

The Bosco Centre	
Policy:	Financial Support Policy
Applies to:	College
Reviewed:	September 2024
Next Review:	August 2025

Policy aim

This document describes how and why we offer our students financial support.

Financial Support at Bosco College is paid partly from our own charitable funds and partly from the funds given to us by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

The ESFA provides two types of support:

Bursaries (Vulnerable and discretionary)
Funding for meals (FE Free School Meals)

Vulnerable Bursaries are provided for looked after children and young people who are personally in receipt of support such as universal credit or disability living allowance. Parental benefits do not qualify you for this award. If you meet any of these criteria then you still need to attend every day, be on time to every lesson and continue to make progress.

A discretionary fund to provide help with meeting individual needs such as the cost of books, transport to college, or lunch whilst at college. In the current year this amounts to less than eighty pounds per student currently on roll. (This equates to about £2.00 per week).

At Bosco we feel that this discretionary fund does not provide sufficient support for our students' needs and we have made the decision to supplement this from our general unrestricted funds. Whilst we cannot support all students we offer support to those whose household are receipt of benefits including: working tax credits, universal credit, housing benefit, job seekers allowance, carers allowance, employment support allowance or PIP. We do not accept child benefit

We must have proof of this to confirm you are eligible. Documentary evidence must be shown to a member of the senior manager team who will record that it has been seen on your file.

Students who meet the stricter ESFA criteria will also be able to receive a meal funded by the ESFA. Due to the limited catering facilities on site this will be a packed lunch that consists of a sandwich, a snack and fruit.

Our financial support that is very focused on the individual student and is intended to help them access college. It is not intended as a payment to parents or to supplement

household income. ESFA and charity rules mean that we need to be able to justify how we spend every penny of our funding, so at times we may ask students to give us a break down of what they spend any money on and how it has helped them to learn better.

All students should be aware that this is not an entitlement and that they must satisfy several criteria before receiving any payments.

Before we can consider offering financial support we need to be sure that a student is committed to Bosco and will try their hardest to complete their course. We judge this by waiting six full weeks before we start to pay any financial support. If we are unsure of a student's commitment because of attendance, punctuality, or behaviour then the probationary period will be extended until the student has proved their commitment.

The application process is included in the registration and induction process when students are asked to provide the relevant information and indicate that they wish to apply for support.

Financial support requirements

- Meet criteria for eligibility (see below)
- Be in every day
- Be on time every morning and for every class throughout the day
- Work in each lesson and show progress throughout the lesson
- Behave according to the Code of Conduct when on Bosco premises whether or not you are in a lesson.