



Driving Lessons Bursary Policy Y13 September 2026 onwards

Number of hours of driving lessons covered by the driving bursary

Eligible students will receive support for the first fifteen hours of lessons (up to £525) booked with an instructor approved by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). For further details of the DVSA see <https://www.gov.uk/find-driving-schools-and-lessons>.

Ron Dearing UTC has an arrangement with Elite Driving School, which covers Hull and much of the surrounding areas, under which the Driving School will invoice us for the lessons. Students may use another approved Instructor but will need to provide official copies of the invoices they have settled. These invoices should show the instructor's business information, DVSA registration number, the dates of the lessons, the length of the lessons, the cost and confirmation that the invoice has been settled.

Additional hours of driving lessons

Students who are, or have, recently been in receipt of Free School Meals can receive a further 5 hours of lessons (up to additional £175). For further information on FSM - <https://www.hull.gov.uk/schools-2/free-school-meals>. Typically, people require around 30 hours of lessons, plus additional practice, to pass the practical driving test.

Eligibility for driving lessons bursary (Year 13)

Students have already applied for the Driving Lessons Bursary in Year 12 and have been informed of the outcome of their application.

To receive the driving bursary funding in Year 13, students must:

- Be in Year 13
- Have passed their Theory Test (this is required before funding is released)
- Have achieved a minimum of 97% attendance in all subjects throughout Year 12
- Have been late less than 1% of the time across all subjects in Year 12
- Have achieved A2L of 1s and/or 2s in all subjects.
- Have completed the "Wheels4life and First Response" presentation provided in school (this is required before funding is released)
- Have attended ALL Year 12 Personal Development sessions.

Final confirmation of eligibility will take place at the start of Year 13, once all Year 12 attendance, punctuality and A2L data has been reviewed.

Important conditions

Note: if demand exceeds the allocated budget, priority will be given to those in receipt of FSM, with the remaining students following the outcome of the Year 12 allocation process. The budget is agreed each year by the school's Finance & Audit Committee around June time.

N.B. The Driving Bursary cannot be backdated to cover the cost of any lessons prior to starting Year 13 or prior to the date that the Theory Test was passed.

Accessing the bursary

Students who have been successful will be contacted in Year 13 about the next steps of the process. Funding will only be released once all criteria above are met, including passing the Theory Test.

Theory test support recommendations

Ron Dearing UTC recommends the use of the Safe Driving for Life Hazard perception and theory tests

(<https://www.safedrivingforlife.info/>) along with the Ministry of Defence Highway Code test (<https://bfgnet.de/matrix/index.php>), to support students wishing to pass their theory tests.

How long will it take for confirmation?

Confirmation of eligibility will take place at the start of Year 13 once attendance, punctuality and A2L data from Year 12 has been finalised.

Students will receive an email to their RDUTC account confirming whether funding will be released. If further information is needed, an email will be sent requesting this before funding is released.

Administration of the bursary

Applications for the Driving Bursary are considered by the Assistant Principal (Lisa Regan - lregan@rondearingutc.com) and the Finance department (finance@rondearingutc.com).

Appeals

If funding is not released, students may appeal against the decision by writing to the Chair of Governors - Richard Martin via finance@rondearingutc.com. The letter needs to include what the appeal relates to and the reason why the funding should be awarded, referring to the criteria within this policy.