

Post 16 – 18

Travel Assistance

Frequently Asked Questions



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR PAST OUR PRESENT AND FOR OUR FUTURE

The council has no statutory obligation to provide transport for any Post 16 Students.

Local authorities have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport, or otherwise that the authority consider necessary, to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

The sixth form age duty applies to young people of sixth form age and young people with EHC Plans up to the age of 25 where they are continuing on a course started **before** their 19th birthday. These arrangements could include but are not limited to:

- The availability of a concessionary fares scheme
- Bus Pass
- Independent Travel Training
- A fixed mileage allowance
- Provision of actual transport

This will be to support the needs of those for whom it would not be reasonable practicable to access education or training provision if no arrangements were made.

Further information can be found on our website [Home to school transport | Walsall Council](#)

FAQ for National Guidelines

Q: Why isn't post 16 transport free for everyone, in the same way as it is for school age pupils?

A: We expect local authorities to make reasonable decisions about what support should be available based on the needs of their population, local transport infrastructure and the resources they have available. It is, however, recognised that the cost of transport can be an issue for some young people and to help with this there is further support available. Information about what support is available locally is available from the local authority in their post-16 transport policy statement. The statement can be accessed on the LA website or through the postcode search at gov.uk

The Bursary Fund for 16-19 year olds has the flexibility to help meet transport costs for those young people who need this support most. You can find out more about the 16-19 Bursary Fund at the bursary website.

In addition, most transport companies also give some kind of discount for young people such as discounted fares or subsidised travel passes. Some education and training providers also provide subsidised or free transport for example college buses, and travel subsidies from private training providers.

Q: What support is available for young people with special educational needs?

A: The post-16 transport duty also applies to young people with special educational needs aged up to age 25 (who have an EHC plan and started a course before their 19th birthday). Local Authorities' post-16 transport policy statements must include specific arrangements for these young people to ensure they have the necessary support. The transport needs of young people with special educational needs should also be reassessed by their local authority when a young person moves from compulsory schooling to post-16 education so that the appropriate support is put in place in accordance with the LA's post-16 transport policy.

Q: How do the duties apply for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as they turn age 19?

A: The duty a young person is assessed under is dependent on when they started their current course. If a young person with SEND started the course before their 19th birthday then they are assessed under the 16-18 duty. If they have started a new course after their 19th birthday then they are assessed under the adult duty. Young people will qualify for free transport under the adult duty where the local authority assesses that in order to attend education or training they require transport arranged by the local authority, such as a specialised vehicle or minibus. If the young person's requirements are a personal travel budget, mileage allowance or public transport pass then this does not need to be provided free by the local authority as they have not put the travel arrangements in place.

However, in these circumstances the local authority has discretion to pay some or all of the travel expenses. Young people can also receive free transport if they are attending institutions outside of the HE and FE sector and started after their 19th birthday in residential provision if the provision, boarding accommodation and transport were all arranged by the local authority. Again, in these circumstances the local authority has discretion to pay some or all of the travel expenses.

Frequently Asked Questions, Walsall MBC Policy

Q: Under what circumstances can I get assistance with post 16 travel assistance?

A: Students who are aged 16 or over with an EHCP who are unable to use public transport and who have no other support available from parents/carers may be entitled to help with travel assistance to ensure they are able to participate in education or training.

Q: I do not have an EHCP can I still apply for transport?

A: No, however, If you are aged between 16 and 19 and need some help with the costs of full-time education or training, you can apply to your school, college, or training provider for financial assistance from the 16 -19 Bursary Fund

Q: Do I need to apply for travel assistance when I become post 16 (yr.12/yr.13)

A: If you are continuing in education you will need to contact the SEN Team or your SEN Caseworker and request for a new transport application to be made.

Q: Do I need to reapply every year ?

A: Yes, a new application needs to be made each year.

Q: What types of travel assistance are available ?

A: If you are eligible for travel assistance we will assess your need and offer one of the following:

- Independent Travel Training - to assist young people using public transport
- Personal Transport Budget - If you wish to make arrangements to transport yourself to/from school/college, this is paid out in 3 termly installments at the beginning of each term.

The contribution is be deducted from the overall annual amount. The amount of PTB payment that you will receive will be determined by the distance from your home address to education or training placement.

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Q: Do I still need to complete the Post 16 Transport Application Form.

A: Yes, a Post 16 Transport Application Form will need to be completed, a copy will be sent to you once the transport application has been received by the Home to School Transport Team. Alternatively, a copy can be found on our website

Q: What is the contribution amount, and does it differ depending on the number of days a week I attend education or training?

A: The Contribution for, the academic year, low-income students must pay £300 a year towards the cost. Those who do not meet the low-income criteria must pay £600 a year towards the cost. These contributions can be paid by instalments.

The average cost of travel assistance for Post 16 students to the council is £10,171

Q: Can I pay the contribution in installments

A: Yes - One Annual Amount/3 Termly Amounts/ 6 Half Termly Amounts

You will receive an invoice(s) which will give you detail on how/where the payment(s) can be made. Invoices will be sent out at the beginning of each term/half term.

Q: Can I pay by direct debit

A: You can pay by direct debit; you would need to opt to pay in one annual amount then contact our Income Team, information will be on the back on the invoice, to arrange to it to be paid by Direct Debit, as long as the contribution is paid before the end of the academic year you can spread the cost to best suit you (weekly/fortnightly/Monthly)

Q: What happens if I can't afford/don't want to pay the contribution

A: You can apply to your school, college, or training provider for financial assistance from the 16 -19 Bursary Fund

Q Can I get access to work placements

A. No- the transport is for Education only, any work placements are the responsibility of the student or college, please contact your college or placement for details.

Examples

Q A child is 16 and wishes to attend an apprenticeship.

A: They would not qualify for travel assistance, it is the provider that is responsible

Q A child does not have an EHCP and wishes to attend a local college

A. They would not qualify for travel assistance and would need to contact the educational establishment to access a bursary or make their own travel arrangements.

Q A child has an EHCP

A. Young people with an EHC plan will have an institution named in their plan at Section I. There is no entitlement to transport to and from this named provider and transport should only be named in an EHC plan in exceptional circumstances. Local authorities should ensure during EHC plan discussions that parents are made aware that transport support will be considered in accordance with the local authority's own post-16 transport policy.

