



Leicester
City Council

Proposed Draft Post-16 Transport Policy Statement Academic Year 2026 – 2027

March 2026

The council's travel policy statement for young people aged 16 - 18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 25 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

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1. Introduction

Local authorities (LAs) **do not** have to provide free or subsidised Post 16 travel support.

The council does have a duty to prepare and publish an annual travel policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of travel 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 via the council's local offer pages. These will only be approved under exceptional circumstances. This is significantly different practice to previous years and is likely to affect rights to travel support even where currently being received on existing courses.

'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 can lead to positive outcomes and are funded by the council, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers.

2. 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 travel being a barrier to young learners.

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

3. Travel 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

- Arriva website: arrivabus.co.uk
- Kinchbus website: kinchbus.co.uk
- First Bus website: firstbus.co.uk
- Centrebus website: centrebus.info

Disabled Person's Bus Pass

If you live in Leicester and have a qualifying disability, you are entitled to a concessionary travel pass or an annual payment of £22 by bank transfer. This allows free travel on local buses in all parts of England at certain times.

Disabled Person's Bus Passes are valid for free train travel at all times on train journeys between Leicester and stations in Leicestershire, and between Leicester and Derby, Nottingham, Grantham, Peterborough, Kettering and Nuneaton.

Website: [Disabled person's travel pass | Buses | Leicester City Council](#)

Train Services

Train services are available throughout Leicester and Leicestershire, with the option to purchase either:

- a 16 - 17 Saver Railcard to receive up to 50% of the price of eligible train tickets
- a 16 - 25 Railcard to receive up to 1/3 off the price of eligible train tickets
- a Disabled Persons Railcard to receive up to 1/3 off the price of eligible train tickets for you and an adult companion

Website: eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk

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 buses: confidencebus.co.uk/school-bus-routes
- Beaver Buses: beaver-bus.co.uk/school-buses
- Roberts Coaches: [Contact Us — Passenger Travel Solutions](#)
- G.H. Watts Coaches: ghwatts.co.uk/school_buses

4. Transport 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 (this will also give you a link to the school's individual website): [Schools Directory \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

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

Brooksby College (Leicestershire):

Contact the Travel Department on:

Telephone: 01664 850850

E-Mail: travel@brooksbymelton.ac.uk enquiries@loucoll.ac.uk

Information available at interview and in 16-18 Travel Guide by visiting:

brooksbymelton.ac.uk

Gateway Sixth Form College (Leicester):

Telephone: 0116 274 4500

(Student services)

E-Mail: studentservices@gateway.ac.uk

Website: gateway.ac.uk

Leicester College (Leicester):

To discuss any travel queries with a member of the Student Advice and Guidance Team:

Telephone: 0116 224 2240 or 0116 224 4048

For information regarding travel provision for students with learning difficulties contact the Travel Coordinator: Telephone: 0116 224 2240 extension 2098

For any other travel queries:

Website: leicestercollege.ac.uk

E-Mail: info@leicestercollege.ac.uk

Loughborough College (Leicestershire):

Telephone: 01509 215831

E-Mail: enquiries@loucoll.ac.uk

Website: loucoll.ac.uk

North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College (Leicestershire):

Customer Service Team:

Telephone: 0330 058 3000

Email: enquiries@nwslc.ac.uk

Website: nwslc.ac.uk

Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I College (Leicester):

Divisional administrators 'The Hub'

Telephone: 01162471147

Email: enquiries@wqe.ac.uk

Website: wqe.ac.uk

Stephenson College (Leicestershire):

Telephone: 01530 836 136

Email: enquiries@loucoll.ac.uk

Website: stephensoncoll.ac.uk

5. Travel support from the government

As it is not a statutory requirement to provide Post 16 travel the Council expect all eligible students to apply for a bursary fund. Details of funds are noted below:

5.1 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:

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 travel, meals, books and equipment
2. Discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of travel, 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 2026 or
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2026 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2026 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: [16 to 19 Bursary Fund \(GOV.UK website\)](#)

5.2 Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can help with extra living costs if you have both:

- a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability
- difficulty doing certain everyday tasks or getting around because of your condition

You can get PIP even if you're working, have savings or are getting most other benefits. The mobility element of PIP could be used to support home to school transport.

How PIP works

There are 2 parts to PIP:

- a daily living part - if you need help with everyday tasks
- a mobility part - if you need help with getting around.

Whether you get one or both parts and [how much you get](#) depends on how difficult you find everyday tasks and getting around.

Mobility part

You might get the mobility part of PIP if you need help with:

- working out a route and following it
- physically moving around
- leaving your home

You do not have to have a physical disability to get the mobility part. You might also be eligible if you have difficulty getting around because of a cognitive or mental health condition, like anxiety.

Website: [Personal Independence Payment \(PIP\) \(GOV.UK\)](#)

If you receive the enhanced rate mobility part of a PIP you may also be eligible to join the Motability scheme to support access to a car, scooter or wheelchair.

Website: [Motability Scheme | Lease a car, WAV, scooter or wheelchair](#)

5.3 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

Types of childcare

The childcare provider must be Ofsted registered and can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

If your child needs specialist childcare, the provider must also be on the Care Quality Commission's register for specialist provision.

If you want a relative to get Care to Learn for looking after your child, they need to be both:

- providing registered childcare for children they're not related to
- living apart from you and your child

Payments

Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before your childcare provider can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course

Payments for travel costs go to your school or college - they'll either pay you or arrange travel for you.

Payments will stop if:

- you stop attending your course
- you finish your course
- your child stops attending childcare

Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you're the main carer for your child
- you live in England
- you're either a British citizen or a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country
- your course is publicly funded (check with your school or college)
- your childcare provider is registered with Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission

Type of course

Care to Learn is only available for courses in England that have some public funding.

This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

Young parents are also entitled to apply for an Under 19 Bus Only Ticket or for those aged 19 and over can apply for the 19 – 25 card.

For more information, please visit [Care to learn how to claim \(GOV.UK\)](#)

6. Council 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 flexi-ticket bus ticket 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 multiple bus companies to get to school/college. Details of the pass are available on the [Choose How you Move website](#).

There are alternatives to the flexi-ticket. 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 any bus

pass or ticket, we strongly urge you to consider all the commercially available alternatives.

7. Council support for young people with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)

Many young people in Post 16 Education and older with SEND are able to travel independently or accompanied by a parent, carer, or guardian, using public transport, and the council cannot offer services to replace parental responsibility.

Many young people with a special educational need (SEND) may also be able to travel with a parent or guardian accompanying them.

For those with a diagnosed SEND or as part of Preparing for Adulthood, as detailed on our [SEND Local Offer website](#), we also support Young People with Independent Travel Training.

7.1 Young people aged 16 - 19 with SEND

~~Those already in receipt of SEND Transport in Year 12 in the 2024/2025 academic year will continue to receive support in the 2025/2026 academic year ie in Year 13, to support the transition in policy.~~

To be considered for travel assistance, a young person must meet each of the following conditions:

- i) the young person must be resident in Leicester City; and
- ii) the young person must have a complex SEND need and a placement specified in an Education Health and Care Plan. A complex SEND need for the purposes of this policy is where a young person has:
 - a) A diagnosed terminal illness that has severe impact on their current physical and / or mental health and that is likely to significantly reduce their life expectancy and/or;
 - b) If required to travel independently, the student's SEND needs or disability would jeopardise his/her safety or that of others and/or
 - c) The student has a mobility difficulty which requires specialised seating or a specialised vehicle e.g. tail-lift access that is not available to them (including on public transport where that has to be relied upon) and / or
 - d) The learner is likely to require medical intervention or personal care during the journey to and from school;
- iii) the young person must be attending the nearest appropriate education or training provider; and

- iv) either:
- a. the education or training provider is more than 3 miles walking distance from the young person's home, or
 - b. if the walking distance is 3 miles or less, the young person is unable to walk to and from the education or training provider because of a disability or because the walking route is unsafe; and
- v) the young person must be attending a full-time, publicly funded course (a full-time course is a programme of at least 580 study hours per year).

A young person who satisfies each of the conditions above will be eligible for a personal transport budget, as explained in section 10.1 below. In "limited exceptional circumstances", and where there would otherwise be "demonstrable financial hardship", additional assistance may be offered. Section 10 below details the types of travel assistance that may be available.

Whether exceptional circumstances exist are determined by the Strategic Director of Social Care (or another officer exercising delegated authority) in the light of the specific circumstances of that case following an application. In each case, the Council will require appropriate evidence as to any claimed exceptional circumstances. Applications can be made in cases where a young person or a parent/carer believes the young person's needs are such that the standard PTB offer will be insufficient and without further support they could not travel to attend their place of education. Other reasons may exceptionally be considered.

None of the following is (taken in isolation) likely to constitute an exceptional circumstance:

- Single parent families.
- Parent(s)/ carers who work.
- Having other children to look after and/or at other schools.
- Travelling to an independent school out of area.
- Parents/carers/students unable to drive or having access to a car.
- Student uses a wheelchair.

There would otherwise be 'demonstrable financial hardship' if in receipt of one of the following:

- Income support
- Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child tax credit (provided you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- The guarantee element of state pension credit

- Working tax credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit.
- Universal credit with annual net earned income of less than £7,400

For children and young people up to their 18th birthday, the financial hardship test will be based around the income of parents / carers. For adult learners, the financial situation of the adult learner will be considered in the context of the household income.

The fact that transport or travel assistance may have been provided in previous years does not indicate that the young person will be provided with travel assistance, under this policy. Accordingly, any planning that a young person and/or their family makes for future arrangements should take this into account.

7.2 Young people aged 19 - 25 with SEND

The arrangements for young people with SEND aged 16 to 19 also apply to young adults with SEND aged 19-25.

Section 7.1 applies to young adults with SEND aged between 19 and 25.

8. 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).

9. 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. Please contact

Telephone: 0116 454 1770

Email: connexions@leicester.gov.uk

Website: [Connexions Leicester | Leicester City](#)

Address:
Connexions,
2 Wellington Street,
Leicester,
LE1 6HL

10. Type of travel assistance available

10.1 Personal transport budget (PTB)

Personal Transport Budgets (PTBs) are designed to give families the freedom and to flexibility to make travel arrangements that best meet their family's needs. They enable parents to retain responsibility for ensuring their child attends school whilst providing the means to do so when the child is eligible.

For further information and to apply please see [Personal Travel Budget \(SEND Local Offer\)](#)

10.2 Independent travel training (ITT)

Independent travel training provides young people with tailored and practical assistance to travel safely by public travel, on foot or by bicycle to their school, college and placement. It also supports young people socially, to access other key services and connect with friends and family.

Independent travel is an essential life skill, and helps to better prepare young people for adulthood, and for accessing further education and employment by raising their confidence in their abilities.

The council's Independent Travel Trainer's will work with schools and colleges to be able to deliver travel training to their students.

If a young person is identified as potentially suitable for travel training, their parent/carer will be contacted by the council or their school to arrange a consultation with the nominated travel trainer.

Following the consultation, the young person and family (where appropriate) will then be supported to undertake the training programme. If they are not ready or suitable for training, a future review date will be set, and they will continue to be provided with travel assistance if they remain eligible.

Further information about [Independent travel training | LCC Family Hub](#) can be found on our Local Offer page.

10.3 Public transport bus pass

Where young people are eligible and the method of transport is determined to be appropriate to offer but the child or young person requires accompanying, the council may offer a public transport bus pass to a parent / carer to meet its obligation

to provide free home to school travel assistance [Home to school transport | LCC Family Hub](#)

10.4 Contracted minibus, private hire vehicle or taxi

This includes but may not be limited to:

- Pick up and drop off from/to a collection point or central location locally
- Shared or individual, private hire vehicle or minibus for groups of young people
- Individual taxi, private hire vehicle or minibus for solo travellers (exceptional circumstances only)

11. Useful contact details

11.1 Leicester City Council

If you want information about the assistance that is provided by Leicester City Council for mainstream pupils, call Education Travel on:

Telephone: 0116 454 1009 (Option 2)

Website: [Transport to school or college | Leicester City Council](#)

If you need individual special needs travel assistance, call the Special Education Service on 0116 454 2050 or email SENDTravelSupport@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:

SEND Transport
Special Education Needs Service
Pinder Road
Leicester
LE3 9RN

11.2 Department for Education

Website: [Subsidised college travel 16 to 19 \(GOV.UK\)](#)

11.3 Bus routes and timetable information

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

Telephone: 0145 563 2719

Website: [Plan Your Journey | Traveline](#)

11.4 Learner Support Service

Residential Support Scheme

Website: [Residential support scheme \(GOV.UK\)](#)

12. Applying for council travel support

Applications for travel support for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities should be made via the website.

Website: [Apply for travel support | LCC Family Hub](#)

Applications for travel assistance for students age 16 and above in colleges of further education to commence at the start of the Autumn Term, should be made wherever possible by the last day of the summer term prior to the start of the new academic year. The LA cannot guarantee to provide travel assistance from the first day of the Autumn Term if applications are received after this date. Where late applications are submitted, parents/carers and/or sixth form students may have to make their own interim travel arrangements, the cost of which cannot normally be reimbursed.

Website: [Personal Transport Budget \(SEND Local Offer\)](#)

Young people attending further education establishments will need to re-apply annually, providing evidence of both satisfactory attendance and progress.

13. Appeals

13.1 Appeals Process for pupils with a special educational need or disability

Should parents/carers wish to appeal against the council's decision not to provide travel or against the mode of travel provided they should email SENDTravelSupport@leicester.gov.uk or write to:

Transport Appeals
Special Education Needs Service
Pindar Road
Leicester
LE3 9RN

The council has a 2-stage review and appeals process as recommended by the Department for Education. The timings for responses may be extended if additional time is required to gather supporting information or delayed by school/college holidays.

Please note that whilst the review and appeal process takes place the parent/carer will remain responsible for arranging and funding for any travel arrangements that a parent/carer may feel is necessary. Throughout the appeals process parents may wish to seek independent advocacy support and advice

The appeals procedure is in two stages:

Stage 1: Review by a Senior Officer of the council.

- A parent/carer has 20 working days from the date of the travel decision letter, to make a formal written request asking for a review of the decision.
- The written request should detail why the parent/carer or young person believes the decision should be reviewed and give details of any personal and/or family circumstances, including medical evidence, they believe should be considered when making the decision is reviewed.
- Within 20 working days of receipt of a written request, a Senior Officer will review the original decision and send a detailed written notification of the outcome of their review, including information about how the parent/carer can escalate their case to stage two (if appropriate)

Stage 2: Review by an Independent Appeal Panel:

- If a parent/carer are dissatisfied with the outcome of the review of their case, they have 20 working days from the receipt of their decision letter to make a written request to escalate the matter to stage two.
- Within 40 working days of receipt of the parent/carer's written request an Independent Appeal Panel will be arranged to consider both written and (if the parent /carer wishes to attend the panel hearing) verbal representations from both the parent/carer and officers involved in their case.

The Independent Appeal Panel members will be independent of the original decision-making process (but not required to be independent of the local authority) and suitably experienced, to ensure a balance between meeting the needs of the parent/carers and the local authority.

If a parent/carer or student is still not satisfied with the outcome of the appeal, there is no further right of appeal to the council. However, there is still the right to appeal to the Secretary of State or to take independent legal action.

If a parent/carer or young person feels that their appeal has not been treated fairly or in accordance with the LA's policy, the Local Government Ombudsman can be contacted for help and advice on:

Telephone: 0300 061 0614

Website: [Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)