



THE
BRIAN CLARKE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

DISADVANTAGE FUNDING

Approved By	Local Governing Committee
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1. Rationale and Allocation

On an annual basis, an allocation from Pupil Premium funding along with any ring-fenced donations received, will provide support to students facing financial difficulties. This money will be allocated to the school's Hardship 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- It is the responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher responsible for Trips and Visits to monitor both the inclusiveness of enrichment opportunities and impact of this policy.

3. Communication and Administration

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.

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

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

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/carers will be expected to cover any pocket money costs.

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

- School trips linked to the curriculum
- Individual equipment, e.g. for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
- Theatre, concert and gallery visits beneficial to the curriculum

- 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
- Access to vocational educational provision in Key Stage 4

6. Application

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.

Applications must be in writing to the Headteacher from the parent/carer, giving as much relevant detail as possible to allow an informed decision. These must be emailed to [info@ FAO](mailto:info@FAO) Finance and Operations

7. Outcome

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.