

Frequently Asked Questions: Further Education/Post 16 Transport

Are zero fare bus passes available for learners who are over the age of 16? Rotherham Council does not provide zero fare bus passes to learners who are over the age of 16. Learners will need to apply for a 16-18 Student Pass and can apply by visiting www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/1618/ or by telephoning Traveline on 01709 515151.

The learner has an EHCP and cannot travel alone on public transport, what are the options available? If a learner with an EHCP has reached the age of 16 and has finished statutory education, they will need to re-apply for transport assistance for the following September. An assessment will be made based on the information provided on the form and additional supporting evidence will need to be supplied to support the application. The learner/family will be informed of the outcome of the assessment and advised on what transport assistance will be provided, within 28 days from receipt of the application.

What transport assistance will be provided? If the young person qualifies for transport assistance a Personal Transport Budget (PTB) will be offered as the first option for learners who are in further education at school 6th form/college. The PTB offers families more freedom to make their own transport arrangements for the young person to suit them best as a family. They have full control over how the money is spent and can even use the money to help the young person to become more independent. Please confirm your interest in this option on the application form.

If the family do not wish to receive a PTB, then transport assistance can be requested to be organised and arranged by Rotherham Council and this will need to be considered.

Will transport assistance be provided free of charge? There is no automatic entitlement to free school or college transport and there is a contributory charge towards the cost of any transport provided. This may be provided free of charge if the student's family receive the maximum amount of Working Tax Credit or Income Support (below £16,190 per year) and proof will need to be provided. If the family are in receipt of a PTB, there is no cost to the family.

How much is the charge and how do we pay? The charge is only a contribution towards the cost of transport and is based on the current concessionary bus fare of 80p per journey. The charge is £1.60 per day for learners attending schools/colleges within Rotherham, and £3.20 for learners attending schools/college outside Rotherham. Charges are based on the number of weeks of each term and an invoice is sent to the family of the learner during each term.

The learner has a medical or mobility difficulty but prefers to use public transport, what help is available? Family/learner can apply for a disabled person's pass. This may be available to some Rotherham residents and allows free travel on buses, trams and trains within South Yorkshire. Severely disabled people who are unable to travel alone may also qualify for a disability pass, which enables a care giver to travel with them free of charge. More details are available on the Local Authority website www.rotherham.gov.uk/info/200034/disabilities/403/apply_for_a_blue_badge

The young person wishes to become more independent and undertake travel training. Is there any help available? Schools/colleges may already have independence travel training for their students so please discuss what programmes they may have on offer. Rotherham Council are intending to introduce their own travel training programme and if you wish the young person to be considered for this, please complete the online application form.

What is a 16-19 Student Bursary and how may it help? The 16 to 19 bursary fund supports some 16 to 19 year olds and those young people who most need help with the costs of staying in education due to financial difficulties. Further information, including details about how to apply are available on www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund. To apply for an allocation from the student bursary, please contact student services at school/college and not to Rotherham Council.

Family want to provide transport themselves, is there any help available towards the cost of transport? Family can apply to receive a personal transport budget (PTB) to make their own arrangements to transport the young person to/from school 6th form/college. The amount offered will be based on the mileage between home to school/college and is based on 45p per mile for the journeys in which the young person is travelling.

What if we need to make changes or cancellations to transport? We have a text message service available and the number is **07860018829** (incoming only). This number can be given to the learner if appropriate and they can let us know if transport needs to be cancelled at short notice. Please include the student's name, post code and school/college base name.

If transport is not cancelled, before 7 pm the Council has to pay for the next day's journey. Similarly you need to cancel before 10am if an afternoon journey is not required that same day.

The learner is attending school/college within Rotherham but lives outside the area, is there any help available? Rotherham Council will only provide and fund transport for those learners who qualify and live within the Rotherham area. The learner/family will need to make an application for transport to the Council in which they pay their Council Tax to.

To find your local Council please visit: www.gov.uk/find-local-council

General Enquiries

If you have a general enquiry about assessments and applications, please

email our generic mailbox of education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk