



# VULNERABLE LEARNERS BURSARY (16 - 19)

## **Purpose:**

Our school curriculum is designed to reflect how our pupils change as they become young adults, and make the significant step from a Pre-16 to a Post-16 model of education. There is a shift in emphasis away from a more linear pupil progression model based upon the teaching and generalisation of concepts, towards a model of education which recognises the pupil's existing skills and provides carefully structured ways of further enabling them to be applied in functional, everyday contexts.

A large proportion of the week is devoted to Skills for Life and Learning. These sessions are aimed at developing independence and preparing for adulthood by experiencing real life situations. This includes shopping for ingredients, buying and cooking meals, organising personal finance and banking, learning to meet personal care needs, and accessing community resources such as public transport, the library and local leisure centre.

## **How is the Vulnerable Bursary money distributed?**

The Vulnerable Learners Bursary is not used to pay for a young person's 16-19 education. It is used by the student to buy activities, resources and services they have chosen for themselves, and which they then use. This may be on the school site, but is usually within a community context. It enriches the high-quality teaching provided by school.

It is also used to pay for the annual Residential trip, independent travel training, administration costs, and other community sessions within the academic year. The estimated yearly cost is £860.

Students receive the remainder of the Vulnerable Student Bursary once course costs have been deducted. These payments back to the students are in three termly allocations of approximately £140.

An additional payment may be paid back to students of monies unspent for the academic year. This money accumulates slowly over the year each time the student spends just under their planned weekly budget. The underspend is a deliberate - but variable - side-effect of their learning programme.

## **Criteria for receiving Bursary payments:**

### Eligibility

The Vulnerable Learner Bursary is only available to students whom the Government feel are the most vulnerable or disadvantaged. Students eligible for the Vulnerable Learner Bursary must be:

- Aged under 19 on 31 August 2018
- Meet residency criteria
- Be participating in an eligible course
- In care
- Care leaver

- In receipt of Income Support/Universal Credits in their own right
- In receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments in their own right

### Attendance and punctuality

Overall lesson attendance must be at least 90%, not counting authorised absences. Authorised absence includes time off school due to illness or for medical appointments.

This is monitored by registration records. Class teachers are responsible for recording absence or unreasonable lateness. To avoid unauthorised absence, we advise that you inform the school of a planned absence as soon as it is known. This should be in the form of a telephone call, note or e-mail from a parent or guardian to the Office.

### Conduct

General conduct around the Frank Wise school will be taken into account. This includes providing a good role model for younger students, making appropriate use of learning facilities provided by the school, and maintaining a respectful attitude to all members of staff and other students.

### School resources

Deductions to a student's Bursary payment may be made to cover the cost of any damage and/or non-return of school resources. Any such amount deducted would subsequently be paid to eligible students upon the return of all learning resources at the end of their course.

If a payment has been withheld you may appeal against this decision. Appeals must be in writing to the Headteachers, Heidi Dennison and Simon Knight

### **Equalities Legislation:**

ATA's Bursary Fund policy is subject to equalities legislation including public sector equality duty on section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

### **Further Information**

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

**Reviewed by:** Matt McArthur

**Date:** January 2019

**Approved by Governors:**

*Richard Howard*

**Date:** February 2019