



Post 16 Transport to Education and Training.

Transport policy for students aged 16-18 and extended access to students aged 19 and over.

2017/18

1. Introduction

Each year, Walsall Council is required to set out what travel support is available from the Council and from other bodies to help young people aged 16-18 (and older in some cases) to attend their school, further education college or training provider.

The Council no longer provides travel assistance for post 16 students. Post 16 students with special educational needs and/or who have disability or mobility/medical problem (and who are unable to use public transport) may be entitled to transport assistance. This is no longer free of charge. Transport support may also be extended above the age of 19 to enable the student to make further progress each year and also for students who start their course after the age of 19.

Students aged 16-18 at the start of the academic year (1 September), and living within the West Midlands metropolitan area, are eligible for discounted travel tickets. Walsall Council makes payments each year to Centro, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, so that concessionary fares are available for learners. Information is provided on the range of concessionary fares and other sources of help below.

This policy statement will be updated in 2018 to reflect changes that apply for the academic year 2018/19.

2. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Most students who have some form of special educational need will make their own transport arrangements, like any other student.

Students aged 16-18

Students who are aged 16 or over with special educational needs and/or who have disability or mobility/medical problem (and who are unable to use public transport) may be entitled to help with transport to ensure they are able to participate in education or training.

You can apply for support in your own right or your family can apply on their behalf. Anyone who wishes to apply for transport support from Walsall Council will need to complete an application form each year, even if they have already received any form of travel assistance during the previous academic year.

The Council will assess the individual circumstances of each student and their need for transport support. We will do this in consultation with you, the student, your parents/carers and your school, college or training provider. This assessment will take account of the type, duration and location of the chosen course as well as the nature of a young person's special educational needs, disability or learning difficulty.

In most cases, we will offer students the opportunity to take part in an independent travel training programme. More information on Independent Travel Training can be seen in Walsall's Local Offer pages.

<http://www.wcld.co.uk/kb5/walsall/asch/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=4&loboolean=1>

Other travel options for students who are eligible for transport support include: a personal transport budget; a travel pass; use of shared transport such as a minibus or, in exceptional circumstances, a taxi, usually shared, with or without an escort.

Whatever the option, 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.

Transport support may also be extended above the age of 19 up to the age of 25, to enable the student to make further educational progress each year. This is for any continuing course begun on or before the student's 19th birthday.

Students aged 19 or over

Students who start a new course after the age of 19 may also be eligible for transport support. Students must have an Education, Health and Care plan, a statement of special educational need or a Section 139a assessment. You will need to provide evidence to show why you feel the Council should make the travel arrangements rather than yourself or your family.

The Council will then consider this evidence carefully and decide what practical support is necessary (if any) and whether this should be provided free of charge, or whether a contribution to the Council's costs is required. If a contribution is required, then this will be fixed at £600 a year for each student who is assisted, with the exception of low income students (as defined below) who will pay £300 a year. These contributions can be paid in instalments. Alternatively, the Council may simply opt to pay all or part of an adult student's reasonable travelling expenses.

Low income: The student or their family can apply for a 50% reduction in the required contributions, if they receive any of the following benefits:

- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
- The maximum level of Working Tax Credit.

Where the Council agrees to provide travel assistance, it will do so in the most cost effective way that takes account of the needs of the student and the best use of resources. The student's eligibility for support with transport will be re-assessed each year.

3. Concessionary fares and other tickets

Public Transport Assistance

Information is provided by Centro. All prices quoted are correct as at May 2017. The main bus operators in Walsall are National Express West Midlands, Arriva and Diamond. Walsall borough is in Zones 4 and 5 of the West Midlands rail network.

Swift

This is a smart card for travel on public transport in the West Midlands. It provides cashless travel across the Network West Midlands area. You select how, when or where you pay for your travel so whether you want to load it with Pay-As-You-Go credit or a season ticket you just keep topping up the same card.

16-18 Photocard

The 16-18 Photocard allows students in full time education to purchase child rate fares, child season tickets and monthly child direct debit tickets for the bus, metro or train. These are about half the adult fare. To apply for the photocard you need to apply online at www.networkwestmidlands.com

You can get your 16-18 Photocard by obtaining a Unique Validation Code (UVC) from your school or college in September once you have enrolled. Without this UVC code you will not be able to apply for your 16-18 Photocard.

The photocard costs £10.00 for the whole academic year (September to July) and entitles you to buy:

- Child cash fares for travel to and from your school or college only; or
- Child season tickets, which are valid for one week, four weeks or a term that can be used at anytime, seven days a week; or
- Monthly child direct debit tickets - the best value option.

Child Term tickets and Direct Debit tickets can be bought and used without a valid 16-18 Photocard during August and September. You need to show your photocard when you buy single fares and season tickets and keep it with you while you are travelling.

Student Fares - the network student ticket

You can buy a discounted student ticket if you are over 18 and in full-time education. Or, if you are 16-18 and in full time education and are not eligible for the 16-18 Photocard, you can buy a student ticket.

Tickets are valid for one term and can be used as many times as you like. There are different options depending on how far you need to travel.

For example, a Network student ticket that gives unlimited travel on regional buses, Rail Zones 1-5 (including Walsall) and the Metro will cost £260 for the summer term.

If you are travelling to and from a college outside the West Midlands you can pay a supplement to cover any additional rail travel.

You will need: proof you're in full time education and 2 passport photos (or a jpg passport style photo if you wish to buy online). You can:

- Buy online at <http://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/>
- Buy at one of the [Travel Card & Information Shops](#)
- Buy from selected National Express West Midlands Travel Card Agents and other bus operators.

There are some travel concessions that are only for students with special educational needs, medical needs or disabilities:

Disabled person's pass

You may qualify for a free travel pass if your disability is long term or expected to last at least 12 months.

It is available to blind and other disabled students who are permanently resident in the West Midlands. A free permit is provided for use on bus, rail and Midland Metro services. It is valid at the following times:

Mondays to Fridays : 0930 to end of day time service
Weekends and Bank Holidays: Anytime.

There are also 'add-on' tickets that can be purchased to allow travel before 0930.

More information from www.networkwestmidlands.com
NX West Midlands Scholar's Ticket

These Scholar's tickets are not available for retail sale but may be provided for those students with special educational needs and/or disabilities through the Council.

They are valid Monday to Friday term time only and for journeys to/from the school or college. You can use them from start of daytime services up to **0930** and from **1530** up to **1800** and, if in connection with the school or college curriculum, any time up to **2215**.

Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities are also able to obtain a 16-18 Photocard and a Network Scholar Season ticket that is valid on any operator's bus, train and Metro service within the West Midlands metropolitan area.

More information: contact Walsall's Transport Team. Phone 01922 653761 or 653762.

Apprentices

WorkWise supports eligible apprentices to overcome barriers to travel within the Network West Midlands area. They can help with travel information and journey planning; a free day travel pass to attend apprenticeship interviews; and, once an apprenticeship is secured, WorkWise will provide you with a free travel pass for the first four weeks of your new apprenticeship. www.networkwestmidlands.com/information-for/apprentices/ or Email: workwise@centro.org.uk

Bus operators' tickets

National Express West Midlands – Travel cards and Term Plus

National Express West Midlands offer a range of tickets for young people between the ages 16-18, so long as they have a Centro 16-18 photocard. There is also a Direct Debit option that does not require a Centro 16-18 photocard, just proof from the student's school or college that they are in full time education.

Travel cards are available for 1 week, 4 weeks and as Term Plus. They can be used all day, every day, as many times as you want.

The Black Country fare saver, the term network passes and the regional travel card are also available to students 18 and over in full time education (minimum of 12 hours).

For example, the Student Black Country Fare saver ticket is valid on National Express West Midlands buses only in the Black Country area. It is valid all day, seven days a week and is available to students who are not entitled to a 16-18 photocard but are still in full time education. A ticket for the summer term costs £135.

National Express West Midlands: www.nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands.

Diamond Network Termlink:

The Network Termlink Student ticket is valid on Diamond buses across the West Midlands and costs £135 a term.

Arriva:

An Arriva West Midlands student ticket offers unlimited travel on Arriva buses only in the county area for £95 per term.

4. Information, advice and support

Courses

For choice of courses, see www.UCASProgress.com. This gives information on the range of courses in your chosen area of study that are provided by schools, colleges and training providers in your local area, or further afield.

16 to 19 Bursary Fund

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.

Students most in need will be eligible for a bursary of £1200* a year. This includes people in care, care leavers, people receiving income support or universal credit and disabled people receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. Young people eligible for income support will include some teenage parents, young people estranged from their families and those whose parents have died.

Other students facing financial difficulties may also be able to claim a bursary to help with the costs of transport, food, equipment or other course related costs. You have to apply directly to your school, college or training provider for a bursary. They decide on the amount you receive, when it is paid and what conditions they might attach, for example, linked to attendance.

For advice speak to student support services or your tutor, or go to:

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/

**£1200 maximum bursary is correct at April 2017, but may be subject to change by the Education Funding Agency.*

Non-employed Apprenticeship Students

The learning provider is responsible for ensuring that non-employed apprentices have their reasonable expenses met in full where this is needed to overcome barriers to learning. These may include the costs of travelling to or from the place of learning or work placement. Please contact your learning provider for more information.

WorkWise also offer a free day travel pass to attend apprenticeship interviews; and, once an apprenticeship is secured, a free travel pass for the first four weeks of your new apprenticeship.

Care to Learn (C2L)

C2L can help pay for childcare and travel costs for young parents (aged under 20 at the start of the course) who want to continue their education or training and need help with the cost of travel and childcare. You cannot claim if you are a paid apprentice or are doing a higher education course at university. Further details are available at www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

A*Stars

Walsall Council has developed an Active Sustainable and Road Safety programme (A*Stars) which encourages a 'modal shift' to more environmentally friendly forms of transport and aims to increase road safety awareness. As part of this programme schools are encouraged to adopt action plans to develop initiatives throughout the academic year. This information is published on the A*Stars website: www.astarswalsall.co.uk. Through the development of the Sustainable Mode of Travel strategy a range of initiatives to promote and improve road safety and sustainable travel modes to reduce car use on journeys to and from school have been introduced. These included measures to encourage more children and families to walk, cycle and use public transport on the school journey. There are initiatives for secondary schools including Drive 2 Arrive for pre and new young drivers and advanced cycle training. Further initiatives covering post 16 students at secondary schools will be available as part of the 2016/17 A*Stars programme.

BUSFORUS

BUSFORUS.co.uk is a website that helps young people to plan their bus journeys. The site, which is also accessible by Smartphone and tablet devices, uses interactive maps and GPS technologies to match users to their nearest bus stops, operators, timetables and services. The site was built in response to feedback from the British Youth Council and is managed by CPT on behalf of the bus industry. www.BUSFOURUS.co.uk

Centro

Centro is the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority and is responsible for developing and promoting public transport across the West Midlands metropolitan area. They produce the Network West Midlands transport map that gives information on all bus operators, routes, rail and metro services.

A journey planner is also available from www.networkwestmidlands.com or via the NetNav and New WM Apps.

Contacts

Centro
16 Summer Lane, Birmingham, B19 3SD
Phone: 0845 303 6760
www.networkwestmidlands.com

Travel West Midlands
51 Bordesley Green, Birmingham, B9 4BZ
Phone: 0121 254 7272
Email: travelcare@travelwm.co.uk
www.travelwm.co.uk

5. Independent travel training

Walsall's Special Schools and colleges may provide independent training for their students. Walsall Council has an Independent Travel Training scheme for young people in the borough. A travel training programme is offered to those young people for whom it is appropriate. More information on Independent Travel Training can be seen in Walsall's Local Offer pages.

Contact : The Transport Team, Walsall Children's Services on 01922 653761 or 653762

6. When should students apply for transport support?

Bursaries

You should discuss these with your learning provider, ideally in the term leading up to the start of your course.

Public Transport Assistance

Applications for 16-18 Photocard are only available from your new school or college; you will not be able to apply for one until you enrol. They are available on line. Term tickets can be purchased in September and can be used without the Photocard itself until 30th September. A Photocard must be in place by 1 October.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

If you feel you may still qualify for transport assistance, contact the Transport Team in the term before the start of your course. You are likely to be offered independent travel training if this is appropriate for you. Your eligibility for transport support will be re-assessed each year.

7. What help can learners apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond their local authority area?

Concessions detailed in this policy may only apply to journeys within the West Midlands metropolitan area. However, some colleges provide a bus service for their students.

The Council will assess the individual circumstances of each student with special educational needs or disabilities and their need for transport support where those students attend a course that is outside the Walsall area, if this is the nearest appropriate learning provider.

Students who need to travel to a course outside the borough of Walsall should contact Walsall Children's Services Transport Team on 01922 653761 or 653762.

8. What help is available for learners who attend a college that is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?

Some pupils with a statement of special educational needs or an Education Health and Care Plan attend residential schools or colleges that are outside Walsall borough. The transport needs of these students will be assessed by the Council to determine the level of support required.

A national Residential Support Scheme provides help with the accommodation costs of students aged 16 and over, who are studying to Level 2 or 3 for 16 hours a week for at least 10 weeks duration and who need to live away from home because their course is not available locally.

Ring the national helpline 0800 121 8989 or visit www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme.

9. Complaints

If you have a complaint or wish to lodge an appeal against a decision relating to transport then in the first instance you should follow your Learning Provider's complaints/appeals procedure.

However, if your complaint relates to travel support which has been provided by Walsall Council under this policy, or if the decision which you wish to appeal against was made by the Council under this policy, then you should write to:

The Transport Manager
Walsall Children's Services
Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Phone: 01922 653761 or 653762

Email SENTransport@walsall.gov.uk for the attention of the Transport Manager

Your complaint will be investigated by a reviewing officer and you will be notified of the outcome. The notification will include details of how to lodge an appeal though the Council if the complaint is not upheld.

Policy dated: 31 May 2017