



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Student Support Fund Policy 2024-25

Date:		September 2022
Revision Date:		June 2024
Prepared by:		Mrs D Deeming
Ratified by the Governing Body of:		
	Signature	
Principal	<i>DJ Smith</i>	D Smith
Chair of Governors	<i>Parker</i>	L Parker
Review date:		June 2025

Numbers 10:32: "If you come with us, we will share with you whatever good things the LORD gives us."

Blue Coat Church of England Academy is an inclusive Christian learning environment, our school values underpin all of our policies: Wisdom, Endurance, Service, Kindness and Hope.

CONTENTS

Section		Page
1	Aims	3
2	Definitions	3
3	Roles and Responsibilities	3
4	How we have set up the Fund	3
5	How we use the Fund	4
6	Eligibility Criteria	4
7	How we assess applications	4
8	Application process	4
9	How we make payments	5
10	Terms and conditions	5
11	Policy monitoring arrangements	5
12	Appeals	6
 Appendices		
1	<i>Application Form</i>	7
2	<i>Panel Assessment Check Sheet</i>	9

1 Aims

Blue Coat CE Academy aims to:

- have clear and transparent processes for the use and allocation of the Student Support Fund
- make clear to parents and students the type of support which is available and the means of applying for it.

2 Definitions

'In care' is defined as: children looked after by a local authority on a voluntary basis (section 20 of the Children Act 1989) or under a care order (section 31 of the Children Act 1989). Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 defines the term 'looked after child'.

3 Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the Student Support Fund Policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Principal. The Governing Body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy. However, responsibility for approving applications to the Fund has been delegated to the Student Support Panel (Principal, Senior Assistant Principal and School Business Manager).

The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the Student Support Fund policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

Staff

Our staff are responsible for implementing the Student Support Fund policy consistently. The Senior Leadership Team will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

Parents/Carers

Parents are expected to notify staff or the Principal of any concerns or queries regarding the Student Support Fund policy.

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to pay for lost bus passes.

4 How we have set up the Fund

The Student Support Fund has been set up using some of our Pupil Premium funding. Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools by the Government on the basis of the number of students who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Pupil Premium is aimed at addressing the current underlying inequalities which exist on a national level between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers. Pupil Premium also provides funding for children who have been in care continuously for one day or more and the children of service personnel. Money from the Student Support Fund will only be allocated for students who meet the criteria set out below.

5 How we use the Fund

Blue Coat CE Academy is able to provide some financial support for students providing certain criteria can be met. Parents/carers can apply for assistance towards the cost of such things as home-to-school transport (bus passes), educational visits, uniform, books and equipment needed for school.

6 Eligibility Criteria

Parents of students in years 7-11 are eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- current eligibility for free school meals
- eligibility for free school meals at some point over the last six years
- living in care (see Section 2 “definitions”)
- living with a parent at the same address who is serving in the Armed Forces
- other exceptional circumstances

Students in years 12-13 are eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- not eligible for support through the Sixth Form Bursary Fund and they are in exceptional circumstances.

Note: Details of the Sixth Form Bursary Policy can be found on the school website.

7 How we assess applications

In addition to checking eligibility we may also consider the following:

- level of household income
- distance to travel between the student’s home and the Academy (minimum distance three miles).

To help us assess applications we may ask to see:

- proof of free school meals eligibility
- proof of employment within the armed forces
- proof of benefits letters
- tax credit award notifications
- P60s
- pay slips (e.g. for the most recent three months)
- bank statements covering a certain period (e.g. the last three months)
- Universal Credit award notices (e.g. the most recent three)

8 Application Process

- Parents/carers can apply by completing a Student Support Fund application form. Students in Sixth Form can complete the application form themselves.
- Applications should be submitted to the School Business Manager.
- Applications will be considered within ten working days. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of applications in writing.

9 How we make payments

Payments are made using one of the following processes:

- in-kind payments (i.e. the Academy will make the purchase), such as travel passes, payments for school trips, revision guides, books and equipment or vouchers for meals
- we can make a reimbursement upon receipt of proof of purchase, i.e. a receipt. Reimbursement will be made within ten working days.

10 Terms and Conditions

- The Academy is under no obligation to provide the Student Support Fund. It remains the responsibility of the parent/carer to organise home-to-school travel and provide the necessary uniform and resources needed to support their child's education.
- Due to changes at Government and local levels that affect how schools are funded we cannot guarantee that the Student Support Fund will be available in future years.
- Successful applications are conditional on students having a satisfactory level of attendance and conduct. We will consider the impact on attendance that might be caused by illness, caring responsibilities or other exceptional circumstances.
- Applications can be made at any time during the academic year.
- Applications will be considered on a first come first served basis.
- Applicants should be aware that the funding available is limited and once it has been spent we will no longer be able to approve any further applications in the academic year.
- Successful applications for bus passes will be for one term only. Parent/carer will need to reapply for each term. We recommend applications are submitted before the end of the previous term to avoid delay. We will not be able to reimburse bus fare due to late applications. There is no guarantee that applications for future terms will be successful due to any funding restrictions and/or changes to eligibility.
- Applications can only be accepted from parents/carers with whom the pupil resides.
- Successful applications may be a contribution towards the cost and may not necessarily cover the whole cost.
- A separate application is required for each sibling. A successful application for one sibling does not guarantee a successful application for another.

11 Policy monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed by the Student Support Panel on an annual basis.

12 Appeals

The Student Support Panel reserves the right to award and refuse funding as it sees appropriate. The decision made by the Panel on the level of funding awarded is final. The Governors Appeals Committee will receive and determine only upon any appeals where funding is refused. Appeals should be addressed to the Clerk of the Governors c/o the Academy.



Blue Coat CE Academy

STUDENT SUPPORT FUND APPLICATION FORM 2024-25

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC FUNDS

We must protect the public funds we handle and we may use the information you have provided on this form to prevent and detect fraud. We may also share this information, for the same purposes, with other organisations that handle public funds, and with this in mind, a sample of applications will be chosen at random for full investigation.

DATA PROTECTION

The data controller is Blue Coat Church of England Academy. The data you provide will be used to assess and facilitate your entitlement to financial support from the Student Support Fund. The information given on this form will be subject to the provisions of GDPR 2018. Please refer to our website for our Privacy and Data Retention Policies.

SECTION A: STUDENT DETAILS

Name of parent/carer	<i>Sixth form applicants can leave this section blank</i>
Name of student	
Year group	
Home address	
Contact telephone number	
Parent email address	<i>Sixth form applicants should enter their own email address</i>

SECTION B: ELIGIBILITY

Please tick as appropriate

i	My child is in receipt of free school meals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	We will check your child's eligibility with the free school meals service.
ii	My child has been in receipt of free school meals at some time in the last six years.	<input type="checkbox"/>	We will check your child's eligibility with the free school meals service.
iii	My child is a looked after child, i.e. in care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide a letter from the social worker.
iv	My child is living with a parent who is in the Armed Forces.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide a letter from the Armed Forces.
v	If none of the above apply but you feel you have exceptional circumstances making you eligible to apply please briefly explain why below:	<input type="checkbox"/>	You will need to provide supporting evidence of your household financial position, e.g. benefit letters, tax credit award notice, P60, pay slips for the last three months, last three universal credit award notices, pension statements.

SECTION C: FINANCIAL SUPPORT REQUIRED

Please indicate below what you would like help with and whether you want payment in kind or want to be reimbursed (you will need to attach a receipt if you are claiming reimbursement).

Tick	Item	Details	Cost	Tick as appropriate	
				In-kind	Reimbursement
	Bus pass to and from school (one term only)	Eligibility will be reassessed on a termly basis. Parent/carer must reapply for each term.			
	Books	Please give name of book(s) below:			
	Revision guides	Please give names of revision guide(s) below:			
	Equipment	Please give details below:			
	Trips	Please give name of trip below:			
	Uniform	Please list items below:			
	Other	Please give details below:			

SECTION D: PARENT/CARER OR SIXTH FORM STUDENT DECLARATION

It is important that you read the following statement carefully. We will not consider the application unless it is signed and dated:

- The information I have given on this form is accurate.
- I will inform you immediately of any change in my personal circumstances as they occur.
- I understand that if I provide false or incomplete information I will have to refund the Academy.
- I have attached a receipt to this application (if claiming reimbursement).
- I have enclosed **original** documents to confirm my household income (Section B v] above only)
- I understand that you will contact me if further information is needed.

Signature of Parent/Carer or Sixth Form Student: **Date:**

Name in BLOCK LETTERS:

Please return completed application form in an envelope addressed to Mrs D Deeming, School Business Manager.

Appendix 2**STUDENT SUPPORT FUND
PANEL ASSESSMENT CHECK SHEET**

Application reference No

Section A: Eligibility Check

	Eligibility Criteria	Check to be undertaken	Tick
i	Eligible for free school meals	Free School Meals Service/SIMs	
ii	Eligible for free school meals at some time in the last six years	Free School Meals Service/SIMs	
iii	Looked after child	Letter from social worker provided by carer.	
iv	Parent living in the same household is in the Armed Forces	Letter from Armed Forces received from parent.	
v	Other exceptional circumstances	Appropriate original documentation received (as outlined in Section B).	
vi	Student Year Group		

Section B: Household Income Check*(complete where applications relate to Exceptional Circumstances (Section A v) above).*

	Parent/Carer 1	Parent/Carer 2	Evidence – APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS AS EVIDENCE
Gross taxable annual salary / wages	£	£	March 2021 P60 or end of March 2021 payslip
Self-employment / property income	£	£	Self-assessment tax calculation 2020/21 or certified accounts

Private / Occupational pension	£	£	Pension statement / Pension P60 2020/21 Bank statement
State pension	£	£	Pension statement / Bank statement / Benefit book
Benefits <i>(Please specify)</i>	£	£	Bank statement / Benefit book
Bank or building society interest	£	£	(Evidence only required if over £250.00 for the year) Bank / Building society statement
Share dividends	£	£	(Evidence only required if over £250.00 for the year) Tax vouchers
TOTAL INCOME	£	£	

Section C: Other checks

	Check needed	Support type
Distance between home and the Academy	Distance check	Travel costs
Evidence of purchase	Receipt attached to application form	Applications for reimbursement only

Section D: Panel Review Outcome

	Tick
<i>Student meets the criteria</i>	
<i>Appropriate evidence seen</i>	
<i>Support awarded in kind</i>	
<i>Reimbursement arranged with Finance Officer</i>	
<i>Award notification issued to parent/carer/Sixth Form student</i>	

Signed (for Student Support Fund Panel):

Name in BLOCK letters: **Date:**