

School Travel Support - post 16 policy

Milton Keynes City Council does not provide universal free School Travel Support for post 16 students who live in Milton Keynes and attend school sixth form, sixth form colleges and colleges of further education. There are however some circumstances where the council has a duty to provide transport at no cost to parents and carers. These are as follows:

Post 16 students with a special educational need or disability

Students with an EHCP and who have a transport need identified in their EHCP or transition plan will receive additional travel assistance from Milton Keynes City Council.

Students without an EHCP but who have a medical condition will be considered for additional travel assistance. Requests for assistance with transport will be assessed on an individual basis where a student is 16, 17 or 18 years of age before 1 September and:

- lives three or more miles from the proposed school or college
- attends full-time at the nearest appropriate school/college that meets their needs (Travel will not be offered if a similar course is available at a nearer school or college)
- had an EHCP and received free home to school transport before they reached the age of 16
- could not reasonably be expected to walk or travel on public transport due to a temporary or long term medical condition or disability

The type of travel offered will depend on the student's needs and will be assessed on an individual basis. It is most likely to be in the form of:

- Additional support to access public transport services
- The provision of a seat on a minibus, taxi or accessible vehicle
- Additional supervision where appropriate in addition to the driver

Residential placements

Travel from home to a Post 16 residential placement may be provided in exceptional circumstances. Support with travel will apply to the beginning and end of each term and half term (up to 12 journeys per year) and the nature of support will vary according to needs. Support will apply where the placement is named as their nearest, most appropriate option on their EHCP.

Post 16 students and those on a low income

The Department of Education provides a bursary scheme for 16-19 year olds, administered by schools and colleges themselves. If eligible to access the bursary scheme, funding received can be used towards transport costs. Parents and carers should contact the student finance and welfare offices of the selected school or college to find out more.

Additional information:

Milton Keynes City Council funds substantially discounted transport via the 'All in 1 MK Card'. This enables young permanent residents of Milton Keynes or those who attend school, college or training establishments in Milton Keynes, and aged 5 to 19, to travel on local public transport at discounted rates.

For more information please visit - <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/bus-and-taxi/bus-passes-and-cards/all-in-1-mk-card-junior-concessionary-travel-scheme>

Colleges may be able to assist with transport costs through their Learner Support Fund.

Appeals

If the decision is that a particular request for support with School Travel Support cannot be granted under the policy, then parents or carers may make an application to ask for the case to be heard by the Alternative/SEN Panel. There are three reasons why this might happen:

- A. The parent/carer believes that the policy has been incorrectly applied
- B. The parent/carer believes that the policy has been correctly applied, but their child's needs are exceptional and merit consideration outside of normal policy
- C. Home to school travel has been agreed under policy, but the parent/carer believes that the manner in which it is being provided is inappropriate for their child's needs

The decision is made by a Senior Officer within the School Travel Support Team on the basis of evidence produced by the parent/carer or local authority representative acting on behalf of the parent/carer. A parent or carer can provide input from an external third party but this must be submitted in writing along with the application.

If the outcome is not satisfactory to the parent or carer, the next step is for the case to be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel who were not involved in the original decision making process.

If the outcome is still unsatisfactory to the parent or carer, they will need to follow the council's complaints procedure. This can be viewed at:

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

Enquiries

School Travel Support
Telephone (01908) 252526

Email: STS@milton-keynes.gov.uk

If you wish to make a comment, compliment or complaint about the council please complete the online form which can be found at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk