

**Cheshire West and Chester Council
Post 16 Travel Assistance Policy
Statement
2026 – 2027**

Post-16 Travel Assistance Policy Statement - Academic Year 2025 – 2026

Travel Assistance policy statement for young people aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 25 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Department Responsible: Education Service

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1.1 Introduction

Local authorities do not have to provide free or subsidised travel support to young people over the age of 16 but they do have a duty to prepare and publish an annual travel assistance policy statement. The statement provides details the travel arrangements that local sixth forms, colleges or training establishments have and will also outline when the Council will provide travel assistance.

All young people carrying on their education post 16 must re-apply for travel support.

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

This statement uses the term 'Post 16' to include both learners of sixth form age and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) up to the age of 25.

This statement document specifies the support that Cheshire West and Chester Council '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 higher or 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.

The council makes no general travel assistance provision for those who attend private/independent schools or colleges. Generally the council will not meet the cost of a student's travel to schools or colleges other than those which are intended to serve the particular area in which they live. If a parent/carer sends a child to another school or college, they cannot claim from the council the subsidy the Transport Commissioning Service would otherwise have been prepared to spend on the child's travel assistance locally.

1.2 The 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:
 - A young person in care or a young person who has recently left local authority care
 - A young person in receipt of Income Support or Universal Credit

- A young person in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit and Disability Living Allowance or
- A young person in receipt of Personal Independence Payments and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit

The amount you may get depends on the costs you have and what you need for your course. This might include money for books, equipment or travel costs to school or college.

2. Discretionary bursaries. You can apply to your school, college or training provider. Ask student services or your tutor to explain what you need to do.

You should apply once you know where you'll study or train, so you'll get your bursary as soon as possible.

You might need to reapply for a bursary for each year of your course. Check with your provider.

1.3 Young parents / Care to Learn

If you are a young parent under 20, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs, up to £180 per child per week, while you're learning.

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

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

1.4 The Residential Support Scheme

Whilst not assisting with transport costs the Residential Support Scheme does provide financial support with accommodation costs for some students (aged between 16 and 19) who need to live away from home to study because their course is not available locally.

1.5 Residential Bursary Fund

You may be able to get a bursary towards the cost of accommodation from some specialist residential colleges under the Residential Bursary Fund. The college will check if you are entitled, and if so, decide how much you will get.

2.1 Local Authority support - post 16 travel assistance

General terms and conditions applying to all post 16 students:

1. The Post 16 travel assistance scheme is for students who are resident in Cheshire West and Chester borough only. Students living outside of the borough should approach their own local council.
2. The course must be funded by the local authority - transport support is not given to students paying fees for their tuition or attending a course as part of a paid apprenticeship.
3. Students must be studying full-time (16 hours or 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)
4. If the nearest suitable learning provider offering the course is in another local authority area, then students will still qualify for assistance providing all other entitlement criteria are met.
5. Students who reach the age of 19 whilst continuing a course remain eligible until the end of that academic year for transport support (different arrangements apply for those with learning difficulties and disabilities please see 'LA support for Learners with special educational needs or a disability').
6. Suitability of transport will be determined by us – this will be based upon balancing reasonable costs and reasonable travel times so that young people can access learning during school/college days at their general start/finish times. This could mean that transport assistance is not the quickest or most convenient transport.
7. For young people with a learning difficulty or a disability, the need for specialised transport and the type of transport required due to an inability to walk or use public transport (even if accompanied) will be based upon information obtained from the school, college, or EHCPs and any other appropriate professional(s).
8. Travel assistance is not given to attend work placements or work experience.
9. We will provide travel assistance from the main home address to the registered base only, to enable attendance for the general start/finish times of the academic day. Travel to other sites or work placements or to and from other addresses, is not covered by this scheme.
10. Unacceptable behaviour on a vehicle contracted by the Council such as fighting, bullying or foul language may result in the transport being withdrawn temporarily or alternative arrangements being offered, such as a personal travel budget. Parents/carers will be held responsible for any damage caused and may be charged for it.
11. However long the course is, a new application must be submitted for travel assistance each year.

12. Whether a young person is attending the nearest college offering the desired course will be assessed on the qualification gained at the end and not the individual modules studied.
13. It is parents/carers or young person's responsibility to notify the Authority of a change in address or course of study.
14. If there are any dispute regarding our decisions, please follow the appropriate appeals process: Eligibility if travel assistance has been declined; or Suitability if the mode of travel assistance offered is unsuitable.

2.2 Council Support

Support is offered to a young person who meets the general terms and conditions and who either:

- Is from a low-income criteria
- Or is a young person with complex special educational needs and/or disabilities that would prevent them from accessing existing transport options, such as commercial services or college transport.

For further information on each of the above criteria, see the relevant sections below.

2.3 Learners with special educational needs and/or a disability aged 16-19

Where a young person's special educational needs and/or disability would prevent them from accessing existing transport options, the council has made the discretionary decision to support these young people continue in education, free of charge, where they meet the eligibility criteria.

Information in the young person's EHCP will be used to make the assessment and where necessary, further information may be requested from other professionals involved in supporting the young person. Where a young person has a disability but no EHCP, medical evidence will need to be submitted with the application.

Annual applications will be required for learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities regardless of the length of the course. This will allow the SEN Team to assess an individual's ability to start their journey towards independence by either having a referral to the Independent Travel Training programme or would be able to use existing transport options, such as a commercial services or college buses.

Travel assistance for eligible young people who turn 19 during their course will remain eligible until the end of the academic year.

Parents/carers or young people are advised to make applications at the earliest opportunity and before 30 June. Any applications received after this date will be considered in date order and where assessed as eligible, travel assistance cannot be guaranteed for the start of the new term.

To apply for travel assistance, complete the on-line via the [council's website](#). Alternatively, you can request an application form by contacting a member of the SEN team on 0151 3576505 or email senteamwest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

2.4 Learners with special educational needs and/or a disability aged 19-25

The council will provide free assistance, where it is considered necessary, to the following 19-25 year-olds (who have started a course after their 19th birthday):

- adults (i.e. those who are aged 19 and over) who are receiving education at an institution maintained or assisted by the authority and providing further or higher education or within the further education sector
- relevant young adult learners with an EHCP (which can be maintained up until the age of 25) for the purpose of facilitating their attendance at institutions where they are receiving education or training outside the further and higher education sectors. For those young adults, the council's duty only applies where the council has secured the provision of education or training at that institution and any provision of boarding accommodation in connection with that education or training.

The adult duty applies only to young people who are attending a course which they started after their 19th birthday, including those with an EHCP. The overall intention of the adult travel assistance duty is to ensure that:

- those with the most severe disabilities with no other means of travelling are able to undertake further education and training after their 19th birthday to help them move towards more independent living.

We will consider, amongst other things:

- What other arrangements you have considered or tried and why they are not suitable.
- If there is a family member/carer who is able to transport the student and why it would not be a reasonable arrangement to make.
- 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. We 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 the driver. If a decision has been made to not use the 'Motability' vehicle to support the student to reach their education placement, we would normally expect the carer/student to make their own appropriate alternative arrangements or provide details as to why that is not possible/reasonable.
- Any other exceptional circumstances that you consider need to be taken into account and consider any supporting evidence that you provide. Please note: that we would not generally consider work or childcare commitments on their own as an exceptional reason for travel assistance to be provided.

2.5 Students with special educational needs or a disability who are not otherwise entitled to travel assistance

Post 16 students with an EHCP who are not otherwise entitled to travel assistance may be able to purchase a spare seat (if one is available, after all seats have been allocated to eligible students) on a vehicle that the council has contracted to provide travel assistance from home to the educational provider. The average cost to the council for transporting a SEND student on a Council contracted vehicle is approximately £8,000 per year. A contributory spare seat charge of £880 per annum will be issued and, if the student can demonstrate hardship, this charge will be reduced to £440. Please note: spare seats can only be offered where the vehicle meets Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) and where there is no commercial service available.

2.6 Students from low-income families

The council has adopted its own criteria for determining post 16 hardship/low-income cases applying for travel assistance. You can apply online via the [council's website](#).

Assessment criteria for discretionary award due to hardship

A welfare check will be offered to all applicants who are suffering hardship due to hardship/low income. This will help to identify any unmet needs, and to provide early support and financial assistance.

A full assessment will be completed to include details of income and expenditure. This will help to identify whether the applicant has sufficient means to pay any travel costs associated with continuing education. All income will be taken into account including income which would normally be disregarded for benefit calculation purposes. Due regard will be made to all reasonable expenses including any related to disability. This means that those with the highest needs who consequently have increased expenditure will have this considered fully under this test rather than being capped at the level of their Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment (if this was to be disregarded without full consideration of need and expenditure).

Parents/carers and students may appeal against a decision of the local authority in relation to travel assistance. Appeals should be registered through the Transport Commissioning Service in line with the published eligibility and suitability appeals processes.

2.7 Rural areas

The county council provides financial support to a limited number of local bus services and encourages operators to publish timetables that are suitable for school/college start and finish times. Where public transport is available, purchasing travel passes on public transport or buying into transport arranged by a school or college themselves, may be your cheapest option.

Good practice from the Department for Education suggests that students may reasonably be expected to travel up to 75 minutes each way. Travel time includes time spent walking to/from stops, waiting times, driving, travelling on college or school-arranged transport, and using public transport or trains (or a combination of these). The 75 minutes does not include the waiting time between arrival at school/college and the general school/college start and end time.

Students with a journey time of over 75 minutes or where there are no other travel options to the nearest provider may be eligible for assistance. This is in addition to the options and support detailed elsewhere in this statement and is available to all students (low income or not) but will be of less benefit to those in urban areas.

3.1 Refunds

The council will use its best endeavours to process applications for travel assistance and make assessment of eligibility for support within 10 working days of receipt of the application. Applicants should be advised that these timescales may be exceeded during peak times: June to September.

There will be no entitlement to assistance until eligibility has been established. However, if a young person is found to be eligible and the decision has not been made within 10 working days of receipt of the application, then assistance will be backdated to the next working day after the application was received and any reasonable travel costs incurred in the intervening period will be reimbursed upon receipt of evidence of expenditure.

4.1 Independent Travel Training

The training programme will support young people to develop skills to enable them to use public transport to access learning initially, but will have a wider impact on them being able to access work and social opportunities. Travel training is available to anyone who is eligible for travel assistance but priority will be given to those children and young people with an EHCP.

5.1 Apprenticeships

There is an expectation that employers and learning providers will take into account the young person's travel arrangements. However, where it considers it necessary to do so, the council will make arrangements to support learners undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships. These will be considered on a case by case basis. Employers and learning providers should take account of young people's likely travel arrangements when planning off-the-job training, particularly outside normal working hours.

5.2 Supported internships

Young people may be eligible for assistance under our post 16 schemes to the main registered base of the learning establishment only, at the same cost as detailed above. However, we would not offer travel assistance to the work placement. The

employer may offer support, or you may be able to claim assistance through 'Access to work' funding.

5.3 Those not in education, employment or training (NEET)

The council will consider the needs of those who are vulnerable to becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET) at the age of 16 or 17, or who have already become NEET. Where these young people are offered a suitable course of education or training, the council will provide support where it considers it necessary to do so in order to remove travel as a barrier.

5.4 Additional eligibility criteria

The council no longer provides travel assistance to mainstream post 16 students. It will however continue to exercise its discretionary powers when considering individual cases of low income/hardship. Where low income/hardship can be demonstrated, the council will consider offering support in order to remove travel as a barrier to an individual's continuation into further education.

6.1 Applying for travel assistance

Travel assistance applications specifically related to post 16 special educational needs students should be submitted at the earliest possible opportunity and **before** 30 June. As soon as a decision is made, the council will confirm this in writing.

Students may wish to make enquiries about what alternative or additional assistance is available from schools or colleges once the outcome of their application to the council is known.

Applications can be made online via the council's website, alternatively you can contact the teams listed below:

- For details of travel assistance for **mainstream** students, contact the Transport Commissioning Services on 0300 123 7039.
- For details about post 16 **special educational needs** travel assistance please email senteamwest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

For details of the colleges' own services and of any financial assistance that the colleges might offer, please contact the student services officer at the college concerned.

Full details of the council's school and college travel assistance policy are available on the council's website.

Appendix 2 to this statement gives information about local post 16 school and college provision and contact points and a list of operators and how to contact them. Contract services are subject to periodic re-tendering, so these details are liable to change when individual contracts are re-let. They may also be adjusted to meet changes in demand.

APPENDIX 1

Appeals

The appendices to the council's home to educational establishment travel policy set out the procedures by which eligibility and suitability will be assessed and how individuals can appeal against these decisions. Further details regarding the appeals process can be found on the [council's website](#).

The following chart summarises the process for both types of appeals:

Officer A declines the home to school travel application or offers travel arrangements the parent considers 'unsuitable'

Parent challenges officer A's decision regarding eligibility for students with SEND or on low income on basis of:

- Policy wrongly applied
- Distance measurement
- Route safety
- Consideration of exceptional circumstances

You can complete and submit your appeal online via the [council's website](#)

Parent challenges suitability of officer A's decision on basis of:

- Method of travel unsuitable
- Journey length unsuitable
- Transport provider unsuitable

You can complete and submit your appeal online via the [council's website](#)

Stage 1: Review by a senior officer

Officer B (a senior officer) reviews officer A's decision and sends the parent a written notification of the outcome including:

- Detailed reasoning for decision made
- Notification of option to escalate to stage 2 (an appeal panel)

Parent challenges

Parent challenges officer B's (the senior officer) decision

Stage 2: Review by an appeal panel

Independent appeal panel (officer A or B must not sit on panel) hears written/verbal representation from parent. The appeal panel is independent of the process to date and suitably qualified

Independent appeal panel sends decision letter to parent, including how to escalate the case to Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)

Complaints

The Council is committed to delivering an excellent service. However, there is an acknowledgement that it might not be right the first time. The complaint system is designed to understand what has not worked and then to try and rectify it, if possible.

Complaints will be reviewed by the appropriate team and it will be responded to in stages.

Stage 1: Concerns will be reviewed and if applicable, you will be called to further understand the complaint and how it could be rectified. If you require a written response, this will be written and sent, usually via email, within 20 working days.

If you are unhappy with our response, you can request to escalate your complaint to stage two. You can do this in writing, explaining why you are unhappy with the response and what outcomes you would like to see as a result of the stage two investigation. It is helpful to provide evidence to demonstrate why your complaint has not been resolved at this stage.

Stage 2: The complaint will be triaged to decide if a Stage 2 response is required. An acknowledgement email will be sent explaining why we have refused or accepted your request. If it is accepted, the Council aims to respond to it within 20 working days and the acknowledgement email will state that the complaint will be dealt with as 'routine business'. However, this can be extended to 40 working days or more if the complaint is complex.

A link to the webpage can be found here: [Make a complaint | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

APPENDIX 2

Travel support

Concessionary tickets for young people 16 – 25 from public transport providers

Many commercial operators provide services which are competitively priced and are often more flexible than the council's services. Parents are consequently advised to always check all travel options before applying for support from the council, as there may be cheaper alternatives available.

Some colleges also operate or contract their own services, which may help those who do not qualify under the council's scheme (see section three above for eligibility). Details of college provision are given in appendix one.

For details of schemes of assistance offered by colleges to help with the cost of travel, please contact the student services officer at the college concerned (see Appendix one).

English National Concessionary Disabled Travel Pass

Issued free of charge to residents of Cheshire West and Chester Council who are eligible disabled. The bus pass entitles the holder to free travel on bus services within England, Monday to Friday between 9.30am until 11pm and at all times on a Saturday and Sunday and bank holidays. Residents with visually impaired cards are entitled to free travel before 9.30am when boarding within the Cheshire Consortium (Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington).

Additionally, Cheshire pass holders can travel on bus services going into Wales providing the journey starts or ends in Cheshire West and Chester.

A £11.00 charge is applied for lost, damaged or defaced passes.

You can find the eligibility criteria or make an application online on the Cheshire West and Chester website.

For further information email concessionarytravel@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Telephone 0300 123 7025

Arriva

This company offers a child's weekly ticket valid on its services in Cheshire. They also offer a variety of other tickets and more information can be found on the Arriva website.

Stagecoach

Ticket offers are also available from Stagecoach and further information can be obtained on their website.

Rail Services

Disabled railcard discount codes

Qualifying disabled residents of Cheshire West and Chester can get a 20% discount on the price of a railcard making it £16 instead of £20, if they have a discount code. Please see the disabled person railcard website to see eligibility criteria required.

How to apply for a disabled railcard discount code?

If you qualify and already have a Cheshire concessionary bus pass you can apply online through the Cheshire West and Chester website. If you do not have a Cheshire concessionary bus pass you can apply by visiting one of our offices with proof of address and proof of identity.

Please note: proof of disability does not need to be provided to obtain a code, however this will need to be provided to National Rail at point of application. You can see acceptable forms of evidence on the disabled persons railcard website.

What happens next?

Once you have received your code, you can purchase your railcard directly from National Rail on the disabled persons railcard website.

Student railcard

The student railcard offers considerable discounts over standard fares, but other cheaper fares are also available. For the best offers students should check with operators what choices are available for their journey at the time they want to travel.

Information on student railcards can be obtained from National Rail on the 16-25 railcard website:

Additional information on rail fares and services can be obtained by contacting National Rail

Email: railcardhelp@railcards-online.co.uk

Telephone: 0345 3000 250

Write to: National Railcards, PO Box 6616, Arbroath, DD11 9AR

Travel support from schools and colleges

Mainstream schools and colleges providing post 16 education have supplied the following information about the travel assistance that they intend to provide during the 2026-2027 academic year

Cheshire West and Chester schools:

Bishop Heber High School

For further information telephone: 01948 860571 or visit the school website. [Sixth Form Options Information | Bishop Heber High School](#)

Chester International School

Chester International School post-16 learners can apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary fund to help with the cost of travel and other educational costs. For information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the school website. For further queries, please telephone: 01244 735616 or email: finance@tltrust.co.uk [Chester International School near Chester](#)

Christleton High School

Christleton Sixth Form students who meet the criteria of eligibility for 16-19 bursary awards will receive help towards the cost of travel and other educational costs. For further information telephone: 01244 735616, email: finance@tltrust.co.uk or visit the school website: [Sixth Form in Christleton, near Chester](#)

Ellesmere Port Catholic High

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School post 16 students who meet the criteria receive a bursary which is paid on a regular basis and can be used towards travel costs. There is no specific additional support for travel assistance for other students. Most post 16 students live locally and use public transport or lifts from parents. For more information about the bursary please contact the school on 0151 355 2373 or visit the school website. [Admissions – 6th Form – Ellesmere Port Catholic High School](#)

Helsby High School

Helsby High School does not currently provide specific travel assistance for post 16 students. Students are able to use a public bus as the school lies on the main route between Chester and Runcorn with a service running every hour. Our Post16 students also have access to the itravel, which is an on-demand rural bus service run by Cheshire West and Cheshire and which serves Helsby , Frodsham and surrounding villages. The school is also close to Helsby train station, which is a 15 minute walk from school. Please contact the school via email 6thformadmin@helsbyhigh.org or telephone 01928 723551 for further information or queries. [Welcome to our Sixth Form - Helsby Sixth Form](#)

Neston High School

Neston High School does not have any special arrangements for post 16 travel assistance. Post 16 students from low income households have the opportunity to apply for a bursary grant to support the cost of travel/resources etc.

For further information on the bursary fund (eligibility criteria, prioritisation of allocations and an application form) telephone: 0151 336 3902 or visit the school website. [Our Sixth Form - Neston High School](#)

Queen's Park High School

Queen's Park High School Sixth Form students can apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary fund to help with the cost of travel and other educational costs. For information on the eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the school website. For further queries, please telephone: 01244 735616 or email: finance@tltrust.co.uk [Queen's Park High School - Welcome](#)

St Nicholas Catholic High School

St Nicholas Catholic High School Sixth Form College does not provide direct travel assistance to post 16 students. However, students can apply for financial support through the 16-19 bursary fund and if eligible they will be provided with either funds directly to their bank account which students can use to pay towards travel, or it will be paid 'in kind' if students wish to use the school managed bus service. [Sixth Form – St Nicholas Catholic High School](#)

Tarporley High School and Sixth Form College

For information concerning post 16 travel assistance please contact the school on telephone: 01829 732558 or email contact@tarporleyhigh.co.uk [Welcome from the Director of Sixth Form | Tarporley High School](#)

The Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School

Travel assistance for post 16 students is the same as for all the school's other students, i.e. they can use the same buses that come to school on commercial contracts and where places are available, can use the vehicles put on by the school for areas not serviced by commercial contracts. The prices are the same for all students. Post 16 students meeting funding criteria can have access to the bursary fund provided to school by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

For further information telephone: 01244 313806 or visit the school website. [Sixth Form - The Bishops' Blue Coat](#)

The Catholic High School, Chester

Eligible students to The Catholic High School, Chester would have to prove to be of Catholic faith and would then receive free travel assistance by means of a bus pass if it is their nearest catholic school. Post 16 pupils could receive free travel assistance to our school if it is the closest school that provides the course they wish to study. [Home - Chester Catholic Sixth Form](#)

The Whitby High School

The Whitby High School does not provide post 16 travel assistance for students. For further information telephone: 0151 355 8445 or visit the school website. [Join The Whitby Sixth Form - The Whitby High School](#)

The Ellesmere Port C of E College (previously UCEA)

The Ellesmere Port C of E College offers a post-16 bursary which students can use travel to and from Sixth Form. Students in receipt of Free School Meals automatically qualify for the bursary. All students can apply for additional bursary funding, which is provided to pupils on a discretionary basis. The bursary, if awarded, can be used towards transport costs. Additional information can be obtained by emailing the school

(admin@epcollege.org) or visit the school website. [Sixth Form - The Ellesmere Port C of E College](#)

Upton-by-Chester High School

Upton-by-Chester High School is served by several public buses: the 51, S51 and 53 by Stagecoach; Guilden Sutton and Mickle Trafford by Arrowbrook; and Wervin and Mollington by Cheshire Travel Services. All travel is paid for by the students themselves. 6th Form students may be able to receive financial support towards home to school travel costs if they meet the eligibility criteria for either a Discretionary or Compulsory Bursary Award. For further information telephone: 01244 259884. [Upton-by-Chester High School - Sixth Form](#)

Colleges:

Cheshire College, South & West (Ellesmere Port, Chester and Crewe campuses)

Travel to and from Cheshire College, South & West is FREE*. As part of their sustainable travel plan, the college offers a free* travel system for all fulltime learners aged 16-18 living over one mile from the campus where their course is delivered providing a travel option exists.

There are different options available depending on your home location:

- College Coach Service**
- Public Transport

The plan aims to reduce traffic volume by encouraging cycling, walking, and providing opportunities for access to public and contracted vehicles.

The College encourages learners and staff who live within three miles of their campus to maximise their environmental friendliness by cycling to College. Secure cycle storage areas are provided and changing facilities in the sports department are available to enable cyclists to change before going to lectures.

For further enquiries, contact your local college campus transport office or visit the transport page online [Free Transport - Cheshire College South & West](#):

Ellesmere Port Campus Address: Off Sutton Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 7BF Tel: 01244 656100

Chester Campus Address: Eaton Road, Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7ER Tel: 01244 656100

Crewe Campus Address: Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe, CW2 8AB Tel: 01270 654654

*Please see the transport booklet on the college website for terms and conditions.

** Please note for students under 19 where a college coach service exists, this is the only service that the college will subsidise.

Coleg Cambria

Coleg Cambria will be offering subsidised travel for the 2025/26 academic year to help ensure that the cost of travel remains as small as possible and that we continue to offer a cost effective, safe and comfortable method of travel to and from college.

We also offer a means tested Financial Contingency Fund which may further reduce the cost of travel. More information on this can be found on the funding and finance pages of the college website (<https://www.cambria.ac.uk/supporting-you/student-support/general-student-support/>). For further details contact the Student Services team 0300 3030 007, email transport@cambria.ac.uk or visit the college website.

Macclesfield College

Macclesfield College operates a number of bus services for travel at the start and end of the college day. For further details of routes and for all enquiries, please visit the website, telephone 01625 410018 or email info@macclesfield.ac.uk. [Travelling to College - Macclesfield College](#)

Priestley College, Warrington

Priestley College, Warrington Priestley College offers bursary support from either the National Bursary Scheme or the Priestley Education and Training Trust (PETT) Bursary Fund. Bursaries are intended to remove specific barriers to participation in education, which may include financial or travel issues. Students can apply for a core bursary or a mainstream bursary to help with 20 Post 16 travel costs. If eligible, travel bursaries will be provided for those who need to use public transport to travel to college.

A number of services run directly to college, including routes from Irlam and Cadishead, Frodsham, Runcorn, Culcheth and Birchwood, Widnes, Penketh and Great Sankey, Golborne, Lowton, Newton Le Willows, Burtonwood, and Northwich. The P1, P2 and P2a routes are currently operated by Selwyns coaches, with the P4, P5, P5a, P6, P8 and P9 services run by Warrington's Own Buses. These services are heavily subsidised by Priestley to make travelling to college affordable for students. Students are also able to purchase a discounted touch and go annual pass that can be used Warrington's Own Bus services. Additional services operated by Warrington's Own Buses that also run directly to Priestley College include the 5, 5A, 9, 9A, 18, 19, and 25.

Students requiring further information on the eligibility criteria for bursaries, or a confidential discussion, can call Priestley's admissions team on 01925 633591, email admissions@priestley.ac.uk or visit <https://www.priestley.ac.uk/travelling-to-priestley-college/>

Reaseheath College

Reaseheath will be subsidising travel fees by over £2.5 million to help ensure that the cost of travel remains as small as possible and that we continue to offer a cost effective, safe and comfortable method of travel to and from campus.

We also offer means tested bursaries which may further reduce the cost of travel. More information on this can be found on the finance pages of the college website.

For further details contact the Student Services Transport Co-ordinator on 01270 613209, email transport@reaseheath.ac.uk or visit the college website. [Transport - Reaseheath College](#)

Riverside College (Widnes and Runcorn) and Cronton Sixth Form College

Riverside College

Riverside College aim to ensure the journey to College is a smooth one by offering A FREE Warrington's Own Buses bus pass for the academic year if students live more than 1.5 miles away from college.

There are over 17 dedicated bus routes operating twice a day (at the beginning and the end of the College day). Most services are operated by Warrington's Own Buses but some areas are also covered by Anthony's Travel and Ashcrofts Travel.

For more information, please look on the college website: www.riverside.ac.uk. Bus timetables can be found here: [cronton-riverside-bus-timetables-2025.pdf](#). Please note, these timetables are for the current academic year and routes may change for the next academic year. [TRAVELLING TO COLLEGE - Riverside College](#)

Cronton Sixth Form

Cronton Sixth Form aim to ensure the journey to College is a smooth one by offering A FREE Warrington's Own Buses bus pass for the academic year if students live more than 1.5 miles away from college.

There are over 17 dedicated bus routes operating twice a day (at the beginning and the end of the College day). Most services are operated by Warrington's Own Buses but some areas are also covered by Anthony's Travel and Ashcrofts Travel.

For more information, please look on the college website: www.cronton.ac.uk. Bus timetables can be found here: [cronton-riverside-bus-timetables-2025.pdf](#). Please note, these timetables are for the current academic year and routes may change for the next academic year.

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College

Sir John Deane's Sixth Form College operates its own bus services from the following areas: Warrington, Halton, Congleton, South Manchester, Bunbury and Tarporley, Sandbach and Crewe, Helsby and Frodsham, Macclesfield and Knutsford. Students travelling from other areas should contact the college for public transport information. Students from families with low income can apply for financial support to assist with travel costs from the 16 to 19 bursary fund. Awards are dependent on individual financial circumstances and the assessment criteria are published annually. For further details telephone 01606 664917 or visit the college website. [Transport](#)

Warrington Vale Royal College

For the academic year 2026-2027, 16–18-year-old students who will be studying at the main Winsford campus and who live over one mile away from the Winsford campus, may be eligible to receive a free D&G bus pass. This will enable them to get to college using the local bus service. Students should enquire by email at bus@wvr.ac.uk

There are also two dedicated college services for full-time 16-18 year old students only (information listed below) who are studying at the Warrington Campus, but who live in the Winsford and Northwich areas. For 2026-2027 the direct buses to the Warrington campus will cost **£299**.

The college is committed to significantly subsidising these routes to help minimise travel costs for our students and their parents.

Progressing students will be prioritised in May 2026. School leavers/new students will be invited to make their first payment when completing their 'Getting Ready for College' form in June 2026. Please note, places are limited so early payment for a place is advised. Payments are made via the college EVOLVE app.

Students from households with an annual income of £40,000 or less may be eligible for the College Discretionary Bursary, which can help cover transport costs and other study-related expenses. For bursary queries please email bursary@wvr.ac.uk

Payment plan for 2026 - 2027:

1st payment: £101 on enrolment

2nd payment: £66 on 30th September

3rd payment: £66 on 29th October

4th payment: £66 on 30th November

[Transport to College | Warrington & Vale Royal College](#)

Wirral Metropolitan College

Students requiring further information about college services should telephone 0151 551 7777, email enquiries@wmc.ac.uk or visit the college website: [Wirral Met College](#)