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POST 16 BURSARY POLICY

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1.0 Purpose of the Bursary

The 16-19 Bursary Fund exists to help students to continue in education where they would otherwise be prohibited from doing so on financial grounds.

The bursary is intended to enable a learner to continue in education and should not be viewed as an incentive to attract young people into learning or to a particular institution. Bursary awards will be used towards essential course related expenses and other costs associated with living and learning.

NB: There is a limited amount of funding which means that it will not be possible to support every application and priority will be given to those students with the lowest household income and/or with the highest demonstrated need.

2.0 16 – 19 Bursary Structure

Delta Academies Trust will seek to ensure that the funds available are:

- distributed fairly through a process which is transparent and easily understood;
- assessed and allocated to each individual's need, taking into account the financial circumstances of the applicant and the intended use of the fund; and
- used to widen access to, and participation in, post-16 education.

The 16-19 Bursary Fund has two elements:

Vulnerable Groups Bursary of £1200 per year for:

- Young people in care
- Care leavers
- Young people in receipt of income support
- Disabled young people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance who are also in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

Discretionary Bursary

Distribution of this element of the funding is at the discretion of Delta Academies Trust and will be targeted towards young people facing the greatest financial barriers to participation. **Bursary funding is subject to funds available at all stages.**

3.0 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to receive a bursary a young person must be aged under 19 on 31 August 2016 in the academic year in which they start their programme of study (where a young person turns 19 during their programme of study, they can continue to be supported to the end of the academic year in which they turn 19, or to the end of the programme of study, whichever is sooner). In general, bursaries will be paid only to young people who have reached the statutory school leaving age.

Both elements of the new bursary (Vulnerable Groups Bursary and Discretionary Bursary) will be targeted towards learners facing financial barriers to participation in post-16 studies with priority given to those learners from the families with the lowest household income.

Category A Learner	Category B Learner	Category C Learner
<p>£1200 guaranteed bursary to Vulnerable learners in the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Care • Care Leavers • In receipt of Income Support • Disabled students in receipt of • Disability Living Allowance • AND Employment Support 	<p>Students whose annual household income is below £16190</p> <p>This may be given in two forms — "in kind" looking at travel, food and course needs or as a weekly payment (this payment will be subject to appropriate attendance and behaviour criteria).</p>	<p>Students facing extreme financial barriers whose annual household income is above £16190</p> <p>This may be given in two forms — "in kind" looking at travel, food and course needs or as a weekly payment (this payment will be subject to appropriate attendance and behaviour criteria).</p>
<p>Allowance</p> <p>This may be given in two forms — "in kind" looking at travel, food and course needs or as a weekly payment (this payment will be subject to appropriate attendance and behaviour criteria).</p>		

As a limited amount of funding is available, funding must be allocated to applicants from Category A initially, followed by Category B, then Category C and is subject to funds available at all stages.

4.0 Use of Bursary Funds

For eligible learners, bursaries can be used to help pay for the costs related to participation, and can be in-kind or monetary. [Delta Academies Trust commented that the following activity would support the participation of vulnerable groups and those facing financial hardship]:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), where required and not supplied by the provider.
- Travel to and from school or placements.
- Meals – to the value of a free school meal. If eligible for free school meals then no funding will be available.
- Materials including stationary and educational resources.
- Text books – to be purchased by the school.
- Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks, for young people on care courses.
- Fee/travel to University open day visits – for students only.
- School field visits where these relate directly to the course – subject to funds available.
- Professional membership fees where these relate directly to the course.
- Sport Activities where these relate directly to the course.

5.0 Application Process

For all categories of Bursary Application Form is required. This should be submitted by the young person, or by an advocate within 4 weeks of starting Sixth Form.

Where a learner considers that they are a Category A learner (i.e. Vulnerable Group Bursary), appropriate evidence must be supplied. Please contact your Head of Sixth Form for further details.

For learners applying for a Bursary under Category B & C (i.e. Discretionary Bursary), a Bursary Application Form will need to be completed stating what you need financial assistance with. The application process for all discretionary elements will assess financial status initially. If the young person meets the financial criteria then their specific request for support will be considered.

6.0 Data Storage and Disposal

In accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998), personal information collected through the bursary financial assessment and the bursary application forms will be used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for the 16-19 Bursary Fund. This data will be destroyed in agreement with Delta Academies Trust Data Protection Policy.

7.0 Contingency

A small amount of funding will be retained for use as a contingency fund to support eligible learners who may experience unexpected financial hardship in unforeseen circumstances.

8.0 Appeals process

Should learners disagree with the outcome of either their application for a bursary award or, where a payment has been withheld due to attendance/behavior, they should follow the Delta Academies Trust complaints procedure.

9.0 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in the Summer Term and amended accordingly taking account of any advice and guidance from the Education Funding Agency (EFA)