



**Milton Keynes**  
City Council

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

**22 May 2026**  
**Version 1**



## Eligibility

- **No Universal Free Travel:** A young person aged 16+ in Milton Keynes **does not automatically get free school transport**. Priority for travel support will be given to a young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). However, a young person without an EHCP will also be considered on an individual basis, taking into account their needs, circumstances, and whether support is necessary to enable them to access education or training.
- **Applying for travel support:**
  - Post 16 young people must make a new application annually, if travel support is required.
- **Who Can Get Free Travel?**
  - Only a young person aged **16–25** who attends the **nearest suitable school or college** (as confirmed by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Team at 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
- **Course Requirement:**
  - The young person is attending a course that represents a continuation of study within the same subject area or a progression to a higher level from their previous programme of learning.
  - Courses that repeat learning at the same level or represent a lateral change of subject without clear progression will not normally be considered.
  - Full-time attendance will normally be defined as a course involving a minimum of 12 hours of guided learning per week during the relevant academic year, or otherwise meeting the provider's definition of full-time study.

- **Distance Requirement:**
  - The school/college must be **over 3 miles from home** unless the young person has specific needs listed in their **EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**.
- **EHCP-Based Exceptions:**
  - A young person may be eligible for transport where the distance to their place of education is less than 3 miles and one or more of the following criteria apply:
    - Severe physical disabilities limiting mobility
    - Medical conditions causing severe pain or fatigue
    - Sensory impairments affecting mobility
    - Severe emotional, social, or behavioural difficulties
- If **two colleges offer the same or similar course** (same level and qualification), and **both confirm they can meet the young person'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, **transport will only be provided to the local option**.
- **Privilege Fare Scheme:**
  - If the young person does not qualify for transport under the eligibility criteria, you can apply to pay for a seat if one is available on a council-arranged vehicle through the Privilege Fare Scheme.
  - More info: [School travel support | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

## Support Options

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

Transport Type	Description
<b>Bus Pass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bus pass will be provided for the young person to access public transport. This is the default offer.</li> <li>• Where required, an additional bus pass may be provided for an accompanying adult to support the young person's travel</li> </ul>
<b>MK Connect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Account provided for travel via MK Connect.</li> </ul>
<b>Mileage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly payment to cover anticipated mileage costs.</li> <li>• Available to eligible families with access to a vehicle who can transport the young person to their placement.</li> </ul>

<b>Family Lead Travel Budget (FLTb)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Termly payment to enable families to make their own suitable arrangements, including childcare or transport solutions (e.g. taxi, private arrangements, or support from friends and family).</li> </ul>
<b>Commissioned Shared Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport arranged and managed by MKCC.</li> <li>• Vehicles are shared with 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 your school or college via the **16 to 19 Bursary Fund**.

There are **two types of bursaries**:

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

To qualify for the discretionary bursary, young people must:

- Be aged 16–19, 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 18** 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: [MK Move All in 1 smart card \(Junior Concessionary Travel Scheme\) | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

**Eligibility for a Disabled Person's bus pass:**

- You must be over 5 years of age and meet one of the following:
- be blind or partially sighted
- be profoundly or severely deaf
- be without speech
- have a disability, or injury, which has a substantial and long-term effect on your ability to walk
- have no arms or have long-term loss of the use of both arms
- have a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind that started before adulthood and includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
- would be refused a licence to drive a motor vehicle, should an application be made under Part III of the Road Transport Act 1988, under section 92 of the Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the grounds of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol
- **How to apply for or renew a Disabled Person's bus pass**
- You can apply for a bus pass using the [online application form](#). Or a family member or friend can help you by completing it on your behalf.

## 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)

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 declined

If your bus pass application for School Travel Support is declined, you can make an **Alternative/SEN Travel Application**. 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 with panel colleagues 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, you can request a stage 2 Appeal, and this will consist of a 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) 253338

