

Dudley Council Post-16 Transport Statement 2022 (For Consultation)



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Introduction

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (the Council) have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the local authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

‘Sixth form age’ refers to those young people who are over 16 years of age but under 19 or continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday (years 12,13,14).

The Council also have a number duties regarding the provision of educational support and assistance to children and young people with special educational needs, learning difficulties and disabilities up to the age of 25, if they have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). The Council may provide assistance, as it considers necessary, to ensure that those with the most severe and complex needs and no other means of transportation are able to undertake further education after their 19th birthday to help them move towards more independent living.

This Post 16 Statement specifies the support that the Council considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training.

Education or training refers to:

- learning or training at a school
- further education institution
- a Council maintained or assisted institution providing further education
- an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency
- learning providers delivering accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes and are funded by the Council, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers

Aims and objectives

The Council is committed to encourage, enable and assist, where possible, the participation of young people in education and training. The Council wants all young people to have the same access to opportunities in life.

Transport and Travel Assistance

Dudley MBC provides annual subsidies to West Midlands Combined Authority in order to ensure that concessionary fares are available for those aged 16-18 who



need access to education. Concessionary fares and travel passes are the primary means of travel assistance available students aged 16-18 who do not have an EHCP.

Dudley has a comprehensive public transport network including buses and trains. West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) connects all public transport in the West Midlands metropolitan area. This includes Birmingham, Dudley, Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. It clearly identifies the complete network of bus, train and metro services

Further information can be found at: www.networkwestmidlands.com

A journey planner is available online at :
<https://journeyplanner.networkwestmidlands.com/>

Further information regarding travel and transport options is available on our Council website <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/parking-and-roads/travel-and-transport/>

Concessionary fares, passes or travel cards available for young people 16-25.

- Young persons aged 16-18 can obtain a FREE ' 16 - 18 Photocard' (Valid for up to two years or until 31st July of the academic year they turn 18). The 16-18 photocard entitles the young person to pay child fares (approximately half adult cash fares) on buses, trains and trams within the West Midlands area and also allows the young person to purchase child rate week. This concession is funded by WMCA.

For more Information contact WMCA team on 0345 075 6006 or see website for further details at:

www.networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes/child/16-18-photocard/

- Student nBus tickets are valid for unlimited travel on all operators buses across the West Midlands including Birmingham, Black Country and Coventry.
- Student nNetwork tickets are valid on any National Express West Midlands services, all participating nBus operators and train travel within the specified Network West Midlands Rail zones.

To buy a Student bus pass you will need two passport photos (electronic if applying online) and proof of being in full time education. Student bus passes are available at Dudley Bus Station or at travelcard agents:

- One Stop Stores, 73 Highate Road, Dudley DY2 0SN



- Classic News, 3 Belmark House, Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB.
- Swift is the smart way to travel on Public Transport in the West Midlands. It provides cashless travel across the WMCA area. You select how, when or where you pay for your travel so whether you want to load your card with PayAs-You-Go credit or a season ticket you just keep topping up the same card, visit SwiftCard.org.uk for more information.
- Student mTicket

National Express West Midlands have launched a new mTicket app on iOS and Android, which allows you to purchase bus tickets on your mobile phone. For more information please go to the following link: <https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/mticket> or search NXBus mTicket on App Store or Google Play for the app

Some of the great benefits include:

- Never wait in line for tickets
 - No more fumbling around for change
 - Purchase a ticket in seconds
 - Buy anywhere and at any time
 - Never lose your ticket again
- Sandwell & Dudley Ticket Zone

NX Travel have introduced a new Sandwell & Dudley ticket zone with cheaper fares so you can stay local and pay. They have discounted the price of the day ticket, weekly and 4 week ticket. If you download the mTicket app and purchase your Sandwell & Dudley ticket the prices are slightly cheaper.

See website for more details:

<https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/tickets-prices/sandwell-dudley-low-fare-zone>

For full details on the types of passes that can be purchased and Direct Debit schemes/discounts that are offered, please go to the Network West Midlands Web site: www.networkwestmidlands.com and the National Express West Midlands web site: www.nxbus.co.uk

- WMCA disabled person's free travel pass



The WMCA organises travel concessions for blind and disabled students (including those aged 16-19), who are resident in Sandwell and the other West Midlands Metropolitan Boroughs. A free concessionary pass is available for use within the West Midlands area, on bus, rail and Midland Metro services valid at the following times:

Monday to Fridays - 09.30 am to end of daytime services
Weekends and Bank Holidays - Anytime.

If you need to travel frequently before 9:30am, you can buy a pre 9:30am add-on ticket. To find out more, click here www.wmnetwork.co.uk/tickets-and-swift/discounts-and-free-travel-asses/disabled-persons-pass/

- West Midlands Railway

Run a network of local trains, for further information on student season tickets please go to: www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/student-season-tickets

16 to 19 Bursary Fund

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help young people overcome specific barriers to participation, so they can remain in education. There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

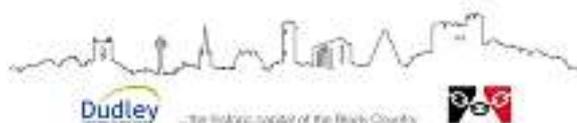
1. A Vulnerable Bursary

A vulnerable bursary of up to £1200 a year for young people in one of the defined vulnerable groups below:

- in care
- care leavers
- in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit in place of Income Support, in their own right
- in receipt of Employment Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payments in their own right
- discretionary bursaries which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

2. Discretionary Bursaries

A discretionary bursary is available that institutions award to meet individual needs. For example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment. To be eligible for the discretionary bursary young people must:



- be aged 16 or over but under 19 at the 31 August 2019
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2019 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2019 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 (19+ continuers); or
- be studying a programme that is subject to inspection by a public body which assures quality (such as Ofsted), the provision must also be funded by either a Government funding agency or the Council.

Schools and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursary. Young people who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their chosen school or college to make an application. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

Care to Learn

Care to learn can help with childcare costs (childcare provider must be Ofsted registered) while you are studying if you are under 20 at the start of your course. It's only available for publicly funded courses in England. This can include courses in:

- schools
- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at Children's Centres

You can get up to £160 per child; Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to your childcare provider

You cannot claim this support if you are an apprentice who gets a salary or are doing a higher education course at university. Further details on this scheme can be obtained on 0800 121 8989 or visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim

Dance and Drama Awards

You could get a Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) to help with fees and living costs at 17 private dance and drama schools. DaDA are scholarships that offer greatly reduced tuition fees and income-assessed support with living and learning costs at

some of the leading independent dance and drama schools in England. The awards give learners the chance to compete for a high-quality training place.

They are offered to learners by the school on the basis of talent demonstrated at audition and not financial circumstances and provide high quality training for people who want to directly enter the profession. Further details can be obtained on 0800 121 8989 or visit www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards

Discretionary Learner Support

If you are aged 19 or over, on a further education course and facing financial hardship, you could get Learner Support. You apply to your learning provider (for example your college) for Learner Support. How much you get depends on your circumstances.

The money can help pay for things like:

- accommodation and travel
- course materials and equipment
- childcare - if you qualify

Further details can be obtained on 0800 121 8989 or visit www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support

Residential Bursary Fund

You may be able to get a bursary towards the cost of accommodation from some specialist residential colleges. Most of these colleges are “Specialist Residential Centres” for subjects like agriculture, art and design or horticulture. Each specialist college has its own eligibility criteria, which often include parental income. Contact the college directly to apply. For more information: www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme/residential-bursary-fund

Traineeships and Apprenticeships

The learning provider is responsible for ensuring that a young person undertaking a Traineeship have reasonable expenses met in full where they are needed to overcome barriers to learning. They may include the costs of travelling to or from the place of learning or work placement. Please contact your learning provider for more information.

Apprentices do not have travel costs paid as they earn a wage, however, Workwise travel support offers apprentices 50% off the full-cost price of most selected Network West Midlands and National Express buses travel passes for up to 3 months when

they start a new job; go to www.wmnetwork.co.uk/tickets-and-swift/discounts-and-free-travel-passes/workwise/workwise-travel-support

Connexions

Connexions work in mainstream schools, special schools, colleges, training providers and various locations across the borough. Connexions Advisers support young people aged 13 – 19 (up to aged 25 for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) to find and access learning and training opportunities

For more about Connexions visit www.conexionsdudley.org

Telephone: 01384 811400

Connexions Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 4.30pm

NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)

NEET young people may be offered support to find out about local opportunities for training, apprenticeship or employment. There may be assistance available to prepare for interview as well as support with travel or purchasing equipment.

For further information please contact Black Country Impact on 01384 813567 or Connexions on 01384 811400

Travel Support from Schools and Colleges

The information contained below details how some schools and colleges and providers offer extra transport help. If your school or college is not listed below please contact them directly for information.

<p>Dudley College The Broadway Dudley DY1 4AS</p>	<p>All learners will normally be supported with travel in the form of a West Midlands public transport bus pass, usually via a mobile phone app. These passes allow students access to a variety of local and/or regional providers who manage bus routes around the West Midlands to Dudley and Brierley Hill.</p> <p>As a Dudley College of Technology learner you will receive information from us during the summer before you start in September, which will detail the</p>	<p>01384 363000</p> <p>www.dudleycol.ac.uk</p>
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	latest information regarding apps and passes that you will need to enrol with us.	
Halesowen College Whittingham Road Halesowen B63 3NA	Halesowen College operates a College Bus Service from a wide range of areas. The service is free to students. The service operates at the beginning and end of each College day and at lunchtime.	0121 602 7777 www.halesowen.ac.uk
Sandwell College Central Campus 1 Spon Lane West Bromwich B70 6AW	All new students for the 20/21 academic year will be given either a Term Plus Travel Card (can be used also for evening and weekend travel) or a Metro card. Local bus/tram services are easily accessible within the area.	0121 667 5000 www.sandwell.ac.uk
Juniper Training Waterfront Brierley Hill DY5 1XG	A means tested discretionary bursary fund is available of up to £40 per week (subject to conditions) which can be used for transport costs and for lunch. Local bus services are in operation within this area.	01384 573783 07956656080 www.junipertraining.co.uk
NACRO Apollo House Oldbury B69 2DF	A means tested discretionary bursary fund is available, support is given on a weekly basis, this will be paid direct in to a bank account. All new starters will receive one week's free travel which will not be deducted from their bursary payment. Local bus and train services are in operation within this area.	0121 552 9589 www.nacro.org.uk
Nova Training Head Office Willenhall West Midlands	A means tested discretionary bursary fund is available; support is given as reimbursements of travel costs where travel tickets are provided. Local bus services are in operation within this area.	01902 366278 http://www.novatrainng.co.uk/looking-for-training.php
Skills Training 5 th Floor Trident House Trident Centre	A means tested discretionary bursary fund is available; support is given as reimbursements of travel costs where travel tickets are provided. Local bus	01384 259501 www.skillstraininguk.com

Wolverhampton Street Dudley, DY1 1DP	services are in operation within this area.	
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Special Educational Needs (SEN) Schools

Queen Alexandra College Court Oak Road Harborne Birmingham B17 9TG	Help with travel assistance is accessible from the 16-19 Bursary fund where a bus pass will be provided to all qualifying students or alternatively if assisted travel is required then an application should be made to the Travel Support Team at Dudley Council provided for qualifying students. Local bus services are in operation within this area.	0121 428 5050 www.qac.ac.uk/college.htm
Glasshouse College Wollaston Road Amblecote Stourbridge DY8 4HF	Help with travel assistance is accessible from the 16-19 Bursary fund where a bus pass will be provided to all qualifying students or alternatively if assisted travel is required then an application should be made to the Travel Support Team at Dudley Council provided for qualifying students. Local bus services are in operation within this area.	01384 399400/399434 www.rmt.org/glasshouse
Pens Meadow Post 14 Pensnett Campus Tiled House Lane Dudley DY5 4LN	Help with travel assistance is accessible from the 16-19 Bursary fund. If assisted travel is required then an application should be made to the Travel Support Team at Dudley Council provided for qualifying students. Local bus services are in operation within this area.	01384 818945 www.pens-meadow.dudley.sch.uk/
The Meadows Sports College Dudley Road East Oldbury B69 3B	Help with travel assistance is accessible from the 16-19 Bursary fund. If assisted travel is required then an application should be made to the Travel Support Team at Dudley Council provided for qualifying students. Local bus services are in operation within this area.	0121 569 7080 www.themeadows.sandwell.sch.uk

Local Authority Support

Learners Aged 16 - 18 without an EHCP

Students aged 16-18 without an EHCP are not automatically entitled to free travel support services from the Council under the law.

Students aged 16-18 without an EHCP are not automatically entitled to free travel assistance services from the Council under the law and the responsibility for providing or securing appropriate transport arrangements rests with the student and/or their parents/carers. Full information of transport options that are available are documented in this statement.

Learners Aged 16 - 18 with an EHCP

Students aged 16- 18 who have an EHCP are not automatically entitled to free travel support from the Council under the law and it is expected that the majority of students will be able to access their course using the public transport infrastructure described earlier in this policy or will be transported by a family member or carer. All students with an EHCP are also entitled to the same concessionary fares as those who do not have an ECHP.

Students with severe mobility or learning difficulties who are unable to access their education provision without travel assistance may make an application to the Travel Assistance service. Applications for travel assistance for 16-18 learners with an EHCP are considered on the facts of their case, having taken into account the following factors:

- they are a full time student (16 hours for more timetabled sessions per week) the course can be at entry level or at level 1, 2, or 3. Travel assistance is not given to higher education courses (level 4 and above, such as Foundation Degrees or Higher National Diplomas).
- their learning difficulty or disability prevents them from walking to school or college or from using public transport
- they are travelling further than the statutory walking distance of 3 miles by the shortest available route or, due to the young person's special educational needs, disability and/or mobility problems, they cannot reasonably be expected to walk to the place of education, accompanied as necessary

and

- it can be demonstrated that there is no family member or carer who can meet their travel needs.

If the student is in receipt of higher rate mobility component of the Personal Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance, the purpose of which is to assist those who have mobility problems, with severe difficulty walking or who need help getting around outside, the Council would normally expect this benefit to be fully utilised and if there are any factors limiting its' use you should provide details of them.

If there is a 'Motability' vehicle which the student may or may not be driver. If a decision has been made to not use the 'Motability' vehicle to support the student to reach their education placement, the Council would normally expect the carer/student to make their own appropriate alternative arrangements or provide details as to why that is not possible/reasonable.

Students are entitled to exercise reasonable choice of their course and institution, for example, the Council would accept that a student may be eligible if they chose to attend a college, rather than a nearer school sixth form. However, where the Council is satisfied that:

- the course on which a student has chosen to enrol is substantially the same as, or very similar to, a course that is offered by a different institution which is nearer to the student's home;
- the nearer institution is, in the Council's opinion, suitable for the student (i.e. it is suitable for their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have); and
- discretionary transport assistance would not have been provided if the student had chosen to attend the nearer institution (for example, because the nearer institution can be easily accessed by public transport and/or on foot),

travel assistance will not be provided to the more distant institution chosen by the student.

Applications must be renewed annually on the basis that a student's needs may change as they get older. Continued provision of travel support will be focused on preparing students for adulthood and will consider building a capability to access employment, live independently and participate in society.

Where travel assistance is provided for students with an EHCP, they will be required to make a contribution of £500 per academic year (£300 for low income families who are in receipt of specific benefits) whether they are attending mainstream, special or specialist post-16 education provisions, independent schools or further education colleges or other suitable training establishments.

The Type of Travel Assistance provided will be determined by the Council

Learners Aged 19 - 25 with an EHCP

The majority of young people with EHC plans complete further education with their peers by age 19, and our expectation is that this will continue. However, the Council recognise that some young people with SEND need longer to complete and consolidate their education and training.

Students aged 19-25 who have an EHCP are not automatically entitled to free travel assistance from the Council under the law. The Council may provide travel assistance in exceptional circumstances. Parents or students can make an application to the Travel Assistance Service if they believe that their circumstances justify special consideration by the Council and their child attends a school, college or sixth form college for the purpose of education.

Applications for travel assistance from the Council for 19-25 learners with an EHCP are considered on their own terms and the following factors will be taken into account

- They are a full time student (16 hours or more timetabled sessions per week) and their learning difficulty or disability prevents them from walking to school or college or from using public transport
- They are aged 19 or over but under 25 years at the start of the academic year in which the course begins. (This provision will not be available for anyone beginning a new course of study before their 19th birthday, and will not be available for anyone after the end of the academic year which includes their 25th birthday)
- They are starting a new course for a more advanced level qualification than has previously been studied.
- Travelling further than the statutory walking distance of 3 miles by the shortest available route or, due to the young person's special educational needs, disability and/or mobility problems, they cannot reasonably be expected to walk to the place of education, accompanied as necessary

and

- it can be demonstrated that there is no family member or carer who can meet their travel needs.

If the student is in receipt of higher rate mobility component of the Personal Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance, the purpose of which is to assist those who have mobility problems, with severe difficulty walking or who need help getting around outside, the Council would normally expect this benefit to be fully utilised and if there are any factors limiting its' use, information should be provided to them.

If there is a 'Motability' vehicle which the student may or may not be driver. If a decision has been made to not use the 'Motability' vehicle to support the student to reach their education placement, the Council would normally expect the carer/student to make their own appropriate alternative arrangements or provide details as to why that is not possible/reasonable.

Students are entitled to exercise reasonable choice of their course and institution, for example Council would accept that a student may be eligible if they chose to attend a college, rather than a nearer school sixth form. However, where the Council is satisfied that:

- the course on which a student has chosen to enrol is substantially the same as, or very similar to, a course that is offered by a different institution which is nearer to the student's home;
- the nearer institution is, in the Council's opinion, suitable for the student (i.e. it is suitable for their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have); and
- discretionary transport assistance would not have been provided if the student had chosen to attend the nearer institution (for example, because the nearer institution can be easily accessed by public transport and/or on foot),

travel assistance will not be provided to the more distant institution chosen by the student.

Applications must be renewed annually on the basis that a student's needs may change as they get older. Continued provision of travel assistance will be focused on preparing students for adulthood and will consider building a capability to access employment, live independently and participate in society.

The type of Travel Assistance provided will be determined by the Council

For those adults who do not meet the above criteria for education transport, a Social Care Needs assessment can be undertaken to determine whether support for their travel needs can be provided. For more information on social care needs assessments for adults and eligibility criteria, see the Council's website via the following link: <http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/care-health/dudley-social-services/request-an-assessment/social-care-assessment/>

Applications

All students applying for Post 16 Travel Assistance must re-apply each year.

Application forms for Post 16 Travel Support are available from the Travel Assistance team by emailing home2school.cs@dudley.gov.uk or contact on 01384 816972. You can get details on the Local Offer also on the following link www.localoffer.dudley.gov.uk

Reviews, Appeals and Complaints

Stage 1 Reviews

If the young person and / or parents / carers disagree with the Council assessment of the travel assistance that it deems is necessary, including a decision that the child or young person does not qualify for or need any travel support, they may request a Stage 1 Review of the decision in writing, explaining why they feel that the individual's circumstances are exceptional or that the assessment carried out is wrong.

Where a Review request has been submitted, until such time as the Review has been considered and a decision reached, the provision of travel assistance will be at the discretion of the Council, but the parent, carer or young person will usually be expected to make arrangements for travel assistance during the Review process. If the Review is decided in their favour, the Council will backdate the travel support awarded to the date that they became entitled to it.

Written requests for a Review should provide as much supporting detail as possible. In addition to a written statement, young people and or their parents / carers are encouraged to include any other supporting information they consider relevant.

Each case will be given careful consideration by an independent senior officer of the Council (that is, the reviewing officer will not be an officer involved in the original decision).

Stage 2 Appeals

If a Review has been completed and has determined that there is no eligibility for travel assistance, but the young person and or their parent / carer still believes their child or young person circumstances justify special consideration, they may appeal against the decision in writing, or on the appeal form supplied, explaining why they feel that the circumstances are exceptional or that the review decision is wrong, providing all relevant supporting information.

Where an appeal has been lodged, until such time as the appeal process has been completed and a decision reached, the provision of travel assistance will be at the discretion of the Council, but the parent, carer or young person will usually be expected to make arrangements for travel assistance during the Appeal process. If the Appeal is decided in their favour, the Council will backdate the travel support awarded to the date that they became entitled to it.

Appeals are considered by the Council's Transport Appeals Panel (TAP).

The Transport Appeals Panel must comply with the law, which entitles it to overrule decisions of the Travel Assistance Service's decision.

The Transport Appeals Panel decision is final and binding upon the Council, as well as the young person, their parent / carer. However, if the young person, their parent / carer believes and has evidence that the Transport Appeals Panel did not follow the correct procedures or that its decision was unlawful then a complaint can be made to the following:

- The Council, via the comments, compliments, and complaints procedure. This can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk/Council-community/compliments-comments-complaints/
- The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman can investigate whether the Council has failed to comply with any procedural rules when handling your appeal. They cannot look at the merits of the decision.
- The Courts, by way of judicial review. The complainant may choose to contact a solicitor, who can advise on how to pursue a complaint through the courts.

Complaints about services provided by Dudley MBC should be made through the Council Customer Feedback process as detailed on www.dudley.gov.uk/Council-community/data-protection-and-freedom-of-information/publication-scheme/the-Council-s-complaints-process/

Points of contact for students seeking travel support

Dudley Travel Support Service	Home2school.cs@dudley.gov.uk	01384 816972
Dudley MBC website	www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/parking-and-roads/travel-and-transport/	
Dudley SEND Service	www.localoffer.dudley.gov.uk	
Connexions	www.localoffer.dudley.gov.uk	01384 811400
Government website	www.direct.gov.uk/transport	
West Midlands Combined Authority	www.wmca.org.uk	0121 200 2787
Network West Midlands	www.networkwestmidlands.com	0121 254 6363
National Express West Midlands	www.nxbus.co.uk	0121 254 7272
16-19 Bursary Fund	www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund	
Care to Learn	www.gov.uk/care-to-learn	
Discretionary Learner Support	www.gov.uk/discretionary-learner-support	
Dance and Drama Awards	www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards	
Residential Support Scheme	www.gov.uk/16-to-19-education-financial-support-for-students	