



**LIFE ACADEMIES TRUST**

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# Academic & Pastoral Fund

Document Detail	
Approved	September 2025
Approved by	Trust Board
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Version	2

## Summary of Changes

Date	Version	Summary of Changes
3.9.2025	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Page 1 - benefits updated following changes from 2025</li><li>• Page 2 - updated helplines</li></ul>

### **What is the Academic and Pastoral Fund?**

The Academic and Pastoral Fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full-time Academy pupils. The aim of the Fund is to help pupils who have difficulties in paying for:

1. Curriculum trips, visits and year group residentials
2. Uniform, shoes or sports kit
3. Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
4. Music tuition

If approved, the financial assistance provided will consist of a contribution of **30%** of the costs, up to a maximum contribution of £100 per pupil per academic year unless specifically approved by the Principal.

Requests for financial assistance are subject to the funds being available.

Payments from the Fund are discretionary and, if awarded, do not need to be repaid.

### **The Academy will consider requests for Academic and Pastoral funding from the following groups of students:**

- pupils in receipt of free school meals
- pupils in families with very low incomes
- pupils with disabilities
- pupils who are or have been in care/foster care
- pupils who have been subject to other exceptional circumstances

**Your child may be eligible for grants from our Academic and Pastoral Fund if:** Their attendance is in line with the school policy

- A student whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including:
  - Universal Credit
  - Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
  - Guarantee Credit
- At the decision of the Principal, any pupil who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

**Proof of benefit is required, even if the pupil is already registered for Free School Meals or eligible for Pupil Premium. Proof must be in letter or electronic 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 grant application
- Bank Statements, incapacity, housing and council tax benefit are not valid proof.

**Letters of Proof of Benefits can be obtained from:**

- Universal Credit 0800 328 5644
- Asylum Help UK 0808 8010 503
- Pension Credit 0800 99 1234

## **How to apply to the Academic and Pastoral Fund**

An application should be made to the Academic and Pastoral Fund Consideration Panel (the Panel). The application will remain confidential and will be considered by the Panel.

If approved in principle by the Panel, the recommendation will be reviewed by the Principal and then if authorised, it will be passed to the Academy Chief Financial Officer to verify and action the transaction.

The Panel will consist of three members, drawn from:

- A member of the Senior Leadership Team
- Progress Leader/Form Tutor
- Chief Financial Officer

If funds are approved, the payment will be made through the Academy internal financial system directly to the supplier by receipt of invoice for goods purchased.

An application for academic and pastoral support can be made at any time during the academic year.

Prior to making an application, all other avenues for reaching a satisfactory outcome must have been explored and exhausted. For example, parents/carers must make efforts to work with the Academy to see if any suitable items of uniform can be found in the school's bank of lost property, prior to making a request for funding for items of school uniform.

Decisions not to award an academic and pastoral grant cannot be appealed as the decision is final. In the exceptional circumstance of a dispute against the decision regarding a claim for financial support, this would follow the Academy's Complaints Policy and procedures.

### **Completed applications and any supporting information should be addressed to, 'Biggleswade Academy, Academic and Pastoral Fund Consideration Panel'.**

- Applicants will be individually assessed by the Panel and before financial support is provided, documentary evidence will be required to support their applications.
- The financial application form (Appendix A) needs to be completed by parents/carers wishing to apply for financial assistance.
- In addition to completing this form it may be necessary to request further information, to help proceed with your application. Detailed information regarding personal/household finance will be required.
- Completing an application will not automatically result in funds being paid.
- The application form and any other supporting documentation will be held securely and treated in the strictest confidence.
- If an award of financial assistance is granted, it is to remain a confidential agreement between the Academy and the recipient.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM** (for Parents/Carers to complete)

<b>Part 1: Personal Details</b>		
Pupils Name:		Form Group
Parents Name:		
Address		
Home phone number		
Mobile phone number		
Email Address		

<b>Part 2: Home Financial Circumstances</b>
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What is the total income in your main home?		£	
	TICK		TICK
Student is in receipt of Free school Meals		Student is not in receipt of Free school Meals	
<p><i>Please briefly explain your family financial circumstance, indicating why your son/daughter should be considered for funding.</i></p>			

### Part 3: Documentation to Support the Application

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

- Letter from the DWP awarding benefit
- Letter from the DWP acknowledging processing of benefit application
- Payslips (if you are paid monthly the most recent three months, or if weekly, the most recent 4 weeks)
- Other means tested benefit

Part 4: Funding			
I wish to apply for assistance on the following items:	Details	Amount of assistance requested £ <i>(please note the maximum usually agreed is 30% of the cost of a trip up to £100)</i>	Amount of assistance granted £
field trip/school journey			
books and/or equipment			
uniform / PE Kit			

musical tuition			
other (please specify)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

**PLEASE NOTE:** *If successful the amount will be paid on your behalf directly to the supplier*

### Part 5. Declaration

All of 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### APPENDIX B: CONSIDERATION PANEL DECISION PROFORMA (for the Panel to complete)

#### Part 6. Financial Assistance - Consideration Panel (if Required)

Panel Members Present:

1.

2.

3.

Date of application consideration:

Decision regarding the application:

Reasons for the decision being made:

Signatures of the Panel:

1.

2.

3.