

Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Academic Year 2021/2022

The council's transport policy statement for young people aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 24 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Policy statement update

This policy remains applicable until the end 2023/2024 academic year.

A decision notice, dated 25 March 2022, was issued to discontinue travel support for young people over the age of 16 years. The formal implementation of this decision commenced on 1 April 2022.

However, at the time it was agreed that two-year transitional arrangements would be put in place. The two-year transitional period is due to end in March 2024, but the council has agreed to withdraw the travel support at the end of the current academic school year on the 12 July 2024. This is to give parents / carers as much time as possible to make alternative arrangements.

A new post-16 transport policy will be introduced for the upcoming academic year, 2024/2025, on the 1 April 2024.

General Enquiries

Enquiries and specific requests should initially be emailed to:

education.transport@leicester.gov.uk

Telephone: 0116 454 1009 Option 2

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Introduction

Local authorities (LAs) 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.

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

‘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).

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.

This policy document specifies the support that Leicester City 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, an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency, 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.

Aims and Objectives

This document describes the support available to young people of Leicester entering or continuing with full-time Post 16 Education. It gives information from the Local Authority, schools, academies and FE colleges and other relevant sources.

The aim is to provide the most up to date details of the support available from various sources to encourage participation and prevent transport being a barrier to young learners.

This statement gives advice on the support available to learners with learning/mobility difficulties and explains the commitment to encourage independent travel to and from the place of learning.

The provision of transport assistance to Post 16 students will support those students wishing to continue in education as part of the Raising Participation Age legislation.

Transport and travel support

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

Many local operators have student season tickets available offering discounts compared to normal adult fares and/or at cheaper rates when bought on a termly or academic year basis. It is advised students contact the bus-operators directly as below:

Bus Operators

<http://www.arrivabus.co.uk/>

<http://www.kinchbus.co.uk/>

<http://www.firstgroup.com/>

<http://www.centrebus.info>

Train Services

<http://www.midlandmainline.railsaver.co.uk>

<http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

Dedicated school buses

Similarly, some of Leicester and Leicestershire's mainstream schools have commercial school special services operating to them. More information can be found directly from your school and the main operators of such services are:

Confidence: www.confidencebus.co.uk/school-bus-routes

Beaver Buses: www.beaver-bus.co.uk/school-buses/

Roberts Coaches: www.buspass.robertstravelgroup.co.uk/

G.H. Watts Coaches: www.ghwatts.co.uk/school_buses/

Ausden Clark: www.ausdenclark.co.uk

Travel support from schools and colleges

Some of Leicester's secondary schools, academies and 6th Form/FE colleges have additional bus contract arrangements on which learners or their parents can purchase places. Some FE colleges also offer direct support to students. Arrangements vary between schools and colleges, so it is always best to check directly with the individual schools/colleges for details.

You can find details of all Leicester schools on the Council's website here (this will also give you a link to the school's individual website):

<https://schoolinfo.leicester.gov.uk/DirectorySearch.html>

Contact details and websites for all the Leicester and Leicestershire FE Colleges are shown below:

Brooksby Melton College:

Contact the Transport Department on:

Tel: 0166 4855211

Email: transport@brooksbymelton.ac.uk

Website: www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk

Gateway Sixth Form College:

Contact student services on:

Tel: 0116 2744500

Email studentservices@gateway.ac.uk

Website: www.gateway.ac.uk

Leicester College:

Contact the Student Advice and Guidance Team on:

Tel: 0116 2242240

Email: info@leicestercollege.ac.uk

Website: leicestercollege.ac.uk

Loughborough College:

Contact Student Support on:

Tel: 01509 215 831

Email: StudentFinance@loucoll.ac.uk

Website: www.loucoll.ac.uk

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire college:

Contact customer service team on:

Tel: 024 76243000

Email: the.College@nwhc.ac.uk

Website: www.nwslc.ac.uk

WQE & Regent College Group:

Contact the hub on:

Tel: 0116 247 1147

Website: www.wqe.ac.uk

Stephenson College

Contact Student services on:

Telephone: 01530 836136

Email: services@stephensoncoll.ac.uk

Website: www.stephensoncoll.ac.uk

Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth 1 College

Contact student services on:

Tel: 0116 2471147

Email: studentservices@wqeic.ac.uk

Website: www.wqeic.ac.uk

Travel support from government

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:

1. A vulnerable bursary of up to £1,200 a year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups below:

- in care
- care leavers
- in receipt of Income Support, or Universal Credit in place of Income Support, in their own right
- in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living or Personal Independence Payments in their own right
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

2. Discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

To be eligible for the discretionary bursary young people must:

- be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2021 or
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2021 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2021 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers')
- be studying a programme that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality (such as Ofsted), the provision must also be funded by either a Government funding agency or the local authority

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.

More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

Care to Learn

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

Details about learn to care can be found here:- [Care to Learn Guide 2021 to 2022 academic year - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

LA travel support

LA support for young people without special educational needs or disabilities

Please note that there are no free bus passes available for learners aged 16-19 through the City Council. However, a joint operator bus pass is available to purchase for Leicester resident pupils over statutory school age if the student is aged 16, 17 or 18 at the start of the college year.

The pass allows travel on both First and Arriva buses to get to school/college. The cost of this pass will be published on the Leicester City Council website once the commercial negotiations with bus companies have been concluded.

There are alternatives to the Leicester City Council Bus Pass. If you only need to use a bus from one operator, you could get better value in terms of price and flexibility by purchasing a season ticket directly from a commercial bus operator.

Before you apply for a Leicester City Council bus pass, we strongly urge you to consider all the commercially available alternatives.

Most commercially available season tickets allow you to travel at any time and on any day including weekends. In comparison the City Council bus pass can be only used for one return journey per day to and from school/college and cannot be used during holidays or at weekends.

Please visit the websites listed below for more information on commercial services in your area and the range of student season tickets and multi-trip tickets that are currently available. Please check these websites regularly for any special offers.

www.arrivabus.co.uk/midlands/bus-tickets/student-tickets/

[First Leicester Student Tickets](#)

Once you have considered all the options available to you, if you do wish to purchase a joint operator bus pass through Leicester City Council, visit www.leicester.gov.uk/schooltransport

LA support for young people with special educational needs or a disability

The government requires young people to continue in education or training until at least the end of the academic year in which they turn 18. The government has been clear that raising the participation age is not about increasing the statutory school leaving age as young people will be able to participate through a range of options.

For those young people with special educational needs, who have an EHCP, which indicates a transport need, they will continue to receive assistance with transport between the ages of 16 and 25. The local authority has a discretionary power to provide transport assistance to those over compulsory school age.

You can contact the SES team on:

Email SES-Admin@leicester.gov.uk

Web: [Family Information | SEND Local Offer \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

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. Students may also be eligible for a bursary (see Bursary Fund section above).

Those not in education, employment, or training (NEET)

Connexions Leicester is a careers service for young people who live in Leicester City and are aged 16 to 19, or up to 25 for young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

Connexions also have specialist personal advisers who are trained to work with young people with SEND to help them make decisions about their future.

You can contact connexions on:

Email: connexions@leicester.gov.uk

Tel: 0116 454 1770

Web: leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk

Useful contact details

Leicester City Council

If you want information about the assistance that is provided by Leicester City Council for mainstream pupils, call Education Transport on (0116) 454 1009 (Option 2) or visit www.leicester.gov.uk/schooltransport

If you need individual special needs transport assistance, call the Special Education Service on (0116) 454 2050 or email SES-Admin@leicester.gov.uk

If you have any comments on this document that would assist in the policy making, including in-year changes, please contact us as follows:

Tel: 0116 454 1009 option 2

Email: education.transport@leicester.gov.uk

Write to us at:

Leicester City Council

Halford House

Education Transport

91 Charles street

Leicester

LE1 1HL

Department for Education

<https://www.gov.uk/subsidised-college-transport-16-19>

Bus routes and timetable information

www.traveline.info

0871 200 2233 (calls cost 12p per minute plus your phone company's access charge)

Learner Support Service

Residential Support Scheme

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme>

Applying For LA Travel Support

If you wish to buy a pass from the City Council, you should apply online as soon as possible after 1st July 2021 using the Leicester City Council's Home to School Transport web site:

www.leicester.gov.uk/schooltransport

To be sure of obtaining a pass from the start of the autumn term, students should apply as soon as possible after 1st July. If your application is received shortly before the start of term, students may not receive their pass in time for the start of their course. If a course depends on GCSE results, students should apply anyway and return the bus pass if the course is not taken up.

For SEND Transport requests, this will be addressed within the statutory assessment process for an (EHCP) for further information contact:

Contact Number 0116 454 2050

Email: SES-Admin@leicester.gov.uk

Mainstream Transport Appeal & Complaints

The process to appeal against a decision or to complain may be made on behalf of a learner or by their families who wish to challenge a decision about the support available from the local authority.

Tel: 0116 454 1009 option 2

Email: education.transport@leicester.gov.uk

Write to us at:

Leicester City Council

Halford House

Education Transport

91 Charles street

Leicester

LE1 1HL