

# Post 16 transport statement

September 2009



## Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

**Name of Local Authority:** East Sussex County Council

**Department Responsible:** Children's Services

**1. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives (this section should give an overview/statement of intent of what the Local Authority's transport policy is and what the subsequent desired outcomes are).**

The providers of post 16 education in East Sussex believe in the principle that no student aged 16 to 19 should be deprived of the opportunity to benefit from post 16 education because of the lack of transport or the finance to enable them to use transport. The providers have, therefore, developed policies which ensure there is adequate provision and that the students in greatest need are given resources to enable them to travel between home and college.

**2. Please provide details of all concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for learners aged 16–18 and who provides them. Please provide details of any costs to the learner.**

All students can benefit from subsidised bus and rail fares. These are outlined below.

### **A. Bus fares**

The East Sussex Pathfinder scheme offers weekly bus tickets at reduced rates for students using public bus services. It is expected the weekly cost of the ticket will be subsidised by £3 per week and will cost £11.50 per week. Choice ID plus identity cards will need to be obtained from participating colleges. For more information visit [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/road/pubtrans/pathfinder.htm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/road/pubtrans/pathfinder.htm) or contact the School Admissions within the Children's Services Department at County Hall.

### **B. Rail fares**

In 2008/9 Post 16 students in Further Education were able to obtain rail tickets offering one third off rail fares subject to a minimum cost of £8 per week. It is anticipated that the scheme will continue in 2009/10. Students will need to obtain an identity card (application forms obtainable from schools/colleges or from School Admissions at County Hall) before they can apply for a rail card (by Internet). The available card covers travel for a minimum of one month. The internet link is [southernrailwaytickets.com](http://southernrailwaytickets.com).

### **C. Use of hired coaches serving schools with sixth forms**

Students attending schools with sixth forms where hired vehicles are available can purchase a seat by applying to the Passenger Transport team in Transport and Environment department. The cost of a seat for 2009/10 will be £100 per term (based on a six term year).

**D. College provision**

Some colleges also provide their own transport as well as relying on public transport. Details of this can be obtained direct from the colleges.

**E. Free provision**

Some students are entitled to free transport and this is outlined in question 5 below.

**3. What times during the day can learners use their travel pass or obtain concessionary fares?**

Tickets available for the public service network can be used as any time, seven days a week.

**4. Please confirm that support will continue to be made available to learners who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course.**

Where students receive support it is usually provided up until age of 19 (subject to a normal maximum of two years) but will continue until students complete their course.

**5. How will learners be assessed to see if they are eligible for support?**

**e.g. means-testing or must they be on benefits?**

Students from families in receipt of:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit based on income of £16,040
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

are entitled to help with transport from the County Council, if the distance between home and the nearest appropriate provision is over three miles from the college. This help is provided in one of the following ways:

- a free seat on a vehicle hired by the County Council (*available only to students attending sixth forms at maintained secondary schools*)
- a season ticket on certain public bus services
- an annual grant based on distance between home and college:

3 - 5 miles	£153
5 - 7 miles	£306
7 - 10 miles	£459
over 10 miles	£612
- for students attending colleges/sixth forms in Brighton and Hove, the grant will be

restricted to the cost of weekly bus tickets valid on Brighton and Hove buses.

If students are refused assistance by the County Council there is an appeals process. The first stage is to write to the Director of Children's Services setting out why it is felt the decision is wrong. The appeal will be considered by an officer not involved in the original decision. If the appellant remains dissatisfied they can ask for their case to be considered by the School Transport and Student Support Panel. This Panel comprises three elected County Councillors. There is no further right of appeal once the Panel has made its decision.

**6. What help do you provide for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or learners facing other difficulties in following their courses?**

Students with special needs may receive additional help with transport if they are unable to access public transport services to their designated college. This will normally be provided by means of a vehicle hired by the County Council to transport the student between home and college, where possible with other students, but provision will not be made for pre course visits. Advice from the Connexions Advisors (Special Needs) will be taken into consideration when determining eligibility for travel support. However, the final decision will rest with the County Council. Help is provided in response to assessed need, and is not means tested. Some colleges also provide additional transport help for students with special needs. This provision will be made up until age 21 (and beyond to enable the student to completing the course being followed).

**7. Do you provide mobility/independence training for learners who face difficulty with transport?**

Limited independence training is provided at Sussex Downs (Lewes) to develop students ability to use public services rather than being dependent on bespoke transport.

**8. When should learners start to apply for transport support?**

Application forms will be available from June to enable students to apply for assistance with transport.

**9. What help can learners apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond your Local Authority area?**

In some cases the nearest provision is outside East Sussex. Students attending colleges out of the county may be entitled to assistance depending on whether it is the nearest provision and the course being followed.

**10. What help is available for learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?**

East Sussex students should be able to attend a college which is within daily travel distance.

Plumpton College offers limited boarding facilities for students. The general expectation is that students living within 12 miles will not be given boarding provision unless there are extenuating circumstances. Account is also taken of the bus network.

**11. Please provide information about all points of contact for learners seeking transport support, e.g. Local Authority/college, bus company contact. Please include any websites and e-mail addresses.**

To apply for assistance with transport on grounds of low income students/parents should ask for an application form which is available either from the colleges or from the Admissions and Transport team at Children's Services department, PO Box 4, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1SG. The Transport and Environment department, also at County Hall, can provide advice about available public services and this can also be found on the County Council website at [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk). The website also provides advice on what general support is available for students.

In addition, student support staff at colleges will be able to provide advice on transport which serves the colleges. The email addresses are below: -

Sussex Downs College (Eastbourne)	<a href="mailto:info@sussexdowns.ac.uk">info@sussexdowns.ac.uk</a>
Sussex Downs College (Lewes)	<a href="mailto:info@sussexdowns.ac.uk">info@sussexdowns.ac.uk</a>
Sussex Downs (Park)	<a href="mailto:info@sussexdowns.ac.uk">info@sussexdowns.ac.uk</a>
Hastings College	<a href="mailto:studentadvisers@hastings.ac.uk">studentadvisers@hastings.ac.uk</a>
Plumpton College	<a href="mailto:enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk">enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk</a>
Bexhill College	<a href="mailto:studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk">studentservices@bexhillcollege.ac.uk</a>