



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	• Child and adult pass to use public transport. This is the default offer. • Suitable for journeys within statutory travel times, and for children that can travel on public transport.
MK Connect	• Account to use MK Connect for school travel. Option for accompanying adult if required. • Door to door option available where required. Currently being trialled with Post 16 SEN passengers.
Mileage	• Termly payment cover anticipated mileage costs. • Suitable for eligible families with a vehicle and ability to get the child to school
Family Lead Travel Budget (FLTB)	• 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 & family)
Commissioned shared Transport	• Transport is commissioned and managed directly by MKCC. • The vehicle will be shared with other children
Commissioned 1:1 transport	• Transport is commissioned and managed directly by MKCC • The vehicle is not shared by other children

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 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>

For further information contact School Travel Support

Telephone (01908) 252526

Email: STS@milton-keynes.gov.uk

