



# **STUDENT FUNDING/ SPONSORSHIP POLICY**

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V1	Aug 2013		
V2	Aug 15		Policy reviewed – no changes
V3	Feb 18		'Local' wording removed from Local Academy Council  Approval amount revised to link to DEEP Experience budget for Academy Councils and OIE gift aid for OGAT Executive Board

## **OUTWOOD GRANGE ACADEMIES TRUST**

### **Student Funding/Sponsorship Request Policy**

In the majority of cases requests will be considered by the Academy Council. However, if the Academy Council does not feel that they are able to make a decision about the request because it does not meet the agreed criteria but they still wish to consider it, then they may choose to refer it to the Executive Board for further consideration.

OGAT has the power to offer scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and awards to students and former students, and otherwise to encourage and assist students and former students. However, they must fall within the Trust's objects. Therefore, any requests must be considered in light of the Trust's Objects i.e. the charitable aims of the Trust. These are the basis on which the Trust operates and dictate what it can and cannot do with its resources. The Trust's Objects are:

- 3.1 To advance education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by:
  - 3.1.1 Establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools ("the Academies");
  - 3.1.2 Offering a broad curriculum with strong emphasis on, but in no way limited to either one, or a combination of the specialism(s) specified in the relevant Funding Agreements;
- 3.2 To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of areas where the Company runs academies and the surrounding areas the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individual who have need of such facilities by reason of their age, youth, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants
4. In furtherance of the Objects but not further or otherwise the Company may exercise the following powers:
  - (i) To offer scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and awards to pupils and former pupils, and otherwise to encourage and assist pupils and former pupils;

At all times decisions of the Academy Council must be made in line with the Nolan Principles which require openness and accountability in decision-making. Any decisions to award funding must be fully documented including the amount awarded, the student (or former student's) name, the purpose of the award, any background papers and the reason that the Academy Council believes that the award meets the Trust's Objects.

Academy Council's must be very careful to view all requests in light of the objects and, whilst some requests may appear very worthwhile they may not meet the narrow definition of education and support for students and former students.

In all cases that Academy Councils approve, it is important that a 'legacy' is secured for the Academy in order to benefit the maximum number of students possible i.e. what will they do to support students a result of the award.

As pleasing as it may be for a student to offer to wear the Outwood logo as part of sponsorship, it is not felt that this is an appropriate method of publicity or spending of public money. Therefore, this should not be awarded.

In order to manage the number of requests per year it has been agreed that the following limits apply:

- Awards by Academy council's must be affordable within the respective Academy's DEEP Experience budget.
- Awards that cannot be funded from the DEEP Experience budget can be referred to the Executive Board who will consider the request. The total amount of requests awarded annually by the Executive Board will be linked to the amount 'gift aided' to OGAT from the OIE up to a maximum of £45k per annum.
- Individual awards of a maximum of £2,000 per student.

The criteria for making awards also include:

- The student(s) must have achieved all EIs in at least the two previous Praising Stars© reports;
- The student(s) must show how they will share their experience in the Academy on their return;
- The student(s) must show how they have raised funds themselves for the trip/experience and that they are minimising the amount being sought from the academy.

Examples:

1. A sixth form student asks for £2,000 towards a gap year working in Africa with an education project. They already have a confirmed University offer to study journalism and have deferred this for a year. They will be completing a weekly blog for the Trust which will be sent to the Academy each week and they will also host web-chats with students. This would meet the Trust's objects as it will advance a former student's education as they have confirmed that they are continuing into higher education and the project is beneficial to their chosen education path. There is also a clear educational benefit for existing students.
2. A sports team have arranged an exchange programme and will be travelling, as part of an Academy sports team, to a school in another country. The programme is supported by the Academy's PE department. This programme would meet the Trust's Objects as it would offer education in another country and also encourage the students' sporting abilities.