



THE  
**BRIAN CLARKE**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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# Disadvantage Funding Policy

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Review Date: Autumn 2025

Policy reviewed by Local Committee  
Autumn 2022

Signed:

Name:

The Brian Clarke CE Academy  
C/o The Blue Coat School  
Egerton Street, Oldham OL1 3SQ

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## 1. Allocation

On an annual basis, an allocation from any voluntary student support fees and pupil premium is approved by the Headteacher to assist with the inclusion of students suffering financial hardship, known as the Disadvantage Fund.

This fund supports the school in using available resources to the maximum benefit of students most in need, to ensure that core enrichment opportunities are available to all.

## 2. Responsibilities

- 2.1. 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 the family's economic circumstance.
- 2.2. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to administer this policy with support from relevant staff, ensuring that the policy has the intended impact in ensuring opportunities for all.
- 2.3. It is the responsibility of key staff to ensure that intelligence about children in social and financial hardship is gathered and shared so that no child slips through the net. The following staff are responsible for monitoring take-up and participation of enrichment activities to ensure they are inclusive:
  - Senior Leadership Team
  - Heads of Year
  - Pastoral leaders
- 2.4. Any complaints about the Headteacher's administration of the policy will be dealt with through the trust's Complaints Procedure which is available on the school website.
- 2.5. The school is responsible for making parents / carers aware of this policy. To that end, the policy is displayed on the website and paper copies are available on request. The uniform policy also contains a section on hardship applications.

## 3. Levels of support

The level of available support will be determined by the amount of applications received, the value of the fund and consideration of individual circumstances.

Any support for educational visits and activities will be between 25% to 75% of the cost, depending on the nature of the activity. In addition, where appropriate and affordable, a standard cost of £12.00 per day will be made for subsistence costs on residential activities. Students will only be provided with a packed lunch for trips and visits if they are in receipt of free school meals. In all instances, parents/carers are expected to cover any other costs.

#### 4. Consideration of applications

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.

#### 5. Prioritisation of enrichment activities eligible for hardship support on request

- i. School trips
- ii. Individual equipment, e.g. for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- iii. Theatre, concert and gallery visits beneficial to the curriculum
- iv. Contribution to transport costs for students chosen to play in house or school teams and subscription costs for the extra-curricular sport offered as part of the PE department's programme
- v. Access to vocational educational provision in Key Stage 4

#### 6. Application

Applications must be in writing to the Headteacher from the parent/carer, giving as much relevant detail as possible to allow an informed decision.

#### 7. 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.