



**Milton Keynes**  
City Council

# **MKCC School Travel Support Post 16 Policy Statement.**

**30 May 2025**  
**Version 1**

## Eligibility

- **No Universal Free Travel:** Students aged 16+ in Milton Keynes **do not** automatically get free school transport.
- **Who Can Get Free Travel?**
  - Only students aged **16–25** who attend the **nearest suitable school or college** (as confirmed by the council) may qualify.
  - If a student chooses a different school/college (even if it consulted the council), it's considered a **parental choice**, and **parents must arrange transport**.
- **What Counts as a Suitable Education Setting?**
  - A full-time place at:
    - A school
    - A further education college
    - A local authority-supported institution
    - A 16–19 Academy
    - Any other institution funded under section 15ZA of the Education Act 1996
- **Distance Requirement:**
  - The school/college must be **over 3 miles from home** unless the student has specific needs listed in their **EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**.
- **EHCP-Based Exceptions:**
  - Students may qualify for transport if they have:
    - Severe physical disabilities limiting mobility
    - Medical conditions causing severe pain or fatigue
    - Sensory impairments affecting mobility
    - Severe emotional, social, or behavioural difficulties
- **Privilege Fare Scheme:**
  - Students who don't qualify can **buy a seat** on a council-arranged vehicle through the **Privilege Fare Scheme**.
  - More info: [School travel support | Milton Keynes City Council](#)
- If **two colleges offer the same or similar course** (same level and qualification), and **both confirm they can meet the student's needs**, then:
  - **Choosing based on things like the building layout, environment, or extra features** (e.g. sports facilities, access to animals, training flats) is considered a **parental preference**.
  - In this case, **free transport will only be provided to the local option**.

## Support Options

If a student qualifies for transport, Milton Keynes City Council may choose the most cost-effective option that still meets the needs of the student and their family. The following are the types of transport currently available for students.

Bus Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child and adult pass to use public transport. This is the default offer.</li><li>• Suitable for journeys within statutory travel times, and for children that can travel on public transport.</li></ul>
MK Connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Account to use MK Connect for school travel. Option for accompanying adult if required.</li><li>• Door to door option available where required. Currently being trialled with Post 16 SEN passengers.</li></ul>
Mileage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Termly payment cover anticipated mileage costs.</li><li>• Suitable for eligible families with a vehicle and ability to get the child to school</li></ul>
Family Lead Travel Budget (FLTB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Termly payment to support family to make arrangements to suit the needs of the family / child (e.g. childcare arrangements, arrange own transport - taxi / friends &amp; family)</li></ul>
Commissioned shared Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport is commissioned and managed directly by MKCC.</li><li>• The vehicle will be shared with other children</li></ul>
Commissioned 1:1 transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transport is commissioned and managed directly by MKCC</li><li>• The vehicle is not shared by other children</li></ul>

## Post 16 students and low income support

If you're aged 16–19, you may be able to get help with transport costs through the national Department For Education's **16 to 19 Bursary Fund**, which is managed by schools and colleges. To find out more or apply, contact the student finance or welfare office at your chosen school or college.

There are **two types of bursaries**:

1. **Vulnerable Bursary** – Up to **£1,200 per year** for students who are:
  - In care or a care leaver
  - Receiving Income Support or Universal Credit in their own name
  - Receiving Employment and Support Allowance (or Universal Credit) and Disability Living Allowance (or Personal Independence Payment)
2. **Discretionary Bursary** – For students who need help with things like:
  - Transport
  - Meals
  - Books and equipment

To qualify for the discretionary bursary, students must:

- Be aged 16–18, or
- Be 19+ with an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**, or continuing a course started before they turned 19
- Be studying a course inspected by a public body (like Ofsted) and funded by the government or local authority

For more details, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for “**post 16 bursaries.**”

## Discounted Travel for Young People in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes City Council offers discounted travel through the ‘**All in 1 MK Card**’. This card is for young people aged **5 to 19** who:

- Live in Milton Keynes or
- Go to school, college, or training in Milton Keynes

It allows them to travel on local buses at reduced fares.

For more details and how to apply, visit: [All in 1 MK Card – Milton Keynes Council](#)

## Support for Young Parents – Care to Learn

If you're **under 20** and a parent, the **Care to Learn** scheme can help pay for:

- **Childcare costs** (up to **£160 per child per week**)
- **Registration and deposit fees**
- A **trial childcare session** (up to 5 days)
- **Summer holiday childcare**
- **Travel costs** to and from your childcare provider

### Who can provide childcare?

Your childcare must be registered with **Ofsted** and can include:

- Childminders
- Nurseries
- Pre-school playgroups
- Out-of-school clubs

If your child needs specialist care, the provider must also be registered with the **Care Quality Commission**.

Relatives can only be paid if they:

- Are registered to care for other children (not just yours)
- Live separately from you and your child

### How payments work:

- Childcare payments go directly to the provider (once attendance is confirmed)
- Travel payments go to your school or college, who will either pay you or arrange transport

Payments stop if:

- You or your child stop attending
- You finish your course



## Who is eligible?

You can apply if you:

- Are **under 20** when your course starts
- Are the **main carer** for your child
- Live in **England**
- Are a **British citizen** or from the **EEA**
- Are on a **publicly funded course**
- Use a **registered childcare provider**

## Where can you study?

Courses must be in England and publicly funded. This includes:

- Schools and sixth forms
- Colleges and learning centres
- Community learning (e.g. at Family Centres)

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Young parents can also apply for:

- An **Under 19 Bus Only Ticket**
- A **19–25 travel card** (if aged 19+)

More info and how to apply: [Visit gov.uk – Care to Learn](https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn)

## Residential placements

If the local authority arranges both your **Post-16 education** and **boarding accommodation**, they may also help with travel between home and the placement.

- Travel support is usually provided at the **start and end of each term and half term** (up to **12 journeys per year**).
- The type of travel support depends on individual needs.

## What to Do If School Travel Support Is Refused

If your request for School Travel Support is turned down, you can ask for it to be reviewed by the **Alternative/SEN Panel**. This can happen for three reasons:

1. **You believe the policy was applied incorrectly.**
2. **You agree the policy was applied correctly, but your child has exceptional needs that should be considered outside the usual rules.**
3. **Support was approved, but you believe the way it's being provided isn't suitable for your child.**

A **Senior Officer** from the School Travel Support Team will review the case using evidence from you or someone representing you. You can also include written input from a third party (like a professional or support worker).

If you're not happy with the outcome, the case can be reviewed again by a **new panel** who were not involved in the first decision.

If you're still not satisfied, you can follow the **council's complaints procedure**.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/comments-compliments-and-complaints/complaints-and-compliments>

