



GUILSBOROUGH ACADEMY

Hardship Fund Policy and Application Form

Policy Name	Hardship Fund Policy and Application Form
Committee	Finance, Audit and Risk
Owner	Principal and CFO
Statutory	No
Authorisation	FAR Committee to ratify

Date Ratified	Review Date
June 2024	June 2026

Statement

The Hardship fund provides financial assistance for students Year 7 to 11 whose financial circumstances are exceptional and particularly those students who need financial help to meet extra costs that cannot be met from other sources of support. The fund can also help to alleviate unexpected financial hardship.

Students in Year 12 and 13 can apply for financial assistance to the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

The Aim of the Fund is to help parents/carers who have difficulties in paying for items such as:

- Educational visits directly related to the curriculum
- Music tuition
- Uniform, shoes or PE kit
- Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
- Emergency travel expenses

The Academy will consider requests for hardship funding from the following groups of students:

- students living alone outside the family home
- students in receipt of free school meals
- students in families with very low incomes
- students with disabilities
- students who are or have been in care

Your Child may be eligible for financial assistance from our hardship fund if:

- A household income of below £27,500
- A student whose parents/carers are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/Universal Credit, Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), who is not entitled to free school meals
- **At the discretion of the Principal**, any student who does not fall under the categories listed above, but considers themselves to be in financial hardship.



Proof of Benefit is required. Proof must be in written form and:

- Proof of benefit must have been issued within the last six months
- Proof must show the family address given
- Proof must be included with the Application Form
- Bank Statements, incapacity, housing and council tax benefit are not valid proof.

Letters of Proof of Benefits can be obtained from:

- Inland Revenue Child Benefit Office 0300 200 3100
- Inland Revenue Tax Credits 0345 300 3900
- Jobcentre Plus 0800 055 6688
- Asylum Helpline 0808 801 0503

How to apply to the Hardship Fund

Parents/carers should apply directly to the Principal using the attached financial assistance application form and by enclosing the required documentary evidence in support of the claim. Applications will be reviewed and individually assessed by the Principal and School Trustees panel.

Payment will be made only in the following ways:

- All payments will be made through the Academy's internal financial system directly to the supplier by receipt of invoice for goods purchased.

A parent/carer may be able to apply for hardship support at any time during the academic year. It may also be possible to apply more than once, but usually only where circumstances have not changed.

Appeals

In the exceptional circumstances of an appeal against a decision regarding a claim for financial support, this would follow the Academy's Complaints Policy and procedures.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS

Pupils Full Name: _____

Parent/Carer's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Home Telephone No. _____ Mobile No. _____

Email address: _____

Activity for which funding is requested:

Amount of funding requested: **£**

Please produce evidence of expenditure value for the amount stated above.

FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Your household income is an important factor when assessing whether you are eligible for any support from the hardship fund. Documentary evidence will be required to support your application.

What is the total of your household income: **£**

Please attach proof of receipt of Free School Meals to application form

	<i>Tick as appropriate</i>		<i>Tick as appropriate</i>
Student is in receipt of Free School meals		Students is not in receipt of Free School meals	

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Your household income is an important factor when assessing whether you are eligible for any support from the hardship fund. Documentary evidence will be required to support your application. Please briefly explain your family financial circumstance, indicating why your son/daughter should be considered for funding. (Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)



DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION

To support this application, please tick which of the following documentation you will be using as evidence of your total household income. Please attach this documentation to the application form.

- | | <i>Tick</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Certified Accounts (if self-employed) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Letter from the DWP awarding benefit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Letter from the DWP acknowledging processing of benefit application | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • P60 or March Payslip | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Payslips (if you are paid monthly the most recent 3 months or if weekly, the most recent 4 weeks) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Pension | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • SA302 Form from HMRC (delete HMRC no longer issues SA302) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Tax Credit/Universal Credit award notice | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Other means tested benefit | <input type="checkbox"/> |

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

All information and supporting documentation supplied by you with this application will be used for the sole purpose of assessing your application for financial help. Your application and some related information, including the outcome of your application, will be held and maintained in accordance with Data Protection Act 1998 (as amended or superseded including from 25 May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation). The data will not be passed to any other third party without your consent, except when the Academy is required to do so by law.

DECLARATION

I declare that the information provided on this application form is accurate and no information has been withheld that would be relevant to my request for financial assistance.

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____

Full Name of Parent/Carer: _____ Date: _____

SUBMISSION

Please return your Application Form and any enclosures in a sealed envelope for the attention of **Mr S Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Multi Academy Trust, West Haddon Road, Guilsborough, Northampton NN6 8QE**. You will receive a response in writing within 4 weeks of submitting your application.



For Office use only

To be completed by the consideration panel

Panel members present:

Full Name and Position:

Signature:

Date of consideration of application:

Decision outcome regarding the application:

Reason for decision being made: