

# Why do we have a Hardship Fund?

The Oakwood Academy recognises that there are families that might need support during their child's education from time to time. A Hardship Fund has been established to help support these families and is a discretionary source of financial help. It is in place to offer assistance to families who may be experiencing financial difficulties.

## Who can apply ?

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

• Students on roll at Oakwood Academy.

## What support can I apply for ?

The Oakwood Academy's hardship fund is there to support students whose family circumstances mean that they would not be able to participate in educational trips and other school events. The School Charging and Remissions Policy, found on the school website, details what the school can charge for and what is requested as a voluntary contribution. You do not need to apply for the hardship fund for grants to cover voluntary contributions.

If you are eligible, we always advise application for Free School Meals, details of this criteria can be found on the Nottingham City Pupil Benefit website. You do not need to be in receipt of Free School Meals to qualify for a hardship grant.

### Am I eligible for a grant from the school's hardship fund?

As there is only limited funds, we have to make sure that grants reach those most in need of support. The more information that you can provide regarding your circumstances, whether they are long standing or just short term, can help us decide how the funds should be most suitably distributed.

Details of your family circumstances and household income is usually all that is required to make a decision. We might contact you if we need more information. All forms, correspondence and communication is dealt with in the strictest by the Operations Manager.

### How to apply ?

To apply for access to the Hardship Fund, please complete a application form and send to the school for the attention of the Operations Manager.