factors which will be considered when determining eligibility for the bursary:

- Whether they or their parent(s) are in receipt of Universal Credit, income support or other means-tested benefits
- The total monthly and yearly take home income of the family
- Eligibility for Free School Meals in year 11
- The number of dependents in the family
- The distance travelled to and from school
- SEND that may affect educational expenditure

Level 2 bursaries will be allocated according to household income:

Gross annual household income	Bursary value
Up to £12,499	Up to £1,200
£12,500 – £17,499	Up to £1,000
£17,500 – £24,999	Up to £800
£25,500 – £29,999	Up to £600

Payments will also be made on an “as needed” basis after consideration by the Bursary Fund Committee.

## 2. Application process

The [application form](#) for the 16-19 Bursary is available on the school website. All 16-19 bursary fund applications should be submitted by email to [bursary@rochestergrammar.org.uk](mailto:bursary@rochestergrammar.org.uk) or by hard copy to the school. All applications should be accompanied by evidence to support the information provided. All information provided will be kept confidential and will only be shared with the Bursary Committee.

A small amount of the Bursary Fund will be retained in order to support applications due to change in circumstances, and therefore in year applications will be accepted, but will only be awarded if there is sufficient funding available, and awards will reflect the contact time remaining in the school year.

## 3. Awards and payment of the 16-19 Bursary

The Bursary Committee will convene at the close of the day on the 16th September and on the 16th of each month thereafter to consider any late applications. This will consist of the Head of Sixth Form, the Executive Business Manager and the Bursary Co-ordinator. Awards will be granted based upon financial need, considering all information provided in the application, and considering the relative need of all applicants. The Committee will endeavour to notify students of the outcome of their application in writing in the following week.

As the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is intended to provide financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education, any items purchased using the bursary should have a clear educational purpose. Any items requested that do not have this will be denied.

Payment will be made in kind, through direct ordering or purchasing of items on the students' behalf. All items will be delivered to the school, and we will aim to do this within 5 working days of receipt of the full information.

Where students would like to purchase items directly and request reimbursement, it is advised to check with the Head of Sixth Form prior to purchase that the item will be authorised, as this is not guaranteed. Any claims for reimbursement must be accompanied by clear, valid proof of purchase, and the applicant should be aware that they may be asked to present the item in order to verify the purchase. In some instances only part reimbursement may be available. Requests for reimbursement should be made no longer than 2 months after the purchase was made. Reimbursement will be made via BACS payment into the student's bank account.

[Requests for direct ordering or for reimbursement](#) must be made by the students in receipt of the bursary and can be made via the form available on the school website.

The Bursary Committee will set a cap for any large items (e.g. laptops) when they convene on the 14th September 2023 and this will be conveyed in the letter notifying students of their award. For the academic year 2022/2023 the cap was £550.

Authorisation of purchases / orders will initially be authorised by the Head of Sixth Form. The full Bursary Committee will be consulted on any items which are not authorised.

#### **4. What can the bursary be used for?**

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education. The 16-19 bursary may be used to purchase a range of items, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Reasonably priced items from the dress code, e.g. suits, school ties, school shoes.
- Public Transport Travel costs for getting to and from school\*, work experience, or university visits\*\*
- University applications
- Books required for courses or to support revision
- Graphical Display Calculators
- A laptop / tablet
- Educational School trips
- Repayment of funds spent in the canteen
- Stationary and supplies related to your courses
- Some contribution towards one off payments for CAS activities (for example, we might help pay the entry cost for a race but not gym membership – Please speak to the Head of Sixth Form for further information)

\* Please note that if you intend to apply for a 16+ Travelcard and wish the cost to be covered by bursary, then your bursary application must be submitted at the same time as your Travelcard form.

\*\* Please speak to Mrs Rivers, Principal's PA, to book train tickets in advance for longer journeys.

## **5. Internal Appeals Process**

Students have a right to appeal against a decision if they have evidence that the school has made a mistake and that they have behaved in accordance with the terms of the [16–19 Bursary Fund contract](#). Appeals should be made to Mrs C Brinklow (Principal) in the first instance. If a further appeal is to be requested then this will be heard by a Governor's sub-committee of 2 members including: a school governor and a neutral member of staff.

## **6. Fraud**

Where the Bursary Committee believes that a claim or application has been made fraudulently, or on the basis of information provided which is deemed to be false, access to the bursary fund may be withheld for a fixed period or withdrawn completely, and any money may be claimed back.

[1] Please see the Attendance Policy for further details available here: <https://www.rochestergrammar.org.uk/about-our-school/policies/>

[2] Please see the Behaviour for Learning policy for further details of the Code of Conduct and Sixth Form Agreement available here: <https://www.rochestergrammar.org.uk/about-our-school/policies/>