



Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

2019 – 2020

Transport policy statement for young people aged 16-19 in further education,

School Transport Team

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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.

The statutory duty on the local authority to provide free travel assistance ends when students leave year 11.

'Sixth form age' and 'post-16' 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 and/or disabilities to participate in education and training, up to the age of 25.

This policy document specifies the support that Solihull Council (the 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.

2 Aims and objectives

The Council is committed to encourage, enable and assist the participation of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 19 in education and training.

The Council wants all young people to have the same access to opportunities in life: to travel, to get a job, have friends and relationships, to live as independently as possible, to have a good social life and to be valued in their community. Learning to travel on public transport is an essential skill. We actively promote independent travel so that all young people can access their community, training and learning opportunities as well as social and leisure activities.

3 Transport and travel support

3.1 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 16-19 bursaries:

- (i) 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
- (ii) 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 2019-2020 discretionary bursary young people must:

- be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2019 or
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2019 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2019 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.

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

3.2 Young parents / Care to Learn

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>

4 LA support

Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), the transport arm of the West Midlands Combined Authority, is the body that is responsible for promoting and delivering public transport across the West Midlands.

Solihull pays an annual levy (£8.5m in 2019/20) to Transport for West Midlands, a proportion of which will support TfWM's spending on subsidised bus, train and tram travel for children and young people. Consequently, for the vast majority of post-16 learners, Solihull Council does not provide travel assistance directly to individual students because they can access their course using the transport network.

Solihull and the wider West Midlands is predominantly a large urban area that is well served by an extensive bus and rail network. The vast majority of schools and colleges are also well served by this network.

The Council's contribution to Network West Midlands supports and promotes learners of sixth age accessing education or training of their choice within the West Midlands area.

4.1 LA support for young people without special educational needs or disabilities

The Council considers that all students aged between 16-19 will be able to travel to their provision on the West Midlands transport network by purchasing their own travel pass, available from Network West Midlands.

Low income families can apply for financial assistance to their college or institution for support through the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

4.2 LA support for learners with special educational needs or a disability

Students aged 16 - 19 years

The majority of students will be able to access their course using the public transport infrastructure as described above, or s/he will be transported by a family member or carer. Over 85% of buses operating within the West Midlands network meet accessibility regulations and all buses are low-floor and wheelchair accessible. More information can be found at <https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/information-for/transport-accessibility/during-your-journey/> .

High-needs students with severe mobility or learning difficulties who live Solihull and are unable to travel to their course independently and can prove that there is no other family member or carer who can meet their travel needs may apply for discretionary travel assistance providing they are:

- aged 16-18 years at the time of application, or have started the course before their 19th birthday and
- attend a full-time, suitable course at the nearest suitable school, college, institution or 16-19 academy within the West Midlands transport region.

Students aged 19 and over

The Council discharges its duty to students aged 19 and over through the Adult Social Care team. Application for travel assistance should be made to Adult Social Care for consideration under the terms of their policy.

4.3 Type of support available

Travel training

The Council has a team of fully trained and accredited travel trainers who have years of experience of working with young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. They work with individuals to train them to travel safely and independently to and from their school or college, on foot or on public transport.

The benefits extend far beyond travel to and from school, such as improving social skills, increasing independence, self-esteem and access to social life and leisure activities.

Seat on a vehicle to Reynolds Cross School or Merstone School

Students may be offered a seat on an existing vehicle which is travelling to Merstone Special School or Reynolds Cross Special School. The applicant must pay a contribution (see below).

Seat on a council commissioned bus service

Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who purchase their own Network West Midlands travel pass may use council-run school bus services, for example the T1 bus which runs from Meriden, Balsall Common, Knowle and Dorridge and stops near Solihull College, Blossomfield campus.

Other post-16 institutions

Generally the Council will not be able to provide a taxi service to other institutions as the cost is prohibitive.

Contribution towards assistance

Students offered a seat on any Council commissioned specialist transport to post-16 provision must pay a contribution towards the cost.

The current average cost to the Council, of providing a door-to-door vehicle service, is £5,000 per student. The applicant's payment represents a contribution towards the Council's actual costs. Payment must be made termly in advance.

The contribution for 2019-2020 is £660 per annum or £220 per term.

Financial assistance for low income families

Low income families are expected to approach their school, college or institution for financial support, through the 16-19 Bursary Fund, to meet the contribution for a seat on a Council commission specialist transport vehicle.

Low income families who are requesting financial assistance are expected to have first applied to their school, college or institution for support through the 16-19 Bursary Fund. Low income families who can demonstrate that the bursary does not meet their costs may apply for further assistance. Cases will be considered on an individual basis and in exceptional circumstances financial assistance may be granted. Payments will be made half-termly in arrears for the number of days actual attendance at 25p mile for 2 return journeys.

4.4 Apprenticeships

The Council considers that young people aged between 16-19 will be able to travel to their apprenticeship location on the West Midlands transport network by purchasing their own travel pass, available from Network West Midlands.

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

Job seekers who are registered on the Youth Promise Plus programme may be eligible for limited travel assistance.

4.6 Residential courses and courses outside the West Midlands

The Council does not provide travel assistance to young people who attend a residential placement or a course which is outside the region covered by the West Midlands travel infrastructure.

5 Applying for LA transport support

Young people or a family member should fill in an application form and send it with supporting evidence to the School Transport Team. Medical evidence should be supported by a consultant or other hospital professional. Applications are subject to assessment by our Travel Options Assessment Officer and are normally processed within 20 school days of an assessment.

5.1 Appeals and complaints

If you are not happy with the outcome of your application you have the right of appeal as follows.

Stage 1

Fill in an appeal form explaining your challenge to the decision.

An officer review panel reconsiders the decision.

You will be sent a letter detailing the new outcome.

If you are still not happy with the outcome you can ask for independent panel of Council Members to review the decision – Stage 2.

Stage 2

All of the documentation from stage 1 will be submitted to Members.

You can add any further information or supporting evidence that you wish.

Democratic Services department will arrange for a panel of Council Members to review the application, the process and the outcome.

Where an appeals panel considers a case and finds that the child is not eligible under the terms of the policy but, nonetheless, wishes to make an offer of provision, they may set a contribution at a level that they see fit.

You will be sent a letter detailing the outcome to your appeal.

If, once you have followed the above, you think that the proper procedures have not been followed you can ask the Local Government Ombudsman to investigate. This must be done within 12 months of the outcome of your appeal. This is not a right of appeal as the Local Government Ombudsman can only investigate complaints about maladministration. As a guide the Local Government Ombudsman will usually consider whether:

- the council's policy for providing travel assistance is objective, clear and fair;
- the council have applied their policy properly or fairly;
- the council did not take relevant information into account in reaching its decision, or took irrelevant information into account; or
- the council delayed dealing with your application.

The Local Government Ombudsman can be contact by phone on: 0300 061 0614 or www.lgo.org.uk/making-a-complaint.

5.2 Overpayment made in error or as a result or a fraudulent application

If it is found that we have made an overpayment of public funds to you, either due to our error, failure to notify of change of circumstances that may affect eligibility, or a fraudulent application, any over payments must be repaid to the Council. The Council will take action, if necessary, to recover the monies. This may include legal action.

6 Concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for Post-16 young people

Disabled person's free travel pass

Transport for West Midlands can issue an English National Concessionary Pass (Disabled Person's Free Travel Pass) which gives disabled people free travel by bus

anywhere in England during 'off-peak' times - between 9.30am and 11.00pm Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and on public holidays.

Travel before 9:30am Monday-Friday costs £1 single-fare on National Express West Midlands buses. A ticket can be bought from the bus driver by presenting a disabled person's pass and asking for a £1 single-journey ticket.

<https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/disabled-persons-pass/>

Network West Midlands 16-18 Photocard

Students aged 16-18 and living in the West Midlands can apply for a 16-18 photocard which allows the purchase of single, return and season tickets for the bus, train and tram with a saving you up to 50%. The 16-18 photocard is free of charge.

<https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/child/16-18-photocard/>

Student tickets

Students over 18 in full-time education or 16-18 year olds who are not eligible for the 16-18 Photocard can buy the following student tickets:

n-bus Student for travel anywhere in the West Midlands area on any bus operator at any time.

n-network Student for travel on bus, train and tram travel across the Network West Midlands area.

<https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/students/>

Ticket finder

A range of tickets is available for the bus, train or Metro. Choose a ticket for just one day, one month, one term or one year. Best value tickets are available when you pay by direct debit.

<https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/>

Journey planner

Network West Midlands Journey Planner enables students to see which public transport routes they would need to use to travel from home to the school or college they are attending. Or students can use NetNav and Net WM journey planning apps.

<https://journeyplanner.networkwestmidlands.com/>

7 Schools in Solihull with post-16 provision

Alderbrook School
Blossomfield Road
Solihull
B91 1SN
0121 704 2146

Arden
Station Road
Knowle
Solihull
B93 0PT
01564 773348

Grace Academy
Chapelhouse Road
Birmingham
B37 5JS
0121 329 4600

Heart of England School
Gypsy Lane
Balsall Common
Coventry
CV7 7FW
01676 535222

John Henry Newman Catholic College
Chelmsley Road
Birmingham
B37 5GA
0121 770 5331

Park Hall Academy
Water Orton Road
Castle Bromwich
Birmingham
B36 9HF
0121 748 0400

St Peter's Catholic School
Whitefields Road
Solihull
B91 3NZ
0121 705 3988

Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst
Cooks Lane
Birmingham
B37 6NZ
0121 329 8300

Tudor Grange Academy Solihull
Dingle Lane
Solihull
B91 3PD
0121 705 5100

Forest Oak Special School
Winward Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham B36 0UE
0121 717 0088
Post-16 based at Solihull College
Woodlands Camps

Hazel Oak Special School
Hazel Oak Road
Shirley
Solihull
B90 2AZ
0121 744 4162
Post-16 based at Solihull College
Blossomfield Campus

Merstone Special School
Winward Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham
B36 0UE
0121 717 1040

Reynolds Cross Special School
Kineton Green Road
Olton
Solihull
B92 7ER
0121 707 3012

8 Colleges in Solihull

Solihull College

Blossomfield Campus

Blossomfield Road

Solihull

B91 1SB

enquiries@solihull.ac.uk

0121 678 7000

The campus is a 10 minute walk from Solihull's main bus and train station. Bus numbers 6, 30, 49, 76, 519, A6, A7, T1 stop outside the campus.

Solihull College

Woodlands Campus

Auckland Drive

Smith's Wood

B36 0NF

enquiries@solihull.ac.uk

0121 678 7000

The following bus routes stop within walking distance of the campus: 55, 71, 94, 94A, 96, 966, X12.

Solihull College student finance offers limited support for trips, equipment and travel. For more information go to the college website: <https://www.solihull.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/SS-16-19-Financial-Assistance-Guidelines-17-18.pdf>

Solihull Sixth Form College

Widney Manor Road

Solihull

B91 3WR

enquiries@solihullsfc.ac.uk

0121 704 2581

Bus numbers 5, A7, A8 and S20 stops outside the college.

The college is within walking distance of Widney Manor train station and Solihull town centre.

For financial support go to <https://www.solihullsfc.ac.uk/student-zone/financial-support/>

9 Colleges beyond Solihull

Hereward College

Bramston Crescent
Coventry
CV4 9SW

Student.services@hereward.ac.uk

02476 426101

Queen Alexandra College

Court Oak Road
Birmingham
B17 9TG

info@gac.ac.uk

0121 428 5050

Stratford College

The Willows North
Alcester Road
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 9QR

hello@stratford.ac.uk

01789 266245

Travel by train from Shirley Station on London Midland line. The college is a 7 minute walk from Stratford-upon-Avon station. Train journey time is approximately 30 minutes.

Travel by bus on Johnson's Excelbus 20 from Shirley and Solihull. The journey takes 50 minutes followed by a 10 minute walk to the college.

For financial support contact the Student Services Team:

studentfinance@stratford.ac.uk

Warwickshire College Moreton Morrell

Moreton Morrell

Warwick

CV35 9BL

info@warwickshire.ac.uk

0300 45 600 47

The college runs bus service 10 from covering Shirley, Solihull, Knowle, Dorridge:

0800	Shirley, Notcutts Garden Centre	1630	Moreton Morrell College
0810	Solihull, Tudor Grange Park	1710	Dorridge, The Station
0825	Knowle, Fish Bar	1715	Knowle, Fish Bar
0830	Dorridge, The Station	1730	Solihull, Tudor Grange Park
0915	Moreton Morrell College	1745	Shirley Notcutts Garden Centre

Bus passes can be purchased via the College online shop at

<http://shop.warwickshire.ac.uk>.

Financial assistance may be available. Information can be found at:

http://www.warwickshire.ac.uk/help__advice/transport/financial_support.aspx

10 Useful contacts

Solihull Council - School Transport Team

Manor Square

Solihull B91 2QB

schooltransport@solihull.gov.uk

www.solihull.gov.uk/schooltransport

0121 704 6610

Solihull Council - Independent Travel Trainers

travel.training@solihull.gov.uk

www.solihull.gov.uk/traveltraining

0121 704 8069

Transport for West Midlands part of West Midlands Combined Authority

www.tfwm.org.uk

Network West Midlands

www.networkwestmidlands.com

Apps: NetNav and NetWM

Network West Midlands 16-18 Photocard

Students aged 16-18 in full-time education can purchase a 16-18 Photocard for £10 which entitles the cardholder to pay child fares to and from school or college on buses, trains and trams within the West Midlands area.

www.networkwestmidlands.com/16-18

Network West Midlands Disabled Persons Concessionary Travel Pass

<https://www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/disabled-persons-pass/>

National Express West Midlands Travel Cards and Term Plus

Travel cards available for use on Travel West Midlands buses.

www.nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands

16-19 Bursary Fund

You could get a bursary to help with education-related costs

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

Care to Learn

Care to Learn can help with childcare costs

www.gov.uk/care-to-learn