



The Blue Coat
School

DISADVANTAGED FUNDING

Policy approved by	Local Governing Committee
Date of Approval	Autumn 2025
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1. Allocation

On an annual basis, an allocation from pupil premium, along with donations received from trip contingencies will provide support to students facing financial difficulties.

In addition to this policy, financial support is available to pupils studying in the Sixth Form. Details of this can be found in the school Bursary Policy available on the school website.

2. Rationale

To enable the school to use available resources to the maximum benefit of pupils most in need and ensure that core enrichment opportunities are available to all.

2.1 Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that enrichment opportunities are available to all young people, and that these should not be dependent on parental wealth.
- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to administer the policy on the Disadvantage Fund with the support of relevant staff in school.
- It is the responsibility of senior and pastoral staff to ensure that intelligence about children in social, financial hardship is gathered so that no child slips through the net. It is also the responsibility of senior and pastoral staff to monitor that take-up and participation of enrichment activities are monitored to ensure they are inclusive.
- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to monitor both the inclusiveness of enrichment opportunities and the impact of this policy.
- Any complaints about the Headteacher's administration of the policy will be dealt with through the School Complaints Procedure, which is available on the school website.

3. Communication and Administration

All parents will be informed via the website and in letters, that limited resources may be available for financial support. Decisions about the fund will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with Senior and pastoral/inclusion staff.

In the case of requests, the complexities of the benefit system and the variations in people's circumstances make it impossible to set any objective benchmarks and school staff are not able to question the information they are given.

Priority will be given to those enrichment activities taking place within the school day that have a direct link to the school curriculum.

4. Levels of Support

Activities may be supported up to 20% of the cost depending on the nature of the activity, however the Headteacher reserves the right to exercise flexibility. On day excursions/ activities, children will be provided with a packed lunch if on free school meals, otherwise they will be expected to bring their own.

Parents/guardians will be expected to cover any pocket money costs.

5. Application

All requests will be treated equally.

Students falling into one or more of the following categories may be considered:

- Those in the care of, or who have previously been in the care of, the Local Authority
- Young carers
- Refugees or asylum seekers
- Those highlighted through school pastoral / inclusion intelligence, including those
- who do not take part in extra-curricular or enrichment activity and/or experience
- financial hardship
- Those in receipt of free school meals
- Those on the SEN Register
- Exceptional circumstances

There are no guarantees that falling into one or more of the above categories will secure a hardship payment.

The funds are finite, and requests will be processed in the light of available resources.

6. Outcome

Due to the complexities of the social benefits system and the variations in people's circumstances, it is difficult to set defined, objective benchmarks and school staff are not always able to question the information they are given. However, families must note that the fund is limited and there is no guarantee that financial support is available.

Decisions will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with senior and pastoral/inclusion staff.

Applicants will be advised in writing of the outcome and where appropriate, the level of support and method of payment. Where uniform items are provided, the school will arrange payment directly with the uniform supplier.

The Headteacher's decision is final

7. Cross References

- 16-19 Bursary Policy