



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Post 16 Transport Policy Statement 2025-2026

Transport policy statement for young people
Aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged
19 and those young people aged 19-24 (inclusive) with
Special Educational Needs and/or Disability.

Department responsible:
Travel Coordination Service
Tel: 0161 474 2504

Email: travelcoordination@stockport.gov.uk

English

If you need assistance in Hindi, Punjabi, Chinese, Polish, Albanian, Russian or Braille or an audio tape, contact the Travel Coordination Service on 0161-474 2504

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى المساعدة في الهندية والأوردو والبنجابية والصينية والبولندية ، والألبانية والروسية أو طريقة بريل أو تسجيلًا صوتيًا ، اتصل بموظف القبول على

Africans

As jy hulp nodig in die Hindi, Punjabi, Sjinees, Pools, Albanees, Russies of braille of 'n bandhulp, kontak die Admissions Officer op

Albanian

Nëse keni nevojë për ndihmë në Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, kineze, polake, shqiptare, rus apo Braille, ose një kasetë audio, kontaktoni Regjistrimet Zyrtari për

Chinese

如果您需要援助的印地文，烏爾都語，旁遮普語，漢語，波蘭，阿爾巴尼亞，俄羅斯或盲文或錄音帶，請與招生官

Hindi

Yadi āpa hindī, urdū, pañjābī, cīnī, pōliśa, albēniyana, rūśī yā brēla yā ēka ṛḍiyō tēpa, samparka mēm pravēśa kē adhikārī para mēm sahāyatā kī jarūrata

Russian

Если вы нуждаетесь в помощи на хинди, урду, панджаби, китайский, польский, албанский, русский или азбукой Брайля или аудиокассете, контакт приема сотрудника на

Persian

اگر شما نیاز به کمک در زبان هندی ، پنجابی ، چینی ، لهستانی ، آلبانی ، روسی و یا بریل یا نوار صوتی ، تماس با پذیرش افسر در

Polish

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy w języku hindi, urdu, punjabi, chiński, polski, albański, rosyjski lub Braille'a lub taśm audio, o kontakt z Admissions Officer na

Ukrainian

Якщо ви потребуєте допомоги на гінді, панджабі, китайська, польська, албанська, російська або азбукою Брайля або аудіокасеті, контакт прийому співробітника на

Introduction

The information in this statement sets out Stockport Borough Council's policy on post 16 transport and specifies the support that Stockport Borough Council considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training. The information is relevant for full time learners aged 16-18 and those continuing learners who started their programme before their 19th birthday and live within Stockport. It will also be relevant to those young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (aged 16-25).

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised post 16 travel support but do 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 authority considers it is necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

All young people carrying on their education post 16 must reapply for travel support.

Local authorities have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties/disabilities to participate in education and training up to the age of 25. 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

Stockport Council is committed to the following principles:

- Promoting healthy, sustainable and safe travel solutions.
- Actively engaging with young people and involving them in the decision-making process.
- Promoting independent travel for young people wherever possible, taking account of their age and individual needs;
- Supporting young people who have disabilities or who experience short-term crises to access education and training.

Stockport Council is committed to equality of opportunity and the celebration of diversity. It is opposed to all forms of discrimination.

Transport and Travel Support

Concessionary tickets for young people 16-25 from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Bee Network

TfGM Scholar's Permit

The **TfGM Scholar's Permit** will allow travel at child fares on buses, trams and trains in Greater Manchester for travel to school or college.

To qualify for a pass the young person must be:

- A permanent resident of Greater Manchester
- Be in full time education at school or further education college
- Be 16-18 or 19 until the academic year their 19th birthday is in
- Live in Greater Manchester (if the school or college is outside Greater Manchester the pass will take them to the border).
- Not have any other free or concessionary travel permit from TfGM or Stockport Borough Council
- Not be attending school/college on day release, block release as part of their employment

The pass runs from the start of September to the end of the academic year (31st July)
You can use your permit to buy:

- A child single bus ticket for journeys to and from school or college
- A child single tram ticket or 1-day travelcard for journeys to and from school or college
- A child off-peak single train ticket or Day Return (Anytime or Off-Peak) for journeys to and from school or college

You can only use the permit in term-time, and only from Monday to Friday up to 9pm.

You cannot use it at weekends or bank holiday, or for any other journeys except those which are to/from a school or college.

The cost of the permit is £5.00, and students can apply through a TfGM Travelshop situated in main bus stations or by post.

Application forms are available at TfGM Travelshops or Download an application form from:

<https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/discounted-and-free-travel/young-people/scholars-permit>

In the event of the pass being lost, all replacements can be purchased from TfGM at a cost of £5.00

Free Bus Travel for Care Leavers

You may qualify for free travel on buses in Greater Manchester and benefit from membership of Our Pass Exclusives. if you're:

- Aged 18-25
- Live in Greater Manchester and
- Were previously in the care system (for example, foster care or residential care)

You will need to apply for a smart Bee Photocard, this is a smart card that will have a travelcard loaded, you can use your travelcard to travel for free for journeys on all bus services in Greater Manchester and on Bee Network buses that travel across the Greater Manchester boundary to your 25th birthday.

There is a £10 administration fee for the card.

You can apply online at:

<https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/discounted-and-free-travel/young-people/care-leavers>

Our Pass

Our Pass is a membership scheme for young people who live in Greater Manchester and supports both school leavers and care leavers. Our Pass is for eligible young people who live in Greater Manchester. The travel pass can be used for up to two years, starting from 1 September after your 16th birthday, until 31 August after your 18th birthday (or until your 18th birthday, if this is 31 August).

For a one-off £10 fee, Our Pass entitles holders to free local bus travel and off-peak 1-day and weekend Metrolink travelcards at half adult prices, for 16-18 year olds.

Applications can be made online via:

<https://ourpass.co.uk/get-our-pass/>

System One Member

To buy travel cards through system one it is important to be a member. For more information on this please see the TfGM website. <https://systemonetravel.co.uk/> There are 1 day, 7 day, and 28 day options for bus and tram travel.

For more information on passes and tickets please refer to the TfGM website.

<http://www.systemonetravelcards.co.uk/travelcards/filter>

TfGM Travel Pass for Disabled People

The **TfGM Travel Pass for Disabled People** is free and lasts between one and five years depending on the disability. A travel pass for disabled people can be applied for if the applicant is a permanent resident of Greater Manchester and has serious walking difficulties, registered partially sighted or with profound or severe hearing loss with Stockport Borough Council. See the Transport for Greater Manchester website for more details. <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/passes-for-disabled-people>

Within Greater Manchester:

- Travel is free on all buses and Metrolink trams within Greater Manchester between 9.30am and midnight, Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and on public holidays
- Travel for free on trains within Greater Manchester on journeys scheduled to run at or after 9.30am, Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and on public holidays
- If travel is outside of these times a concessionary fare will be payable where available or otherwise the full adult fare. Find information on concessionary fares. See TfGM for further details. <http://www.tfgm.com>

Throughout England:

- Travel is free on all local buses between 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and on public holidays.
- If travel is outside of these times the full adult fare is payable.

Students who may be eligible and wish to apply for a pass should read the information on how to apply at <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/passes-for-disabled-people>

If the pass is lost there is a £10 administration cost for a replacement.

TfGM Travel Plus Pass for Disabled People

The **Travel Plus Pass for Disabled People** is free and lasts between one and five years depending on the disability. A travel plus pass for disabled people can be applied for if the applicant is a permanent resident of Greater Manchester and one of the following applies:

- Applicant is registered as a blind person with Stockport Borough Council. The application will need to be authorised by the Sensory Support Team at Stockport Borough Council or a CVI (Certificate of Visual Impairment which shows the registration must be provided.
- Applicant is profoundly deaf and without speech, or profoundly deaf with speech that cannot be readily understood by a person who can hear normally. The application will need to be authorised by the Sensory Support Team at Stockport Borough Council.
- Applicant has a learning disability and the application is authorised by the Stockport Adult Social Care Services. You can contact the team from 8.30am to 17.00 Monday to Friday on 0161 218 1220.

See the Transport for Greater Manchester website for more details:
<https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/passes-for-disabled-people>

Within Greater Manchester

- Travel for free on all local buses, on Metrolink trams and on trains within Greater Manchester at any time.

Throughout England

- Travel for free on all local buses between 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and on public holidays.
- If travel is outside of these times, the full adult fare must be paid.

Students who may be eligible and wish to apply for a pass should read the information on how to apply at <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/passes-for-disabled-people>

If the pass is lost there is a £10 administration cost for a replacement.

Ring and Ride

Ring and ride provides short, local journeys to eligible residents of Greater Manchester. If you are a registered user you may travel to any location within 6 miles of your home address, as long as the journey is within Greater Manchester. You must show your concessionary pass on each trip to travel for the concessionary fare.

You are eligible for the service if you:

- Hold a Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Concessionary Plus Pass
- Hold a TfGM Concessionary Disabled Person Pass
- Are a TfGM travel voucher user

You can read more about Ring & Ride on the Transport for Greater Manchester Bee Network webpages:

<https://tfgm.com/public-transport/ring-and-ride-minibuses>

Metrolink Services

As outlined above a young person post 16 can apply for a **TfGM Scholar's Permit** which will allow a child single tram ticket or 1-day travelcard for journeys to and from school or college. The **TfGM Travel Pass for Disabled** provides free travel on Metrolink services between 9.30am and Midnight, Monday to Friday, weekends and public holidays. The **TfGM Travel Plus Pass** enables free travel on Metrolink services within Greater Manchester.

Rail Services

As outlined above a young person post 16 can apply for a **TfGM Travel Pass for Disabled People** rail travel is free after 9.30am within Greater Manchester. With the **TfGM Travel Plus Pass for Disabled People**, travel on rail services is free within Greater Manchester. The 16-25 Railcard offers one third discount for those aged 16-25 and young people on a range of journeys. For the best offers young people should check with operators what choices are available for their journey at the time they want to travel. The railcard costs £30 for one year and £70 for three years. Further information on Student Railcards can be obtained from www.railcard.co.uk

16-19 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 of up to £1,200 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 and Support Allowance or Universal Credit and Disability Living 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, which institutions award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment

A young person could get a discretionary budget if they need financial help but don't qualify for a vulnerable student bursary. The education or training provider decides how much they get and what it is used for. If a young person is over 19, they will only be eligible for a discretionary budget

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 <http://www.gov.uk> search for post 16 bursaries.

Care to Learn

The Care to learn scheme can help with childcare costs whilst a young person is studying. The young person must be under 20 at the start of the course. The scheme is available for publicly funded courses in England in schools, six forms in schools and sixth form colleges.

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 a childcare place over the summer holidays
- Taking the child to the childcare provider

Payments go directly to the childcare provider. Travel payments go directly to the school or college or they will arrange travel for the young person.

Payments will stop when

- The young person stops attending the course at college
- The course comes to an end

- The child stops attending childcare

Eligibility

A young person can get Care to Learn if:

- They are a parent under 20 at the start of their course
- They are the main carer for the child
- They live in England
- They are a British citizen or a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country
- The course qualifies
- The childcare provider qualifies

For more information on eligibility please refer to the website.

<https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>

Young people who are not eligible for Care to Learn:

- An apprentice who gets a salary
- A young person who is doing a higher education course at university

Applications should be made online, please refer to the website for more details.

<https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim>

Travel Support from Further Education Colleges

Marple 6th Form College

There are four free bus routes to Marple College, running from Denton, Hadfield, Bramhall and Buxton. Just show your Marple Sixth Form College ID to use the bus.

Walking

Walking is still a good way to get to an educational placement. www.walkit.com – the walking route planner gets a route map between any two points

Cycling

Cycling is also another way to get to college. Whether the young person is new to cycling or they simply want some new routes to explore this website is for them

<https://tfgm.com/cycling>

Transport to Provision Outside of Stockport

Public Transport is available to most out of area providers. TfGM bus cards and passes are available to all students for travel throughout Greater Manchester.

If a Further Education College is Beyond Daily Travelling Distance

A young person may be able to apply to get money from the following:

- Residential Bursary Fund (RBF), if they study at a specialist residential centre
- Residential Support Scheme (RSS), if they do not study at a specialist residential centre

Residential Bursary Fund

A young person may be able to get help with the cost of accommodation from the Residential Bursary Fund (RBF). They must:

- Meet the residency requirements in ESFA funding regulations for post-16 provision (the college will check this)
- Be at least 16 and under 19 on 31st August 2019.

A young person may be eligible if they are 19 and either:

- Continuing on a course they started aged 16-18
- Have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

The course must:

- Be at a specialist residential centre (the college can confirm this)
- Be too far to travel each day (the college must agree with this)
- Be full-time
- Be 16-19 funded (the college can confirm this)

The college will decide how much a young person gets. It depends on household income. A young person can get payments for a maximum of 3 years. Contact the student support officer at the college for an application form and help with applying.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme/residential-bursary-fund>

Residential Support Scheme

A young person may be able to get help with the cost of accommodation from the Residential Support Scheme (RSS)

They must:

- Be at least 16 and under 19 on 31st August 2019
- Meet the residency requirements (the college will check this)
- Not be on housing benefit
- Have a household income of less than £30,993
- Be studying their first level 2 or level 3 qualification (for example 2 or more A levels, a diploma or a national vocational qualification)

They may be eligible if they're 19 and either:

- Continuing on a course they started aged 16-18
- Have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

The course must:

- Not be at a specialist residential centre (the college can confirm this)
- Be full-time at a college in England
- Be '16-19 funded' (the college can confirm this)
- The course must also be more than either 15 miles or a 2 hour round trip from the young person's home and not available any closer than that.

To claim the young person should contact the student support officer at the college for an application form and help with applying.

For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme/residential-support-scheme>

Local Authority Support

Students who are in full time education and have a learning difficulty / disability who are in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), are entitled to a free concessionary travel pass for use on public transport with the Greater Manchester area.

Students who are in full time education with a learning difficulty /disability, who are in receipt of an EHCP and are attending their nearest suitable education provision, may be entitled to additional support if they are unable to travel independently.

Travel support will be considered for those students with severe physical or learning difficulties, upon receipt of sufficient evidence. Eligibility for additional support is based on qualifying criteria. An Education, Health and Care Plan does not guarantee that additional support will be provided.

Transport services cannot be tailored to meet individual timetables, but consideration will be given whenever possible to minimise inconvenience to students. This means that specific transport will not be provided if the public or contract bus times are not in line with a student's timetable. In such circumstances, students are expected to make suitable adjustments to their travel arrangements.

Travel assistance is not provided to learners undertaking work placements, apprenticeships or traineeships. In these circumstances learners are advised to contact their employer or learner provider.

To discuss what travel support options may be available for students with additional needs, please contact the Stockport Travel Coordination Service on **0161 474 2504** between 08:30 to 16:30 Monday to Friday.

For students who are 19 or over, who are continuing in full time education and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), travel support will be discussed as part of the EHC planning process.

Students over 19 who have a learning difficulty /disability may be eligible for a free concessionary travel pass for public transport. To apply for a pass please contact Stockport Adult Social Care Services. You can contact this team from 08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday on **0161 217 6029** or via email at adultsocialcare@stockport.gov.uk

Promoting Independent Travel

Stockport Council has a commitment to developing children's inclusion wherever possible, and to promote healthy and sustainable school travel.

The local authority offers an Independent Travel Training scheme that focuses on enabling eligible children and young people to travel independently to and from school/college. Students will be assessed by the local authority (and school/college) and in discussion with parents/carers and the young person. This enables them to develop travel independence at their own pace and, while challenging them to achieve, allows them to reach a level of attainment with which they are comfortable.

Independent Travel Training covers various topics, and the type of training and level of support will depend on the needs of the individual student.

Training will include:

- Personal safety and security
- Road safety
- Recognising and avoiding dangerous situations
- Following directions
- Boarding the correct bus in the right direction
- Buying tickets

The scheme includes classroom and practical support to develop young peoples' skills enabling them to use local buses, walk (and for some, cycle) to and from school.

Personal Travel Budgets

A Personal Travel Budget (PTB) is provided to parents/carers or young person with Special Educational Needs (SEN) who are eligible for travel assistance. It allows them to make flexible arrangements, monitor the quality of their transport directly or they could work with others to achieve the best possible travel arrangements.

Personal Travel Budgets will help you to arrange your home to school/college travel arrangements in a way that suits your personal circumstances. It is a payment designed to help you make any arrangements needed, which will enable you to facilitate accessing school/college.

How to apply for travel support

All young people carrying on their education post 16 must reapply for travel support.

Each request for home to school/college transport is considered on an individual basis. If you think your child/young person is eligible for free or assisted support, or you would like further help and guidance on whether your child/young person qualifies for supported travel, please contact the Travel Coordination Service – see contact details at the end of the policy.

Travel Coordination Service

c/o The Scanning and Support Team
Lower Ground Floor,
Stopford House
Town Hall
Stockport
SK1 3XE
Tel: 0161 474 2504

Email: travelcoordination@stockport.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/support-available-send-transport/support-for-young-people-aged-16-and-over>

Concerns, Problems, Compliments and Complaints

If you have any concerns or have any feedback about the transport arrangements for your child/young person please contact the Travel Coordination Service. Parents (and young people) are encouraged to give feedback on all aspects of the service, whether positive or negative.

Appeals against decisions

For Stockport residents we offer a two-stage appeals process for applicants who we deem ineligible for assistance.

Parent(s)/carer(s) may appeal against the Local authority's decision NOT to provide travel support. Appeals need to be submitted in writing (including email). Appeals will be reviewed by a Senior Officer who will review the evidence regarding eligibility, the distance measurement in relation to the statutory walking distance, the safety of the route and type of travel support offered.

If you wish to appeal, you will need to contact the Travel Coordination Service in writing within 20 working days from receipt of our travel assistance decision. You will need to include details of why you think the decision should be reviewed and give any details of any personal and/or family circumstances you believe that we should consider.

Stage One: Review by a Senior Officer

A Senior Officer will review the original decision within 20 working days of receipt of the Parent's written request and will send a detailed written notification of the outcome of the review detailing:

- The nature of the decision reached
- How the review was conducted

- Who we consulted as part of the process
- What factors were considered
- The rationale behind the decision
- Details of how you can elevate your appeal to stage two (if appropriate)

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Senior Officer, you may request for your appeal to be elevated to a review by an Independent Appeals Panel.

Stage Two: Independent Appeal Panel

The parent has **20 working days** from receipt of the Local Authority's stage 1 decision to make a written request to escalate the matter to stage 2 – appeal to an Independent Transport Appeal Panel, who will take into account the family's personal circumstances when making their decision.

Appeals will be heard **within 40 working days** of receipt of the appeal request.

Appeal dates and information about the appeal process can be obtained from:

admission.appeals@stockport.gov.uk

OR

The Secretary to the Independent Appeals Panel,
Corporate and Support Services,
Democratic Services,
Town Hall,
Stockport,
SK1 3XE.

For those applicants that are deemed eligible but who are unhappy with the assistance offered, we will always work towards cooperation and compromise in the first instance and where that fails the corporate complaints process/service provides and effective and efficient arbitration of a case.

Details of how to make a complaint can be found at this web link
<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/make-a-formal-complaint> alternatively you can email talktous@stockport.gov.uk or call **0161 474 3898**

Contacts

16-19 Bursary Fund <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund> for more information

Contact the Student Bursary Support Service if you need advice or help.

Student Bursary Support Service

Email: c2l@studentbursarysupport.co.uk

Telephone: 0800 121 8989

Textphone: 0800 917 6048

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Travel shops are located across Greater Manchester. The list of shops can be accessed here <https://tfgm.com/public-transport/travelshops>

Transport for Greater Manchester

2 Piccadilly Place

Manchester

M1 3BG

<http://www.tfgm.com>

Tel: 0161 244 1000

Information about concessionary fares for people with disabilities: 0161 244 1050

Traveline

0871 200 22 33

Information about public transport, school/college and positive activities

<http://www.tfgm.com>

Ring and Ride

enquiries@ringandride.info

Telephone Enquiries: 0845 688 4933 or 0161 200 6011

Telephone Bookings: 0845 688 3989

Marple College

Buxton Lane

Marple

Stockport

SK6 7QY

Tel: 0161 484 6600