

Transport policy statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over, 2010/11.



Name of Local Authority: Central Bedfordshire 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 LA's transport policy is and what the subsequent desired outcomes are).**

Once a student reaches the age of 16 and completes year 11 at school there is no statutory entitlement to free home to school transport. To support young people in accessing school or college beyond the age of 16, Central Bedfordshire Council provides a Post 16 Transport Scheme that, in certain circumstances, enables students to travel to school or college at a subsidised rate.

- 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.**

2.1 Central Bedfordshire Council Post 16 Transport Scheme

To be eligible for subsidised transport through the Post 16 Scheme students must:

- be enrolled on a full-time course.
- be 16 years of age or over and under 19 years of age at 1 September 2010.
- be attending the nearest school or college to their home address which offers the qualification they are studying for, irrespective of the module content. This may be in Central Bedfordshire or a neighbouring Council.
- live more than 3 miles from their place of study, measured by the shortest available walking route. The distance may be less than 3 miles if a student has a medical condition which prevents them from walking to school or college, or the need for transport on road safety grounds can be justified, based on the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.
- live in the area of Central Bedfordshire for the whole academic year.

The cost of the Central Bedfordshire Council's subsidised scheme for the academic year 2010/11 is £133.95 per term or £364.25 for an annual pass.

Students may be entitled to free transport to school or college through the Post 16 Scheme if:

- they had a Statement of Special Educational Needs in Year 11 and were in receipt of free home to school transport in that year of school because of their special needs.
- their family is receiving Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Pension Credits, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credits

Application forms and guidance notes are available from the:

School Transport Entitlement Team
Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council
Technology House
Amphill Road
Bedford
MK42 9BD

Telephone: 0300 300 8133

Email : school.transport@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Type of Transport Provided

Transport provided through the Post 16 Scheme will be on the most cost efficient mode of transport for a student to attend school or college 5 days each week. Travel arrangements will include bus passes on registered services, places on school contract vehicles, rail passes, and occasionally mileage rates or taxi. The Council cannot guarantee that the subsidised rate is the cheapest way to travel for individual students and advise students that they make their own enquires about possible alternatives.

2.2 College Transport

Some colleges organise transport for students who are not eligible for subsidised transport through the Central Bedfordshire Council Post 16 scheme. Students should enquire to individual colleges about any arrangements that may be in place for individual courses.

2.3 The National Concessionary Travel Scheme

Concessionary Fares for People with Disabilities

There is a national concessionary travel scheme that allows eligible people to travel on local buses free of charge anywhere in England. The national concession applies at off-peak times. Off-peak is defined as the hours between 9.30am and 11.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays and all day Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays

In addition to the national concession, eligible Central Bedfordshire residents can travel free all day every day on local buses. This means that you can board a local bus at any time in Central Bedfordshire and travel as far as that bus goes. If that bus takes you outside of Central Bedfordshire, there may be restrictions on whether you can return during the peak period.

To travel free on local buses, these must be registered as "local services" which is running to a fixed timetable.

National Concessionary Travel Passes are plastic "Smartcards". The first is issued free, there may be a charge for a replacement if it is lost or damaged.

Concessionary Travel Passes are valid anywhere in England but not in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland

To qualify for a pass a customer must provide proof that they are a permanent resident of Central Bedfordshire and that they have a qualifying disability.

There are seven categories of disability under which a person can be entitled to Concessionary bus travel. An eligible person is someone who:

- (a) is blind or partially sighted,
- (b) is profoundly or severely deaf,
- (c) is without speech,
- (d) has a disability, or has suffered an injury, which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to walk,
- (e) does not have arms or has long-term loss of the use of both arms,
- (f) has a learning disability, that is, a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning, or
- (g) would, if they applied for the grant of a licence to drive a motor vehicle under Part III of the Road Traffic Act 1988, have his application refused pursuant to section 92 of that Act (physical fitness) otherwise than on the ground of persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol.

If your mobility is so severely impaired that you require assistance when travelling (either because of your age or a disability), you may be entitled to a Companion Pass which grants free travel to both the holder and one companion while travelling within Central Bedfordshire. With this pass, a companion is also allowed to travel free in certain neighbouring areas, but not elsewhere in England.

Applications can be made in person at a Customer Service Centre, or an application form can be downloaded from the [Central Bedfordshire Council website](#)

2.4 Discounts on Public Transport

Arriva

Arriva offer students discounted Zone Tickets, which can only be bought online and which cover convenient timescales of either 8 or 12 weeks. Arriva Zone Tickets are not valid on: Green Line services between London and Luton, Stevenage, St Albans or Hemel Hempstead, TfL services, or certain contract services.

An NUS, ISIC, or University/College ID card and number will be needed to validate your ticket.

If you experience problems with buying your online ticket, such as delivery delays, or do not receive your ticket in time, please call Arriva customer services on 0844 800 44 11.

Other bus operators offer various season ticket options for travel. Contact details for operators are included in section 11.

2.5 Door to Door Services

There are three dial-a-ride services operating in Central Bedfordshire for people who are unable, through disability or injury, to use ordinary bus services. These are:

Service	Operating Area	Contact Number
Link-a-Ride	Covers the Ampthill, Flitwick, Sandy and Biggleswade areas	01525 840511
South Beds Dial-a-Ride	Covers the Dunstable and Houghton Regis areas.	01525 222331
Buzzer	Covers the Leighton Buzzard and Linslade area.	01525 853566

There is a separate concessionary fare scheme for registered users of Link-a-Ride, South Beds Dial-a-Ride and the Buzzer. You may travel free on these services, provided that you hold a special concessionary travel pass for door to door services.

To obtain a pass, you need to obtain an application form direct from the service provider. Return the completed form to the service provider. They will authorise it and forward it to the Council. Your new pass will be sent to you within ten working days of our approving your application.

If you wish, you may hold a door to door travel pass as well as a National Concessionary Travel Pass.

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

Where transport is provided on school contract services students travel will be provided to and from school at the start and end of the school day. When passes are provided for registered bus services or train services it will be assumed that a student needs to travel to school or college five full days per week. Students will need to check with individual operators whether there are any restrictions to using the pass outside of these times. Contact details for operators are included in section 11.

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

Students entitled to subsidised or free transport who are 19 during the academic year can continue to receive subsidised transport to the end of the academic year.

5. How will learners be assessed to see if they are eligible for support? E.g. means-testing or must they be on benefits?

Applications for subsidised transport will be assessed by the School Transport Entitlement Team on the criteria set out in Section 2. Where a student is entitled to subsidised transport they will need to pay the charge of £133.95 per term or £364.25 for an annual pass unless evidence of receipt of the relevant benefit is provided.

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 may be entitled to free transport to school or college through the Post 16 Scheme if they had a Statement of Special Educational Needs in Year 11 and were in receipt of free home to school transport in that year of school because of their special needs. In certain circumstances transport to college can be provided until a student reaches the age of 25.

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

Training is currently provided on certain courses for students who face difficulties with transport. As a result of a review of the Central Bedfordshire Council Home to School Transport Policy, training will be introduced across the Council during the 2010/11 academic year.

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

Students who are entitled to transport in Year 11 at school are sent an application form to their home address, to be completed if they are staying on at their current school for the academic year 2010/11. To ensure that a pass is issued and transport available from the start of the autumn term the form should be returned to the School Transport Entitlement Team by 30th July 2010.

If students are applying for a place at Central Bedfordshire College or Bedford College they can obtain an application from the Student Services Section of the College or by contacting the School Transport Entitlement Team. To apply for subsidised transport to all other colleges, students should contact the school Transport Entitlement Team for an Application Form.

All students who will be returning for the second or third year of a course for which they have previously been assessed as entitled to subsidised transport are sent a form to their home address.

Students are encouraged to apply for transport as early as possible rather than wait for examination results. It is easier to cancel arrangements than to set up new ones.

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

Entitlement to subsidised Post-16 Transport is based on a student attending the nearest school or college to their home address, which offers the qualification they are studying for, irrespective of module content. This may be in Central Bedfordshire or a neighbouring Council.

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?

Transport can be provided in exceptional circumstances. Application for such transport should be made on the usual application form.

11. Please provide information about all points of contact for learners seeking transport support, e.g. Local Authority, College, Bus Company. Please include any websites and email addresses.

For day to day enquires about home to school or college transport arrangements please contact:

Client Transport Team
Sustainable Communities
Central Bedfordshire Council
Technology House
Ampthill Road
Bedford
MK42 9BD

0300 300 8167

Bus Operators	
Arriva The Shires	01582 587071
Centrebus	01582 608231
Cedar Coaches Ltd	01234 354054
Grant Palmer Passenger Services	01582 600844 g2bus@hotmail.com
MK Metro	01908 254225
Stage Coach Bedford	01234 212852 east.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com

Rail Operators	
National Rail Enquiries	08457 4884950
First Capital Connect	08450 264700
London Midland	0121 634 2040
Schools	
All Saints Academy Houghton Road Dunstable LU5 5AB	01582 608641 office@allsaintsacademydunstable.org
Harlington Upper School Goswell End Road Harlington LU5 6NX	01525 755100 enquiries@harlington.org
Manshead Upper School Dunstable Road Caddington LU1 4BB	01582 608641 office@mansheadschoool.co.uk
Queensbury Upper School Langdale Road Dunstable LU6 3BU	01582 601241 head@queensbury.beds.sch.uk
Redborne Upper School Flitwick Road Amphill MK45 2NU	01525 404462 admin@redborne.beds.sch.uk
Samuel Whitbread Community College Shefford Road Clifton SG17 5QS	01462 629900 info@swcc.beds.sch.uk
Sandy Upper School Engayne Avenue Sandy SG19 1BL	01767 680598 sandyupper@schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk

Stratton Upper School Eagle Farm Road Biggleswade SG19 1BL	01767220000 strattonus@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk
The Cedars Upper School Mentmore Road Leighton Buzzard LU7 2AE	01525 219300 cedarsus@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk
Vandyke Upper School Vandyke Road Leighton Buzzard LU7 3DY	01525 636700 office@vandyke.beds.sch.uk
Colleges	
Barnfield College New Bedford Road Luton LU2 &BF	01582 569500 enquiries@barnfield.ac.uk
Bedford College Cauldwell Street Bedford MK42 9AH	01234 291000 info@bedford.ac.uk
Central Bedfordshire College Kingsway Dunstable LU5 4HG	08453 552525 enquiries@centralbeds.ac.uk