

Plymouth Schools and Academies Access Bursary 2020/21 (PSAAB)

What is the Access Bursary Fund?

The access bursary fund (PSAAB) is a scheme to help students facing financial hardship to stay in full-time education. Plymouth Schools and Academies (apart from Plymstock / Hele's / Coombe Dean) alongside Plymouth City Council designed this scheme in response to the Government's decision to close its Education Maintenance Allowance scheme and some other learner support funds. The funding for the scheme is provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). UTC Plymouth runs a similar scheme using the principles outlined below, it is managed alongside the PSAAB scheme.

The local colleges of further education, and the schools not involved in this collaborative scheme will be developing their own bursary arrangements. Contact details for the schools / colleges are in the Annex below.

The scheme is made up of two parts:

Guaranteed Bursaries

- Those most in need will be **eligible for a bursary of £1,200 a year**. This includes young people in care, care leavers, young people receiving income support (or Universal Credit), and disabled young people receiving **both** Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments).

Discretionary Bursaries

- Other students who need financial support to help them to stay in education or training may also be able to claim a bursary to help with costs of transport, food, equipment or other course-related costs.

In 2019/20

- Students on Free School Meals received £790
- Students in households with income below £24,000 received £4540
- Just under 150 students received one-off bursaries of £120 to help with specific education costs

The fund will provide assistance to students whose access to, or completion of, education is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers. The Bursary can contribute towards costs such as:

- Books and Equipment
- Course Costs such as Field Trips
- Accommodation and Meals
- Clothing and Uniforms

Who is eligible to apply for the Access Bursary Funding in 2020/21?

Students following courses funded by EFA, or European Social Fund, full time or part-time courses, who are 16 years and over and satisfy one or more of the following criteria:-

Guaranteed Bursaries

- Students aged at least 16 and under 19 years of age on 31/08/20 who are:
 - in care,
 - are leaving care,
 - are in direct receipt of Income Support / Personal Independence Payments or are disabled and
 - in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments).

Discretionary Bursaries

- Students aged at least 16 and under 19 years of age on 31/08/20 who claim Free School Meals.
- Students outside of the above categories facing barriers to continuing in Post-16 education due to severe financial hardship. Awards for these students are dependent on available funding and will be considered after awards for students in the first two groups are confirmed.

Who is not eligible for the Access Bursary Funding?

- Students under 16 years of age or over 19 years of age on 31/08/20.
- Students who do not meet the EFA residency qualifications

How will I apply / receive a Bursary?

The PSAAB is a limited fund and the Schools / Academies in Plymouth will prioritise this funding against the categories below.

A simple application form will be available from the Head of Sixth-Form. This needs to be completed and returned to your School.

All applications will then be considered and decisions on the level of support confirmed. Payments will be made to students monthly in arrears by BACS however continued payments will be subject to attendance, behaviour and standards of work.

Category One

Students aged under 19 on 31/08/20 and who fall into one of the following categories:

- Are currently in care (as defined by social services)
- Are leaving or have recently left care
- Are in receipt of Income Support (or Universal Credit) in their own name
- Are disabled and in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments).

Students in this category are guaranteed £1,200, subject to continued attendance, behaviour and standards of work.

Category Two

Students aged under 19 on 31/08/20 and who claim Free School Meals – for YMCA students out of scope for Free School Meals this would be assessed on household income level.

Eligible students in this group will be eligible for a Bursary award; however the level will be subject to availability of funds.

Category Three

Once funds are committed to meet the applications within the above Categories, the scheme will consider applications from –

- Students in households with income levels below £28,000, or
- Students receiving Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payments) in their own name

Subject to availability of funds there may also be an emergency fund to support students facing severe financial hardship. Students in this group may get awarded a contribution towards essential course costs if funds permit. However it may not be possible to consider awards in this category until after 31 December 2020.

Local Authority Contact

John Bale john.bale@plymouth.gov.uk 01752 307328

Annex

Contact Details for alternative bursary schemes in Plymouth

City College Plymouth

<http://www.cityplym.ac.uk/>

Plymouth Art College

www.plymouthart.ac.uk

Hele's School

<http://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/>

Plymstock School

<http://www.plymstockschool.org.uk/>

Coombe Dean School

<http://www.coombedean.co.uk/>

PRIVACY NOTICE

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how we use personal information is a key element of the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

The information being processed

The Council is collecting the information in this form (personal and bank details) and supporting evidence for the purpose of managing your bursary application and payments.

This information will be used for assessing your eligibility to receive a 16-19 bursary award and making monthly payments into your bank.

Information Sharing

To ensure that the council provides you with an efficient and effective service we will sometimes need to share your information between teams within the council as well as with our partner organisations that support the delivery of the service you may receive. In this case, the information collected will be shared with:

Staff at your School / Academy

Staff within Finance and Education, Participation and Skills at Plymouth City Council

We will only ever share your information if we are satisfied that our partners or suppliers have sufficient measures in place to protect your information in the same way that we do.

We will never share your information for marketing purposes.

Retention Periods

We will only keep your information for 7 years

Privacy policy

The full policy and notice is available on the Plymouth City Council website at:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/aboutwebsite/privacypolicy>