

POST-16

TRANSPORT POLICY STATEMENT

2019/20 ACADEMIC YEAR

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1. INTRODUCTION

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post 16 travel support but do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

Local authorities also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties / disabilities to participate in education and training, up to the age of 25.

This policy uses the term 'Post 16' to include both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties / disabilities up to the age of 25.

'Sixth form age' refers to those young people who are over 16 years of age but under 19 or continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday (years 12,13,14).

This policy document specifies the support that Nottinghamshire County Council considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training.

Education or training refers to learning or training at a school, further education institution, a council maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education. It can also be an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency or learning providers delivering accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes and are funded by the council, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers.

As there is no automatic entitlement to transport assistance once a student is over the age of 16 parents/carers and students should ensure that they are aware of the availability and cost of transport and take this into account when making choices for post-16 education.

All young people carrying on their education post 16 must reapply for travel support.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this statement is to inform learners and their parents/carers of the support for travel that is available to help them access post-16 learning opportunities.

The statement includes information from the Council and provides links to enable learners and their parents/carers to access the most up to date transport and travel information from schools, colleges of further education, transport providers and other relevant sources. The aim is to provide the most up to date information about how to get to school or college.

The statement also explains the support available to learners with special educational needs and or learning/mobility difficulties and gives information about the Council's scheme of independent travel training.

3. TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL SUPPORT

3.1. Nottinghamshire County Council Support

Nottinghamshire County Council's Post 16 Travel Assistance Scheme is available for eligible young people at the standard start and finish times of the learning establishment.

3.1.1. Support for young people without special educational needs or a disability

Post-16 Travel Assistance Scheme 2019/2020

Full conditions of the post-16 travel assistance scheme is available at

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/schooltravel/post-16-travel-assistance/

Scheme eligibility

To participate in the scheme a student must: -

- be a Nottinghamshire County resident (excludes students resident in Nottingham City)
- be attending a full-time course (a minimum of 540 guided learning hours per year over a period of a least 30 weeks) at a school (including Academies), college of further education or Independent Specialist Provider that is funded directly by the Education Funding Agency (the scheme does not apply to fee paying independent schools, higher education courses or universities)
- live more than three miles from the school/college using the nearest available walking route
- be over compulsory school age but under 19 years of age on 1 September 2018

Travel assistance available

The Council will endeavour to provide the necessary transport services but cannot guarantee to do so and will identify the most appropriate and cost-effective transport service for each student. The arrangement may not offer choice of operator, route or service except where these are available and there is no extra cost incurred.

There are three types of travel assistance available. Students may apply for one of the following:

- An annual **Half Fare Pass** which entitles the student to travel at half the adult fare on a transport service to their school or college (currently not available on the tram). Full payment is required on application. The travel pass may be used on the designated-services ONLY, for one journey to and from school or college each day started before 10.00pm, Monday to Friday during term time.

- A **Season Pass** is available to students travelling on specific school bus services and some other services arranged by Nottinghamshire County Council. This will allow the student to travel between home and school/college without having to pay a daily fare. The travel pass can ONLY be used on the designated bus service for one journey to and from school/college each day, started before 10.00pm, Monday to Friday during term time. If you indicate on the application form that you would like a season pass, a price quote will be sent to you. Students who purchase this pass may then travel without further daily payment on the specified service. You may pay for the season pass in full or by instalments as follows:
 - Initial payment to be made when you accept the quote
 - 2nd instalment by 1st December 2018
 - 3rd instalment by 1st March 2019
- A **Travel Allowance** up to a maximum of £150 per academic year may be offered in exceptional circumstances instead of a half fare travel or season pass. To be considered for the travel allowance the following conditions should be met
 - a student is must be attending the nearest school/college to their home address
 - no public transport or other transport services exist, or the school/college is outside the Nottinghamshire boundary
 - the travelling distance and travel times as calculated by Transport and Travel Services do not exceed 25 miles travelling distance and 75 minutes travelling time.

All travel allowances are paid termly in arrears and attendance must be certified by the school or college. Students sharing the same vehicle will be paid half the travel allowance each. Late applications made after the start of the academic year will result in a reduction in the amount of grant available.

3.1.2. **Support for young people with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)**

Some students with SEND may require assistance with their travel to school/college. Wherever possible and appropriate, pupils with SEND should be treated in the same way as those without, i.e. in general, they should walk to school/college, travel on public transport or be taken by their parents/carers. They should develop independent travel skills, which should be assessed at each annual review

A special transport need may arise where the student:

- is unable to walk or travel safely when accompanied to the special school, sixth form or college
- is unable to use public transport when accompanied.

A special transport need is assessed by the County Council, drawing upon medical and other professional advice as required.

Eligibility criteria

To apply for post-16 special transport, a student must:-

- be a Nottinghamshire County resident (excludes students resident in Nottingham City)
- be attending a full-time course (a minimum of 540 guided learning hours per year over a period of at least 30 weeks) at a school (including Academies), college of further education or Independent Specialist Provider that is funded directly by the Education Funding Agency (the scheme does not apply to higher education courses or universities)
- be attending the nearest establishment that provides the chosen course and level of study and can meet the student's needs. This will normally be the establishment named in the student's Education, Health and Care Plan. This may be an establishment outside Nottinghamshire, but if a student chooses to attend provision further afield when a more local educational institution can meet their needs, transport assistance will not be provided.
- be over the school leaving age (16) but under 19 years of age on 1 September 2018 or continuing to attend a course begun before they were 19 until it is completed, or they reach 25 years of age,

or

- aged between 19 and 24 on 1 September 2018 and an Education Health and Care Plan(EHCP)

Travel assistance available

If travel assistance is approved, the Council will identify the most appropriate and cost-effective solution for each student.

Students assessed as requiring support will normally receive assistance to travel to and from the nearest suitable school, college or Independent Specialist Provider that can meet their educational and support needs. This will ensure the effective use of resources whilst promoting choice and managing public funds in a prudent manner.

Travel assistance will normally take the form of one of the following:

- Provision of a Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP)
- Parental mileage allowance
- A free bus or train pass
- Provision of special/medical transport

Where special transport is agreed this will normally take up to 20 working days to arrange. The County Council will not reimburse any costs incurred by parents/carers taking their child to school while special transport is being arranged

Special transport will be provided to and from a designated collection/drop off point located within one mile of the home address. A pick up and/or drop off at home will only be provided in exceptional circumstances; additional medical information may be required to support the request

Special transport will normally be in the form of shared minibus, taxi or wheelchair accessible vehicle, with adult support in addition to the driver where appropriate. Individual transport will only be provided in exceptional circumstances; additional medical information may be required to support the request.

Transport services provide one journey to and from school/college at the start and the end of the normal school/college day. Transport is not provided for students to travel other than to and from the designated pick-up/set down point, or to access extra-curricular or off-site courses or activities, e.g. taster days, induction days, enrichment activities, work placements, work experience etc.

Students may have to travel with other learners who attend different sites and/or follow courses with different timetables. Shared transport helps to achieve sustainable transport outcomes, reduce congestion and secure cost-efficient transport arrangements. This could result in longer travelling times and waiting times at college. It may therefore be necessary for some students to make use of opportunities for additional study or enrichment activities at college.

For parents/carers who wish to convey the student to/from school/college using their own vehicle, parental mileage may be agreed. The Council will consider paying a grant at the 'public transport rate (currently 22.6p a mile) for two return journeys a day, based on the shortest distance by car between home and school/college.

For parents/carers of young people with an EHCP they may wish to consider applying for a Direct Travel Assistance Payment (DTAP). This method of travel assistance can provide families with more flexibility as they are able to decide how the payment is used to support their child to attend education.

Transport arrangements are subject to regular review to take account of pupils joining and leaving school/college. In addition, there is a legal obligation that transport contracts are periodically re-tendered (generally every 2-3 years) to achieve best value.

When a student is taken ill during the school day it is the responsibility of the parents/carers to make arrangements for the student to get home. The County Council will not provide transport assistance.

Where a student with special transport needs is placed in a residential care setting, including independent living, transport costs will be shared with either Children's Social Care or Adults Social Care, as appropriate. It is the responsibility of Social Care (Children or Adults) to provide the appropriate expenditure codes prior to travel assistance being commissioned.

3.1.3. Cases where LA travel assistance will not be provided

Travel assistance will not be provided for the following:

- To access breakfast or after-school clubs including out-of-school activities
- To work experience, taster or open days
- To provision off the school/college site organised by the school/college
- To provision off the school/college site as part of a transition programme to a new setting

- For transfers between educational establishments during the school day
- To and from temporary addresses including friends and child minders where these arrangements are made by the family
- To and from medical appointments
- Following detention
- At times to suit the convenience of family arrangements
- At times when other siblings in the family have to be taken to other schools/colleges
- For late arrival or early departure, for example due to illness or medical appointments
- For shorter than normal days e.g. during the exam season
- For students whose level of attendance is a cause of concern, but for whom no eligibility criteria are met
- For students on exchange visits
- If the behaviour of a student is not acceptable to the driver of the vehicle and places other travellers at risk. In these circumstances parents/carers will be required to make alternative arrangements.

3.1.4. Independent Travel Training

All students will be enabled to undertake independent travel training (ITT) unless they are assessed by the County Council and student's school/college as being unlikely to benefit from such training.

Special transport provided by the County Council will not be available for students who are deemed to be suitable for ITT but who choose not to participate in the programme.

Students who have successfully completed the ITT programme will be enabled to make their journey to school/college independently. Special transport will not be provided for these students unless their circumstances have changed significantly.

Details of the County Council's travel training programme can be obtained from

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/travelling/travel/itt/

3.1.5. Apprenticeships

For students on traineeships or apprenticeships, the learning provider is responsible for ensuring that reasonable expenses are met in full where they are needed to overcome barriers to learning. These may include the cost of travelling to or from the place of learning or work placement. Please contact your learning provider for more information

3.2. Concessionary tickets for young people 16 – 25 from public transport providers

For many students living in Nottinghamshire travelling to college using the local and public transport network will be the most convenient and cost-effective solution. Many of our local transport providers currently offer Student Season passes and discounts which enable more flexibility for travel which is often required by Post 16

Students. To assist parents/carers and students, information about public transport services is available at:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/public-transport

This includes routes and timetables (including timetable changes), maps and a journey planner, as well as contact details for transport providers, from whom information is available about any season ticket offers for students. Travel information is also available by ringing Traveline on 0871 200 2233 (12 pence per minute from landlines and mobiles).

Students living and travelling within the City and Greater Nottingham area can purchase a Robin Hood Student Season Card, which allows unlimited travel on most bus, tram and train services. For more details please visit www.robinhoodnetwork.co.uk or call 0115 876 2700.

Students living and travelling in areas served by Trent Barton can purchase a Student MANGO Card, which saves 25% on adult single cash fares on most bus and tram services. For more details please visit www.trentbarton.co.uk/mango or call 01773 712265.

Students living and travelling in areas served by Your Bus can purchase a child ticket while they are 18 years or younger. Student fares are available for students over 18 in full time education (subject to provision of appropriate ID). For more details please visit www.catchyourbus.co.uk/

Students living and travelling in areas served by Stagecoach can access 10% off adult fares when travelling to and from school/college. They may also purchase Adult Mega Rider season tickets which offer reductions on the daily fare. For more details please visit www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/east-midlands

The 16-25 Railcard offers young people aged 16-25 a third off Standard Anytime, Off-Peak, Standard Advanced and First Class Advanced fares.. For more information, please visit www.16-25railcard.co.uk

[In September 2019 the 16-17 Railcard is being launched.](#) This Railcard will offer young people aged 16-17 year a 50% discount on rail travel. For more information please visit www.railcard.co.uk

3.3. Travel support from schools and colleges

Some schools operate their own transport services. The County Council website has a search facility for Nottinghamshire schools. This includes contact details and links to individual school websites, which contain information about any bus services operated by the school:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/search-for-a-school

Sixth Form Colleges and Further Education Colleges can assist students with information on transport. Some colleges (such as Bilborough College) also provide private contracted bus services to areas which are not well served by commercial

bus services. College bus services normally operate at the start and the end of the college day only. You should contact Student Services at the college:

Bilborough Sixth Form College	bilborough.ac.uk/students/student-support/
Chesterfield College	www.chesterfield.ac.uk/knowledge-base
Derby College	www.derby-college.ac.uk/student-support/derby-college-transport
Doncaster Communication College	www.deaf-trust.co.uk
Doncaster College	www.don.ac.uk/student-services
Grantham College	www.grantham.ac.uk/student-life/advice-services
Landmarks	www.landmarks.ac.uk/
Lincoln College (including Newark College campus)	www.lincolncollege.ac.uk/support
Loughborough College	www.loucoll.ac.uk/student-services
Nottingham College	www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk
North Notts College	www.nnc.ac.uk/
Portland College	www.portland.ac.uk/
Rotherham College	www.rotherham.ac.uk
West Notts College	www.wnc.ac.uk/Facilities-and-services

3.4. Other sources of financial support

3.4.1. The 16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help young people overcome specific barriers to participation, so they can remain in education.

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

Vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year depending on your circumstances and benefits

Discretionary bursary for young people who do not qualify for a vulnerable student bursary and may require financial assistance. Schools and colleges have their own criteria for discretionary bursaries and will make awards to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

Schools and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursary. Young people who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their chosen school or college to make an application.

Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/ search for post 16 bursaries.

3.4.2. Care to Learn / Young Parents

If you are a young parent under 20, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs, up to £160 per child per week, while you're learning.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare 'taster' session (up to 5 days)
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to the childcare provider

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim>

3.4.3. Discretionary Learner Support Funds (DLS)

DLS Funds encourage improved participation, retention and attainment among adults aged 19 or over on low incomes. The amount paid depends on individual circumstances and is decided by the learning provider, dependent on their scheme. Further information on the DLS scheme can be found by visiting www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support/overview

3.4.4. Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Post-16 students with a disability may be entitled to the Personal Independence Payment (PIP), to help with some of the extra costs caused by long-term ill-health or a disability. The rate depends on how the condition affects the student, not the condition itself. PIP is replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA). For more details visit www.gov.uk/pip

4. APPLYING FOR LA SUPPORT

Full conditions of the post-16 travel assistance scheme are available at

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/schooltravel/post-16-travel-assistance/

This includes details of how to apply, downloadable application forms and the Post-16 School/College Travel Assistance booklet.

5. REVIEW OF TRAVEL DECISIONS

A parent/carer has the right to a review of a decision if they believe that the County Council has assessed their entitlement to travel assistance incorrectly.

Stage one: Officer review

Parents/carers have 20 working days from receipt of the home to school transport decision to make a written request asking for a review of the decision. The written request should detail why the parent/carer believes the decision should be reviewed and give details of any personal and/or family circumstances they believe should be considered when the decision is reviewed.

Within 20 working days of receipt of the written request a senior officer will review the original decision and send the parent/carer a detailed written notification of the outcome of the review. This will explain the rationale for the decision reached and explain how, if they wish to do so, request their case to be taken to stage two of the appeal process

Stage Two: Review by an independent appeal panel

A parent/carer has 20 working days from receipt of the local authority's stage one written decision notification to make a written request for their case to be taken to stage two of the review process.

Stage two appeals will be considered within 40 working days of receipt. The independent appeal panel will consider both written and verbal representations from both parent/carer and officers involved in the case. A detailed written notification of the outcome will be sent to the parent/carer within five working days of the appeal panel.

The appeal panel members will be independent of the original decision-making process.

If a stage two appeal is unsuccessful, there is no further right of appeal within Nottinghamshire County Council. However, if a parent/carer is dissatisfied with the way the appeal has been conducted they may complain to the Local Government Ombudsman. The Local Government Ombudsman has no statutory power to overturn the decision of the Panel but can draw the County Council's attention to any misadministration leading to injustice.

A parent/carer may also complain to the Secretary of State for Education if they are unsatisfied with the outcome. To complain to the Secretary of State, young people or their families should use the contact form ongov.uk – www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus. Any complaint should outline the case, set out the decision taken by the local authority and include any other relevant documentation, for example any advice or decisions from LGO where appropriate.

Should a review find in the parents/carers favour, free travel will be backdated to when the original application was received by TTS or the start of the academic year in which the application is made, whichever is the later.