



Outwood Grange Academies Trust

Hardship Policy and Grant Application Form

Document control table			
Document title:	Hardship Policy		
Policy owner:	Ben Waterman, Chief Financial Officer		
Version number:	V7		
Date approved:	May 2024		
Approved by:	Executive Board		
Date of review:	May 2026		
Document History			
Version	Date	Author	Note of revisions
V1	Nov 14	KB	
V2	Apr 15	KB	Eligibility criteria updated
V3	Jun 16	KB	Review – no revisions
V4	Apr 18	KB	Eligibility, contact numbers and process updated
V5	Mar 20	KB	Review - no updates
V6	April 22	BW	Wording re' trips clarified Household income threshold increased
V7	April 24	KB	Clothing application updated for primary / junior academy parent/carer requests

General Information for Parents and Guardians

What is the Hardship Fund?

The Hardship Fund is a discretionary source of financial help available to all registered full time students/pupils. The aim of the Fund is to help students/pupils who have difficulties in paying for:

1. Curriculum trips, visits and year group residential (up to 100% of the cost). At the Principal's discretion this may cover up to 100% of the cost of other school trips
2. Uniform, shoes or sports kit
3. Other materials or equipment required for their academic studies
4. Expenses to attend seminars, interviews or work experience placements
5. Emergency travel expenses

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

Post 16 students are requested to make an application in the first instance to the Bursary Fund, however this does not imply application cannot be made to the Hardship Fund.

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

- pupils/students living alone outside the family home
- pupils/students in receipt of free school meals
- pupils/students in families with very low incomes
- pupils/students with disabilities
- pupils/students who are or have been in care/foster care
- pupils/students who have been subject to other exceptional circumstances

Your child(ren) may be eligible for grants from our hardship fund if:

- A household income of below £28,000
- A student/pupils whose parents are currently claiming other means-tested benefits including Income Support, Working Tax Credit/ Child Tax Credit, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Universal Credit, who is not entitled to free school meals
- At the discretion of the Principal, any student/pupils who does not fall under the categories listed above, but consider themselves to be in financial hardship

Proof of benefit is required. Proof must be in letter form and:

- Proof of benefit must have been issued within the last six months. Where applicable please provide a copy of the Full Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602)
- 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:

- Inland Revenue Child Benefit Office 0300 200 3100
- Inland Revenue Tax Credits 0345 300 3900
- Jobcentre Plus
- Jobseekers, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance 0800 169 0310
- Universal Credit 0800 328 9344
- Asylum Help UK 0808 8000 630

How to apply to the Hardship Fund

An application should be made through the Principal. The application will remain confidential and will be considered by the Principal given their knowledge of the student/pupil's circumstances. If approved by the Principal the application will be authorised and passed to the Finance Manager to verify and action the transaction.

The payment will be made only in the following ways

- For emergency travel expenses the payment will be in cash
- For all other expenses the payment will be made through the Academy internal financial system directly to the supplier by receipt of invoice for goods purchased

A student/pupil 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.

Students/pupils cannot appeal a decision not to award a hardship grant as the Principal's decision is final.

Please complete and return this form with the necessary supporting documentation to:

*Mrs Lisa Allott
Outwood Academy Freeston
Favell Avenue
Normanton
WF6 1HZ*

*By hand – Please send to Mrs Sharon Almond, Principal's PA, Outwood Academy Freeston
For enquiries please call 01924 302560*

Your Details

Please complete in capital letters

Title:	<i>Miss, Ms, Mrs, Mr or Other</i>
Surname or Family Name:	
First Name:	
Partner's Surname (if applicable):	
Partner's First Name (if applicable):	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email address:	

Children you wish to claim for

Name of child	Form Group/Year Group	Date of Birth	Gender (Male / Female / Prefer not to say)

Clothing Application

Items of clothing needed. Please provide sizes for items. If you need the same item of clothing for more than one child, please complete another copy of this page.

Name of Child:	
----------------	--

Primary / Junior academies

Item	Tick if needed	Number needed	Size
Cardigan			Age:
Jumper			Age:
Skirt			Waist:
Trousers			Waist: Leg:
PE t-shirt			Chest:
Other :			

Secondary academies

Item	Tick if needed	Number needed	Size
Blazer			Chest:
Tie			Length:
Shirt			Chest/Age:
Skirt			Waist:
Trousers			Waist: Leg:
Jumper			Chest:
PE polo shirt			Chest:
PE rugby shirt			Chest:
PE shorts			Waist:
Other :			

School Trip Support Application

Name of trip	
Dates of trip	
Total cost of trip	
Amount paid to date	
Amount outstanding	
Amount of support requested	
Reason why you are seeking support	

Children you wish to claim for

Name of child	Tutor Group/ Year Group	Date of Birth	Gender (Male / Female / Prefer not to say)

Declaration

I certify that the information provided here is true. I understand that a false declaration will result in the refusal of this application.

Parent or Carer's signature:

Date:

Your application will be processed as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Office use only	
Date Received:	
Received by:	
Approved?	YES / NO <i>(delete as necessary)</i>
Approval Date:	
Approved by (name):	
Approved by (Position):	
Sign & Date:	
Finance Manager:	
Sign & Date:	