



Caldew School Post 16 Bursary Policy

School Mission Statement: “To enable all students to learn to their full potential in a safe and caring environment.”

This policy sets out how the Post 16 Bursary Fund will be used to enable post-16 students to learn to their full potential by enabling those dependent on school bus transport to access education in the Caldew School Sixth Form.

Background

Caldew School as a provider of Sixth Form education is responsible for the distribution of the devolved Post 16 Bursary fund as delegated to it by the EFSA. This fund is based on the estimated number of students in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM), Ever6 FSM, Looked After Children (CLAs) and a weighted factor based upon the deprivation index determined by the catchment area the school serves.

The school is required by statute to have a policy detailing how it will distribute the funds and criteria by which this is done.

The Bursary is aimed at students in Y12 or Y13 and is available to each sixth form intake for the duration of the period of one year dependent on continued government funding.

Principles and Aim

The Bursary Fund is intended to aid students who would otherwise experience barriers to their continued participation in education. Caldew students who live mainly in rural areas come from a catchment area covering over 200 square miles and as such face many unique challenges. It is the school's aim to use the allocated funds each year to promote engagement and participation amongst post 16 learners within this diverse catchment area.

Support for students to access 6th Form Provision

The Governing body of Caldew School has determined that, as many students do not live in areas serviced by bus routes which give them access to post 16 provision at the school, or within a reasonable distance, that the biggest barrier to participation is transportation. The school itself is serviced by specific bus routes that transport the majority of the 11-16 students to the school. Post 16 students are not entitled to free transport on these routes. However in most cases seats can be made available on these routes through one of two methods:

- 1.) The Council “Spare Seats” scheme. The school can purchase annual passes to allow students to access spare seats available on the routes for a set rate. Students are

then able to pay remittance to the school for these passes if they wish to take up the offer of the “Spare Seat”.

- 2.) At the point of tendering contracts the school can purchase additional seats based on projected 6th Form students. Students will then be charged for these seats at the same rate as students pay for a pass under the “Spare Seat” scheme run by the LA.

Where the school is unable to provide a seat through one of these methods as a result of capacity issues or if costs are prohibitive then it will explore other options. This will normally mean securing a private hire agreement with a local firm to provide a dedicated service so that a group of students can access the school. In this situation the school will levy the same charge as the “Spare Seat” scheme for the provision of the service.

It is the school’s policy that all students who join the sixth form should be entitled to an equal opportunity to access transportation to school. The bursary fund is not normally sufficient to fully pay for this subsidy and the school will make contributions as necessary from its own funds to ensure that the allocations outlined in this policy are available to all qualifying students.

Direct Support for students in need

Students who fall into the vulnerable group category can apply for a bursary. These students are unlikely to be receiving financial assistance from parents or carers, so may need a greater level of support to enable them to continue to participate. Students will be awarded the amount of support they need to participate based on an assessment of the types of costs they have.

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

The bursary for vulnerable groups can pay up to £1,200 per year to a student participating on study programme that lasts for 30 weeks or more if they need that amount of support. Students on study programmes of less than 30 weeks should be paid a pro-rata amount.

In addition, students in the following groups can apply to the school to receive a discretionary bursary:

FSM students – Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be entitled to an £800 bursary each year. Through the Cumbria County Council transport team they should in addition be able to claim for free transportation to school. The funds should be used by the student to buy essential equipment that they may need. FSM eligibility is assessed by Cumbria County Council Children's Services and the school will be notified by them of a student's entitlement. The decision about how much bursary they receive will depend on each student's individual circumstances and their actual financial need. These will vary from student to student, depending on, for example, their household income, the distance they need to travel to the institution and the requirements of their study programme.

Other students – All other students attending the school's sixth form will not be entitled to a direct bursary award. The remaining elements of the bursary fund will be used to support the subsidised travel arrangements as outlined in this policy. Any further remaining fund will be used to procure direct resources for the 6th form at the discretion of the Head teacher.

Agreed: July 2023

Review: July 2024