16 to 19 bursary fund and financial support

Stockton Sixth Form College, 2026 to 2027

Document control

Owner	College finance team
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Next review	Summer 2027, before the 2027 to 2028 academic year
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Contact	ssfcbursary@atomix.ac.uk
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About this version

This version was put into the college policy template in September 2026 so that it gives the correct information. Headings are in sentence case, web and email links have been checked, and small typing errors have been corrected. The content is otherwise as issued for 2026 to 2027. The application form is available separately. The previous version is available on request.

Who can get financial support

The college receives financial support funding from the government to support young people who need financial assistance to continue and complete their programme of study in further education.

To qualify you must be aged 16 or over and under 19 on 31 August 2026, meet the DfE's residency criteria, and Prior Pursglove and Stockton Sixth Form College must be your main education provider.

If you are 19 or older you may be eligible if you are continuing a course you began aged 16 to 18, or if you have an education, health and care plan (EHCP).

If none of these apply, please contact the college directly about possible alternative financial support options.

Students who qualify can request assistance with meals, books, equipment, essential trips, as well as UCAS application fees and the cost of attending industry placements, university interviews or open days.

All support depends on the type of assistance you qualify and apply for, and the college will also consider individual need relating to actual costs.

To apply for financial support, you will need to complete an application form and provide supporting evidence.

Students will be expected to maintain an acceptable level of behaviour.

There is no final deadline for applications and they may be submitted at any point during the academic year.

If your circumstances change, or you are experiencing financial hardship and need help with college-related costs, please get in touch with Student Services or the finance staff.

Financial support funding is not designed to support general living costs, but to be used towards college and course-related costs. All financial support payments must be made direct to the student's own bank account except in exceptional circumstances.

Financial support available

Lunchtime meals and other course-related costs

For students aged 16 to 18 on 31 August 2026 whose household income is below £30,000 a year and who need assistance with college-related costs such as lunchtime meals, as well as books, materials, equipment, UCAS fees, travel to university interviews and essential trips.

Students aged 19 or over who are continuing the same study programme they began aged 16 to 18, and students aged 19 to 24 who have an education, health and care plan, may also be eligible.

Lunchtime meals

These are redeemed each day using your student card at the college canteen. A variety of meal deal options are available, including hot meals, sandwiches and snacks.

Stationery

A selection of stationery items is available free of charge from the Study Hub for students in receipt of financial assistance. This includes pens, paper, files and a scientific calculator.

UCAS application fee

For students applying to university, the fee is paid direct by the college. When submitting your application, you just need to select "invoice my college".

Essential college trips

Assistance with the cost of essential field trips that achieve or support study programme goals or course objectives. Speak to the trip organiser or finance staff to discuss whether a trip would qualify.

Books and equipment

Most textbooks, learning materials and equipment are provided by the college. If you need other resources, you can complete an ad hoc financial assistance form at Student Services.

Household income evidence is required with your application.

Free meals

For students aged 16 to 18 on 31 August 2026 who need assistance with college lunches and whose parents (or the students in their own right) receive one or more of the following qualifying benefits:

- Universal Credit
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Students aged 19 or over who are continuing the same study programme they began aged 16 to 18, and students aged 19 to 24 who have an education, health and care plan, may also be eligible.

Evidence of qualifying benefits is required with your application.

Students will receive a lunchtime meal from the college canteen for each day they are in college. This is redeemed using your student ID card at the till.

Childcare costs

Care to Learn helps young parents under the age of 20 to continue in or return to education after the birth of a child. It provides funding for childcare while the young parent is studying, and can also help with any additional travel costs involved in taking a child to the childcare provider. Payments of up to £180 per child per week are paid to an Ofsted-registered childcare provider.

Young parents must tick that they need childcare assistance when completing the financial support application form, and the college finance team will then contact them to start this process. More information is on the Care to Learn page on GOV.UK.

What to do next

To apply for any of the financial support available, please complete an application form and provide evidence of qualifying benefits or income (for the 2025 to 2026 tax year). Hand it in at enrolment or at Student Services when you start in September, or email ssfcbursary@atomix.ac.uk.

Forms are available on the college website, www.stocktonsfc.ac.uk, or from Student Services, whose staff can help you complete forms and check eligibility. All information

will be treated confidentially. If you wish to discuss any part of your application in private, please ask and a separate room will be arranged.

Evidence is required with each application. Please provide one of the following, depending on your circumstances:

- your three most recent Universal Credit monthly award statements (showing name, address and a breakdown of benefits and take-home pay)
- if you do not receive Universal Credit, evidence of earned income, for example a P60 for 2025 to 2026 or a full SA302 if self-employed (bank statements showing benefit payments or earnings will not be accepted)
- for students who are in care, care leavers or living independently, evidence of care status from the local authority, or benefits in your own name along with a tenancy agreement where applicable

Other support available

Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme

This is for children whose parents died in service, where the death was attributable to service. It helps to cover some of the costs of gaining further education qualifications.

Further information is on GOV.UK: Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme.