

# Post-16 Education Travel Policy Statement September 2025

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## Cheshire East Council



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## **Document summary**

This document provides travel information for young people in post-16 education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 25 (inclusive) with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

**Department Responsible:** Education Travel Policies

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Other related education travel policies:

[Compulsory School Age Education Travel Policy](#)

[Education Travel Payments Policy](#)

[Education Travel Behaviour Code](#)

[Education Travel Appeals and Complaints Policy](#)

[Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy](#)

## **Introduction**

The local authority does not have to provide free or subsidised post-16 travel support but has a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement setting out the arrangements for the provision of transport, or other support, that it considers necessary 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.

‘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).

Local authorities also 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.

This policy uses the term ‘post-16’ to include both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties / disabilities up to the age of 25.

This policy document specifies the support that Cheshire East Council considers it 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 local authority 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 local authority, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers.

## **1 . Aims and objectives**

1.1 The post-16 Travel Policy Statement reflects the Department for Education guidance.

1.2 This statement aims to share information from the local authority, schools, colleges and other relevant sources and describes the support available to young people entering or continuing with full-time post-16 education.

1.3 The statement also gives advice on the support available to learners with special educational needs or a disability and reinforces our commitment to encouraging independent travel options.

1.4 The overall intention of the 16-18 transport duty is to ensure that:

- learners of sixth form age are able to access the education and training of their choice
- if support for access is required, this will be assessed and provided where necessary.

1.5 The policy statement takes the following into account:

- young people are now required to stay in education or training until their 18th birthday. Local authorities are responsible for promoting the effective participation in education and training of young people who are subject to the duty to participate.
- under the September Guarantee, every young person aged 16 or 17 should be offered a suitable place in education or training - further details are available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/september-guarantee-offers-of-education-or-training-for-16-to-17-year-olds](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/september-guarantee-offers-of-education-or-training-for-16-to-17-year-olds)

1.6 Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide free transport for children of compulsory school age<sup>1</sup>, subject to eligibility. However, travel assistance for 16–19-year-old students is discretionary. Local authorities have a duty to consider what assisted travel and support is necessary in their administrative area to facilitate a young person's participation in education and training.

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<sup>1</sup> Compulsory school age begins at the beginning of the term following a child's 5th birthday and ceases on the last Friday in June in the school year when the child reaches the age of 16.

1.7 The policy statement applies to the academic year 2025-26.

## **2 . Travel assistance and transport**

### **2.1 Travel Cheshire**

Travel Cheshire is a website that provides information about local journeys – from cycling to driving and walking to public transport and includes a travel planner for working out the best way to make a journey in and around Cheshire.

[www.travelcheshire.co.uk/](http://www.travelcheshire.co.uk/)

### **2.2 Public Transport**

Some commercial transport operators offer discounts for regular travellers on their services. Further details about fares and concessions on commercial services can be obtained by contacting the operator direct or visiting Cheshire East Council's public transport website at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/travel](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/travel). This site is regularly updated and provides a wealth of information which will support students/families in seeking assistance to travel.

### **2.3 Traveline**

This is a partnership of transport companies, local authorities and passenger groups that have come together to bring routes and times for different travel requirements <https://www.traveline.info/about-traveline/traveline-services/> or by telephone on 0871 200 2233. Calls are charged at 12 pence per minute from landlines and cost more from mobile phones as mobile phone companies may add their own access charge.

### **2.4 Rail Services**

2.4.1 Young people aged 16 or 17 can enjoy 50% off standard anytime, off-peak, advance and season tickets with a 16-17 Saver, which is £30 and is valid for one year or until the young person's 18th birthday, whichever comes first. For more information see the 16-17 saver website at: <http://www.16-17saver.co.uk>

2.4.2 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 wish to travel.

2.4.3 Information on student rail cards can be obtained via the Railcard website at: <http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk> . Additional information on rail fares and services can be obtained by ringing: 0870 608 2608.

## **2.5 Spare Seats**

Where there is spare capacity on the local authority's school contracts, it may be possible for students to apply for a spare seat. The charge for a spare seat in 2025/26 is £900 per annum. Spare seat applications can be made online at [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school\\_transport/paid-for-seat-scheme.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school_transport/paid-for-seat-scheme.aspx)

or by calling Cheshire East Council on 0300 123 5012. Spare seats can be paid for on a termly or annual basis.

## **2.6 Bus passes for disabled persons**

Cheshire East Council offers bus pass concessions to permanent residents of the borough. Eligible Cheshire East residents can apply for a disabled person's bus pass via an online portal. You can also use the portal to replace lost or damaged cards (£10 fee applies). Cheshire East Council does not provide companion or plus 1 passes. You can find further details at:

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public\\_transport/concessionary\\_travel/bus-passes.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/public_transport/concessionary_travel/bus-passes.aspx)

# **3 . Travel support from schools and colleges**

## **3.1 The 16-19 Bursary Fund**

3.1.1 The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help young people overcome specific barriers to participation so they can remain in education. In order to be eligible for a bursary, you must:

- be at least 16 and under 19 on 31 August 2025
- study at a publicly funded school or college, or be on an unpaid training course
- meet the residency requirements - your school or college can check this



3.1.2 There are two types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

3.1.3 Type 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

3.1.4 Type 2: Discretionary bursaries, which schools and colleges award to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

3.1.5 To be eligible for the discretionary bursary, each school or college will have their own criteria, but usually young people must:

- 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 local authority, **AND** one of the following:
- be aged 16 or over but under 19 at 31 August 2025 **OR**
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2025 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) **OR**
- be aged 19 or over at 31 August 2025 and continuing on a study programme they began aged 16 to 18 ('19+ continuers').

3.1.6 Schools and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursaries. Young people who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their chosen school or college to make an application.

3.1.7 Further information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

## **3.2 Young parents / Care to Learn**

3.2.1 If you are a young parent under 20, Care to Learn can help pay for your childcare and related travel costs, up to £160 per child per week, while you're learning.

3.2.2 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

### **3.2.3 Types of childcare**

The childcare provider must be Ofsted registered and can be a:

- childminder
- pre-school playgroup
- day nursery
- out of school club

3.2.4 If your child needs specialist childcare, the provider must also be on the Care Quality Commission's register for specialist provision.

If you want a relative to get Care to Learn for looking after your child, they need to be both:

- providing registered childcare for children they're not related to
- living apart from you and your child

3.2.5 Payments. Childcare payments go directly to your childcare provider. Before your childcare provider can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your school or college needs to confirm that you're attending your course.

3.2.6 Payments for travel costs go to your school or college – they will either pay you or arrange travel for you.

3.2.7 Attendance. Payments will stop if:

- you stop attending your course
- you finish your course



- your child stops attending childcare

3.2.8 Eligibility. You can qualify for the Care to Learn funding if:

- you're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you're the main carer for your child
- you live in England
- you're either a British citizen or have a legal right to live and study in England
- your course qualifies
- your childcare provider qualifies

3.2.9 Type of course. Care to Learn is only available for courses in England that have some public funding. This includes courses that take place in:

- schools
- school sixth forms
- sixth form colleges
- other colleges and learning providers, including Foundation Learning
- your community at children's centres/family hubs

3.2.10 Young parents are also entitled to apply for an Under-19 Bus Only Ticket or those aged 19 and over can apply for the 19 – 25 card.

3.2.11 For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn/how-to-claim>

### 3.3 The Student Bursary Support Service

The Student Bursary Support Service (SBSS) is an online service used to administer student support for the Care to Learn scheme and the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund for vulnerable students. The online system at [www.gov.uk/guidance/student-bursary-support-service](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/student-bursary-support-service) is for use by education institutions, childcare providers and for students. The system is easy to use, accessible and responsive. Alternatively, telephone 0800 121 8989 (NB students with queries about the 16 to 19 Bursary fund for vulnerable students should contact their education institution).

### **3.4 Help students can apply for if they need to travel to a course that is outside of Cheshire East**

As each sixth form or college is responsible for setting their own eligibility criteria, students should contact the establishment they wish to attend to enquire about what support is available for students travelling from outside the area.

See **Appendix A** for further information.

## **4. Support for students who turn 19 whilst continuing on a course**

4.1 It is the responsibility of sixth forms and further education colleges to decide how best to support their students who reach their 19th birthday whilst undertaking an education course and initial enquiries should be directed to individual providers.

4.2 For students aged 19-25 with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) attending sixth form, college or other training providers, the local authority will consider arrangements for the provision of assisted travel, as necessary, and in accordance with the policy for students with SEND, as set out in this statement.

### **4.3. How 19-25 students will be assessed for support**

It will be a matter for individual sixth forms and further education colleges to determine the level of support they make available, along with any associated eligibility criteria and to communicate this to students. Eligibility criteria may differ between establishments and will depend on the level of funds made available by each provider and how they believe they can best support students travel needs.

## **5. Mobility/independence training for students who face difficulty with transport**

5.1 Personal independence is a vital part of preparing for adulthood. All students, particularly those aged between 16 and 20 years, are encouraged to consider strategies to develop independence during their time at college. One way in which this is most effectively demonstrated is through independent travel to and from the college. Indeed, many of the skills needed to achieve this goal are transferable and of utmost importance in everyday life.

5.2 Courses on life skills may be offered at colleges in Cheshire and a limited amount of independent travel training can be included in the syllabus. Potential students should enquire at their local college to see what is offered.

5.3 Sustainable transport: Sustrans (<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>) is the leading sustainable transport charity that provides practical advice for parents and young people to increase confidence in walking and cycling.

5.4 Students should contact the post-16 provider to discuss options such as the provision and availability of peripatetic teachers, mobile provision and e-learning options.

## **6 . Travel assistance provided by the local authority**

### **6.1 Local authority support for young people without special educational needs or disabilities**

6.1.1 The provision of free or subsidised travel assistance for all post-16 learners is not a statutory duty. In Cheshire East this will not normally be provided for mainstream students or students who were not eligible for free home to school travel when they were of compulsory school age (5-16 years).

6.1.2 The policy statement, however, provides information for certain students on the process of applying for transport assistance from the local authority.

6.1.3 The policy statement also provides all Cheshire East post-16 students and their parents with information about where to access the most up to date transport and travel information, as provided by the local authority, schools, and colleges of further education, transport providers and other relevant sources.

6.1.4 Cheshire East Council will, wherever possible, promote the use of concessions when agreeing to assisted travel. In addition, some sixth forms and further education colleges may operate or contract their own transport services where concessions apply. Appendix A contains a list of post-16 education providers in the area who regularly admit Cheshire East students.

6.1.5 Travel with any discounted passes or concessions will be subject to the terms of carriage by the operator. Students should contact the operator directly to enquire about any day/time restrictions.

6.1.6 Details of routes may be available on the individual sixth form or further education college website or by contacting the establishment directly. Students may wish to make enquiries with their chosen sixth form or further education college about what support is available to them.

## **6.2 Local authority support for learners with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)**

6.2.1 This section provides details of support available from the local authority for young people with SEND including age ranges considered, criteria for eligibility, review information and types of travel support available.

6.2.2 This policy statement provides information for Cheshire East students and their parents<sup>2</sup> about the travel assistance available to them when continuing in education or training beyond compulsory school age<sup>3</sup>. It relates to post-16 learners who are:

- aged 16-18 years of age including those with special educational needs and disabilities
- aged 19 years of age including those with special educational needs and disabilities who started a course before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and who continue to attend that course

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<sup>2</sup> Includes natural parent, person with parental responsibility and a carer, as defined in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. Further Information is published on the <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility#whoisaparent>

<sup>3</sup> A person begins to be of compulsory school age—

(a) when he attains the age of five, if he attains that age on a prescribed day, and

(b) otherwise at the beginning of the prescribed day next following his attaining that age.]

(3) A person ceases to be of compulsory school age at the end of the day which is the school leaving date for any calendar year—

(a) if he attains the age of 16 after that day but before the beginning of the school year next following,

(b) if he attains that age on that day, or

(c) (unless paragraph (a) applies) if that day is the school leaving date next following his attaining that age

- Adults under 25 years of age, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, with or without an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) who wish to attend an educational course.

6.2.3 The policy statement provides information for certain students on the process of accessing a financial contribution from the local authority towards travel needs.

6.2.4 When a young person starts post-16 education, local authorities no longer have to provide free travel support to their educational placement – any such provision is discretionary and will not normally be provided for mainstream students or students who were not eligible for free home to school travel when they were of compulsory school age (5-16 years).

6.2.5 As part of a young person's transition to adulthood, Cheshire East Council encourages as many young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) as possible to have started to travel independently by the time they reach college age. Independent Travel Training may be available for those who may benefit, to support transition, including local schools and colleges.

6.2.6 Parents and their children are advised to consider the journey to their preferred placement when making decisions about post-16 education and training. The nearest suitable school or college is defined in section 6.12.5 of this policy statement.

6.2.7 Cheshire East Council understands that there will be post-16 students with SEND who will not be able to travel independently to their place of learning and, in such cases, the local authority may provide travel assistance primarily in the form of a personal travel budget (PTB). In cases where a PTB is not suitable, parents and carers can appeal, as detailed in section 8.1.

6.2.8 The local authority may arrange travel assistance from a suitable pick-up point rather than the home address. The responsibility for a young person's safety in getting to and from the pick-up point is the parents'.

### **6.3 Personal travel budget (PTB)**

6.3.1 The local authority will provide assistance primarily in the form of a personal travel budget (PTB) to all eligible post-16 students where this is deemed to be the lowest cost option. The local authority may arrange the transport rather than offer a PTB where one or more young people are attending the same educational establishment. This is at the discretion of the local authority.

6.3.2 Exceptions to this will be considered as part of the Appeals and Complaints process and may include circumstances such as the nearest suitable school/college being a substantial distance from home, the need for a specialist vehicle, or financial hardship. It is expected that applicants on the grounds of financial hardship will have already applied for bursary assistance from their school/college before requesting additional support from the local authority.

6.3.3 A PTB is a payment made directly to a parent/carers in order to facilitate the transportation of a student to school or college.

6.3.4 The payment will be based on a mileage rate of 45 pence per mile. The total payment will be based on 2 return journeys per day of attendance with a maximum 190 days for an academic year. Please note: some schools and colleges operate a shorter academic year than 190 days, and some students do not attend 5 days per week. For example, if the distance from your home to school/college is 10 miles then the daily payment would be 2 return journeys i.e 40 miles x 45 pence per mile = £18 per day.

6.3.5 The value of a PTB can be set at a higher level in exceptional circumstances. The value of the PTB can be flexible to allow for the fact that more specialised vehicles or personal assistance may be required. The rate of payment will be determined by taking into account the personal circumstances of the family and any additional costs that may be incurred.

6.3.6 Payments will be made as per the [Education Travel Payments Policy](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/schools/school-travel-policies/education-travel-payment-policy-2023-v2.pdf). (<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/schools/school-travel-policies/education-travel-payment-policy-2023-v2.pdf>)

6.3.7 Benefits of a PTB:

6.3.8 A PTB provides families with the flexibility to make travel arrangements to suit their needs, for example:

- pay for the costs of driving your child to school / college
- give to a family member or friend so they can take your child to school/college
- arrange shared travel arrangements with other parents
- provide childcare facilities, such as breakfast/after school clubs for siblings to enable parents/carers to take their child to school/college
- pay for anything else that works for your family

6.3.9 The process of claiming a PTB has been simplified and parents / carers will receive regular payments over 11 months. The amount was also increased in September 2023 from 25p per mile to 45p per mile. Further details can be found below in section 7.6.

#### **6.4 Financial contribution required**

6.4.1 If the lowest cost option (as deemed by the local authority) is for the local authority to provide transport, then for students aged 16-18 year old and those aged 19 who are continuing learners, a financial contribution of £900 per annum is payable. Payment may be made termly, half-termly, for the full-year or **by Direct Debit (10 monthly instalments)**.

6.4.2 For the academic year 2023-24, the average cost of transporting post-16 students (16 to 25 years) was £9,840 per person.

#### **6.5 Low income**

Local authorities are expected to target any support on those young people, and their families, who need it most, particularly those with a low income. Learners, and their families, may apply for assistance via the 16-19 bursary fund, the details of which are provided in **Section 3**.

Families with low income are encouraged to contact the school/college directly and request assistance from them in relation to the 16-19 bursary fund.



## **6.6 Refunds**

6.6.1 Where a financial contribution has been made for the full year by parents and circumstances change resulting in travel assistance no longer being required, a request for a pro-rata refund will be considered.

6.6.2 A partial refund may be made when a student leaves their educational course and no longer requires transport. The partial refund will reflect the notice period given to the local authority and the notice period required to be given to the transport operator.

6.6.3 Refunds will **not** be given in the following circumstances:

- Student does not access the transport provided by the local authority either due to sickness or non-attendance
- Where the cost of cancelling the travel assistance provided by the local authority exceeds the pro-rata refund being requested

## **6.7 Independent Travel training**

Where the local authority deems it to be appropriate, students who have not previously accessed public transport for home-to-school travel may be offered independent travel training (ITT). The local authority will consider the learner's individual needs in making its assessment. If a student is identified as ready to undertake ITT, refusal to participate may affect any future applications for travel assistance.

## **6.8 Apprenticeships**

The local authority does not provide travel assistance for young people participating in apprenticeships. Information on arrangements available to support learners undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships is published online at

<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice>

## **6.9 Not in education, employment or training (NEET)**

For those young people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so, it is recognised that travel should not be a

barrier to accessing education and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **6.10 Supported Internships**

For those young people who have secured a supported internship through the local authority, it is recognised that travel should not be a barrier to accessing the provision, and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Travel support will only be considered to the educational element of the internship and will not be available to the workplace. Other support is available to access the workplace for supported internships. You can find further information at the following link:

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/jobs\\_and\\_careers/supported\\_employment/supported\\_employment.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/jobs_and_careers/supported_employment/supported_employment.aspx)

### **6.11 Cared-for children**

6.11.1 For cared-for children, where Cheshire East Council is the corporate parent, eligibility for support may depend upon the type of foster care placement that the young person is residing in and the framework agreements that support those placements.

6.11.2 Cheshire East Foster Carers of eligible Post-16 learners will be exempt from making the financial contribution. Independent Foster Carers will be required to pay the financial contribution.

6.11.3 For young people who are care-leavers, the responsibility for the payment of the financial contribution will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **6.12 Eligibility for travel assistance**

6.12.1 Cheshire East Council understands that there will be post-16 students with SEND who will not be able to travel independently to their place of learning and, in such cases, will consider assistance.

6.12.2 Students aged 16-18 with an EHCP who may be entitled to subsidised travel assistance from the local authority are those:

- that cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety concerns related to their SEN or disability
- and where no other suitable transport arrangement is already in place, such as a transport service provided by the school or college.

6.12.3 Students aged 19 with an EHCP who may be entitled to subsidised travel assistance from the local authority are those:

- that cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school because of their mobility problems or because of associated health and safety concerns related to their SEN or disability
- and where no other suitable transport arrangement is already in place
- and who started a course before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday and who continue to attend that course.

6.12.4 Adult learners aged between 19 and 25 years of age who may be entitled to travel assistance from the local authority are those:

- where the local authority considers it necessary to make travel arrangements to enable them to attend maintained or further education colleges; or
- the young person has an EHCP and is attending an institution outside the further or higher education sector and the local authority has secured the provision of that education or training and the provision of boarding accommodation in connection with that education or training.
- Where the local authority considers it necessary to make those arrangements, any transport provided will be free of charge. For all other successful applications, a financial contribution will be offered.

6.12.5 In addition, the education or learning establishment must be:

- the nearest suitable publicly funded school sixth form<sup>4</sup> offering the same course or similar; or

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<sup>4</sup> A local authority maintained school or an academy (including a free school, studio school or University Technical College).

- the nearest suitable publicly funded college of further education offering the same course or similar; or
- an establishment where the young person is receiving education outside the further and higher education sector and the course/programme of study has been secured by the local authority and includes boarding accommodation.

6.12.6 If an eligible student or their parents choose/secure a place at an education or training establishment that does not fall within these arrangements, transport assistance may not be agreed.

6.12.7 For an application to be accepted, the student must be enrolled onto a full-time course/programme of study, scheduled to provide at least 540 directed learning hours over 30 or more weeks. In exceptional circumstances, for example where a break in learning is required for medical needs, an application will be accepted for a shorter attendance period. Details must be included in the application.

6.12.8 Travel assistance is not normally provided for part-time courses, higher education, or privately funded education.

6.12.9 For eligible young people, the local authority will provide travel assistance for the start and end of the school/college day only. Travel assistance during the day between schools or to other specialist provision is the schools' responsibility. Travel outside the usual school/college start and finish times will be the parent or young person's responsibility.

6.12.10 The student's permanent home address must be in the Cheshire East administrative boundary. The student's place of residence may be the address of the parent with whom the student is permanently resident. Supporting information may be requested to verify the place of residence. To ensure a fair process, administrative checks may be undertaken, which may include verifying addresses against council tax records.

Where a student lives between two addresses, the permanent home address will be taken to be where the student wakes up for the majority of the week (Monday to Friday) and it is this address that will be used for transport purposes. If it is not possible to determine which is the permanent address by this test, then residence will be determined based on where the student is registered for purposes of child benefit (if applicable) or where the student is registered for GP purposes.

6.12.11 If you are not eligible or disagree with the type of travel assistance being offered, please refer to the Appeals and Complaints Policy (<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/schools/school-travel-policies/education-travel-appeals-and-complaints-policy.pdf> )

## **7. Applying for local authority travel assistance**

7.1 Applications are welcomed from 1 April 2025. Applications received between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2025 will be assessed regularly, and applicants will be notified of their eligibility for travel assistance within 4 weeks of the application being received. Successful applicants will be notified in July 2025 regarding the type of travel assistance being offered.

7.2 Applications received after 30 June 2025 will be assessed as soon as possible; however, applicants may not be notified of the decision until after the young person's educational placement for 2025/26 has started. In these circumstances, the parent/carer will be responsible for all travel arrangements and costs until the local authority has had the opportunity to review the application. Therefore, the local authority encourages applications as soon as the educational placement has been confirmed.

7.3 Online applications can be made using the following link : [Post-16 Travel Assistance Application Form](#)

7.4 If you are unable to complete the application online, please contact the Education Travel Policies team on 01270 686521 or email [EducationTravelPolicies@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:EducationTravelPolicies@cheshireeast.gov.uk) with your name and contact number and we will call you to complete the application over the telephone.

## **7.5 When students should start to apply for transport support**

It would be advisable to contact the preferred sixth form or further education college as soon as possible to enquire about what transport support may be available. The individual sixth form or college will be able to advise students of how and when to make an application for transport support.

7.6 Students applying to the local authority on the grounds of SEND will need to make their applications to the local authority as described in section 7.

## **7.7 Help available for students who attend a further education institution which is beyond reasonable daily travelling distance and they need to stay away**

Where a student with disabilities and/or special educational needs is placed at an establishment providing further education which is beyond reasonable daily travelling distance, the local authority will consider applications for travel assistance to and from their residential education setting for the student, depending upon level of need. This could mean travel assistance at the beginning and end of each week, half-term or term. Any arrangements would then be regularly monitored.

## **7.8 Applying for Travel Assistance**

7.8.1 Applications for travel assistance must be made every year using the forms available on Cheshire East Council's website at

[https://form.cheshireeast.gov.uk/service/Post\\_16\\_transport\\_application](https://form.cheshireeast.gov.uk/service/Post_16_transport_application)

or by request to 0300 123 5012.

7.8.2 Year 11 students moving into a post-16 placement must complete an application form to request continuing support in Year 12 and 13, even if they are remaining in the same educational establishment. Students continuing on a post-16 course already in receipt of travel assistance will be required to submit a fresh application every year.

7.8.3 Where circumstances change mid-year, a fresh application will be required. A change in circumstances may be a change in course, residential address or educational establishment.

7.8.4 In every case, travel assistance will be reviewed following a house move, change in placement or course, or a change in the student's needs (condition, medication or equipment) or any other change in circumstances which may be relevant. Until the new application has been assessed, parent/carers will be responsible for all travel arrangements.

7.8.5 Parents are obliged to inform the local authority of any such changes as soon as possible. The local authority may undertake checks to ensure circumstances have not changed.

7.8.6 Where the change in circumstances removes eligibility for travel assistance the removal of that assistance will normally be subject to a 12 weeks' notice period. The exceptions to this notice period allowing that assistance to be withdrawn with immediate effect include:

- Change of school;
- Where the normal place of residence has changed
- Where incorrect, misleading or potentially fraudulent information has been used to determine eligibility
- Where, for any reason, travel assistance has been approved/provided in error, the local authority reserves the right to withdraw that provision.

7.8.7 All applications for travel assistance must be supported by appropriate evidence, such as medical documentation, Personal Independence Payments (PIP) or need for specialised vehicle. Each application will be considered by the local authority's Travel Assistance Panel. Applications will be assessed on an individual basis, using any evidence provided to identify particular travel requirements.

7.8.8 In all cases, specific and up to date evidence from relevant health and/or educational appropriate professionals supporting the student will be required. Other supporting evidence may be requested to assist the panel in its decision making.



7.8.9 Information about receipt of a Personal Independence Payment (PIP) must also be provided for consideration by the Travel Assistance Panel.

7.8.10 The provision of transport, rather than a PTB, will only be considered if this is the most cost-effective method of travel support or in exceptional circumstances.

When reviewing exceptions, the following may be taken into consideration:

- The student's ability to use public transport, either accompanied or unaccompanied by a responsible adult;
- Need for a specialist vehicle;
- The family's access to a suitable vehicle
- The length or complexity of the journey. Best practice suggests that a young person of sixth form age may reasonably be expected to travel up to 75 minutes each way to access learning. If parents or other family members are unable to take the student to their education/learning establishment, this must be fully explained in the application;
- The student's need for a passenger assistant to administer emergency medicine;
- Those that live in particularly rural areas where the transport infrastructure is more limited
- Financial circumstances of the family;
- Other circumstances relevant to each case including why the PTB may not be appropriate.

7.8.11 Where the decision is made to provide transport rather than PTB, the local authority will arrange suitable travel to the nearest suitable establishment, subject to a financial contribution being paid. The level of financial contribution required from parents/carers of learners aged 16-19 will be comparable to the cost incurred by other parents who purchase a spare seat on transport arranged for home to school travel. The level of financial contribution is £900 per annum. Failure to make the financial contribution or maintain the flexible payment terms may result in travel assistance being withdrawn.

7.8.12 Parents/carers have the choice to pay online for school transport, in advance, either annually, termly or half-termly. There may be the possibility of paying the financial contribution by monthly direct debit.

7.8.13 Cheshire East foster carers of eligible post-16 learners will be exempt from making this financial contribution when travel assistance is arranged by Cheshire East Council and the young person is residing within Cheshire East. Independent Foster Carers will be required to pay the financial contribution

## **7.9 Personal Travel Budget (PTB)**

7.9.1 Parents will be asked to sign and return a BACs form (Bankers Automated Clearing System) to allow the local authority to set up payment arrangements. On receipt of all relevant documentation, the local authority will set up payment arrangements in readiness of parent/carers submitting a PTB claim. This may delay the payment of the first claim. Payments will be paid by bank transfer. Payments will not be back dated.

7.9.2 Parents can submit PTB claims as soon after the end of the month to which the claim refers. PTB claims older than 3 months may not be paid. Payments will be paid by bank transfer as soon as is reasonably practical to do so. Payments will not be back dated.\_

7.9.3 By submitting a PTB claim, parents are confirming that their child has been attending school. The local authority may check claims against student attendance data.

7.9.4 The PTB can be withdrawn by the Local Authority if the pupil has not been attending school or if previous claims have resulted in an over payment. PTB claims forms may need to be checked by other teams prior to payment being authorised for payment.

7.9.5 Each month the parent/carer will confirm that their child has been attending school, by completing a claim form and advising the dates on which the child has

attended school. The parent/carers will submit a copy of this form via email to [schooltransport@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

7.9.6 There should not be any tax or benefit implications for parents in receipt of a payment. However, it is a parent/carers' responsibility to check that this is the case in their personal circumstances.

## **8. Appeals and complaints**

8.1 Parents/carers and students may request a review or appeal against the decision of the local authority in relation to travel assistance, or type of travel assistance, offered to post-16 students. Details of the process can be found in the **Education Travel Appeals and Complaints Policy**

( <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/schools/school-travel-policies/education-travel-appeals-and-complaints-policy.pdf> ) . You can also find the appeals request forms on our web page at

[https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school\\_transport/appeals.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school_transport/appeals.aspx)

8.2 Any complaints in relation to the level of support available for mainstream post-16 students should be directed to the individual school or college.

## **9. Behaviour on transport provided by the local authority**

Incidents on school or college transport will be managed in accordance with the local authority's **Education Travel Behaviour Code**

([https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school\\_transport/school-transport-policies.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school_transport/school-transport-policies.aspx) )

# **Appendix A**

A list of both mainstream and specialist schools and colleges with post-16 provision, both within Cheshire East and outside of the Cheshire East boundary.

## **Appendix A**

### **Special Schools within Cheshire East**

#### **Adelaide School**

Adelaide Street, Crewe CW1 3DT

For further information call 01270 260680 or visit

<http://www.adelaideschool.net/>

#### **Adelaide Heath Academy**

Longridge, Knutsford WA16 8PA

For further information call 01565 746946 or visit

<https://www.adelaideheathacademy.net/>

#### **Church Lawton School**

Cherry Tree Avenue, Church Lawton, Cheshire ST7 3EL

For further information call 01270 877601 or visit

<https://www.churchlawtonschool.org.uk/>

#### **David Lewis College**

Mill Lane, Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7UD

For further information call 01565 640000 or visit

<https://www.davidlewis.org.uk/>

#### **Lavender Field School**

Samuel Street, Crewe CW1 3AE

For further information call 01270 439005 or visit

<https://www.lavenderfieldschool.co.uk/>

**Park Lane School**

Park Lane, Macclesfield SK11 8JR

For further information call 01625 801964 or visit

[www.parklaneschool.co.uk](http://www.parklaneschool.co.uk)

**Springfield School**

Crewe Green Road, Crewe CW1 5HS

For further information call 01270 691900 or visit

[Springfield School - Home](#)

## **Mainstream Schools and Colleges within Cheshire East**

Mainstream schools and colleges providing post-16 education and training have supplied the following information about the travel assistance they intend to provide during the 2025-26 academic year. Additional information may be available at open evenings held at the school/college.

### **All Hallows Catholic College**

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield. SK11 8LB

Sixth form students travelling to All Hallows Catholic College are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available.

For more information, access the college website or call 01625 426138.

[Welcome | AHCC-2024](#)

### **Alsager School**

Hassall Road, Alsager. ST7 2HR

Sixth form students travelling to Alsager Sixth Form College are able to access a mixture of privately arranged, local authority or service routes depending on the location.

For more information, access the school website or call 01270 871100

<https://www.alsagerschool.org/parents/transport/>

### **Brine Leas School & Sixth Form College**

Audlem Road, Nantwich CW5 7DY

Sixth form students travelling to Brine Leas School are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available. For more information, access the school website <http://brineleas.co.uk> or call 01270 625663

Or for information on how to access transport for the main school, please contact Cheshire East Transport Services on 0300 123 5012

[School bus services](#)

### **Cheshire College, South and West**

Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe CW2 8AB

All 16–19-year-old students enrolled on a full-time course will be eligible to access free transport to and from College from a range of areas within Cheshire East and beyond including Shropshire and Staffordshire.

For more information, access the college website or call 01270 654654

<https://www.ccsw.ac.uk/life-at-ccsw/support/financial-support/>

### **Congleton High School**

Box Lane, Congleton CW12 4NS

Sixth form students travelling to Congleton High School are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat. Free travel home may be available when students attend or assist with after school activities and clubs. Applications are invited for the Transport Bursary Fund.

For more information, access the school website or call 01260 730123

<https://congletonhigh.com/sixth-form/student-support>

### **Crewe Engineering & Design UTC**

West Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2PZ

Sixth form students travelling to Crewe Engineering and Design UTC are able to access a range of public transport including buses and trains as used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare or purchasing a seat, if available.

The University Technical College does not provide any direct transport to and from the college site. Travel maybe subsidised if you are eligible for a bursary and applications for travel bursaries are invited.

For more information, access the college website or call 01270 218150

<http://www.utccrewe.co.uk/>

### **Eaton Bank Academy**

Jackson Road, Congleton CW12 1NT

Sixth form students travelling to Eaton Bank Academy are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available. Transport home may be available when students attend or assist with after school activities and clubs.



For more information, access the academy website or call 01260 273000

<https://www.eatonbankacademy.org/about-us/school-transport/>

### **Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form College**

Selkirk Drive, Holmes Chapel CW4 7DX

Sixth form students travelling to Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and Sixth Form College are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available.

The school also arranges transport to and from Wincham.

For more information, access the school website or call 01477 689500

<https://www.hc6f.co.uk/information>

### **Knutsford Academy College and Studio School**

Bexton Road, Knutsford WA16 0AE

Sixth form students travelling to Knutsford Academy and Studio School are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available.

For more information, access the school website or call 01565 633294

<https://www.knutsfordacademy.org.uk/>

### **Macclesfield College of Further and Higher Education**

Park Lane, Macclesfield SK11 8LF

Macclesfield College provides a subsidised bus service for full-time 16-18 year old students who live outside a three mile radius of the College.

For more information, access the college website or call 01625 410000

<https://macclesfield.ac.uk>

### **Malbank School & Sixth Form College**

Welsh Row, Nantwich CW5 5HD

Sixth form students travelling to Malbank School & Sixth Form College are able to access transport to and from a number of local areas including Crewe, Wrenbury, Shavington, Wistaston and Willaston. The college does offer financial support for travel to college, subject to means testing.

For more information, access the school website or call 01270 611009

<https://www.malbank.com/page/?title=School+Transport+Information&pid=122>

### **Poynton High School & Performing Arts College**

Yew Tree Lane, Poynton SK12 1PU

Sixth form students travelling to Poynton High School and Performing Arts College are able to access the transport used by younger students through the guaranteed seat system, by purchasing a travel ticket via

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/parents/transport-information> Transport is available from Disley, Bollington, Marple, Macclesfield and Cheadle Hulme.

For more information, access the school website or call 01625 871811

<https://www.phs.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Transport+Information&pid=41>

### **Reaseheath College**

Nantwich CW5 6DF

Students travelling to Reaseheath College are able to access dedicated college buses to and from locations within Cheshire East and other areas including Stoke, Staffordshire, Chester, Warrington and Ellesmere Port.

For more information, access the college website or call 01270 625131

[Getting to Reaseheath - Reaseheath College](#)

### **Sandbach School (Boys)**

Crewe Road, Sandbach CW11 3NS

Sixth form students travelling to Sandbach School are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available.

For more information, access the school website or call 01270 758870

<https://sandbachschool.org/parents-students/transport/>

### **Sandbach High School & Sixth Form College**

Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT

Sixth form students travelling to Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available

For more information, access the school website or call 01270 765031

<http://sandbachhigh.co.uk/transport/>

### **The Fallibroome Academy**

Priory Lane, Macclesfield SK10 4AF

Sixth form students travelling to Fallibroome Academy and Sixth Form College are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available.

The school also has very limited availability on private transport to and from Wilmslow. Priority will be given to those students on bursaries.

For more information, please call 01625 827898 For more information, access the college website or call 01625 827898 <https://fallibroome.academy/transport/>

### **Tytherington High School**

Manchester Road, Macclesfield SK10 2EE

Sixth form students travelling to Tytherington High School are able to access the transport used by younger students, either by paying a daily fare where available or purchasing a spare seat, if available.

For more information, access the college website or call 01625 610220

<http://www.tytheringtonschool.co.uk/>

### **Wilmslow High School**

Holly Road, Wilmslow SK9 1LZ

6th form students travelling to Wilmslow High School are able to use public transport, paying a daily fare at a discounted student rate. Wilmslow Train Station is a short walk from the school and there are a number of bus routes that serve the local area.

For more information, access the school website or call 01625 526191

<http://www.wilmslowhigh.com/about-us>

### **Schools and Colleges Outside of Cheshire East**

The following public information has been compiled to enable ease of access for learners and their parents.

#### **Aquinas College**

Nangreave Road, Stockport SK2 6TH

For further information call 0161 483 3237 or visit

<http://www.aquinas.ac.uk/>

#### **Aurora School - Hanley (Part of the Aurora Group)**

Cambrian Way, off Eaves Lane, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 8PQ

For further information call 01782 973 737 or visit

<https://www.theauroragroup.co.uk/services/schools/hanley-school>

#### **Bishop Heber High School**

Chester Road, Malpas SY14 8JD

For further information call 01948 860571 or visit

<https://www.bishopheber.cheshire.sch.uk/>

#### **Buxton & Leek College**

Buxton Campus: Devonshire Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6RY

Leek Campus: Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6DP

For further information call 0800 074 0099

<https://www.blc.ac.uk/>

#### **Cheadle College (part of the Trafford College Group)**

Cheadle Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport SK8 5HA

For further information call 0161 486 4600

<https://cheadle.tscg.ac.uk>

#### **City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College**

Leek Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2RU

For further information call 01782 848736 or visit

<http://www.stokesfc.ac.uk/contact/getting-here/>

**Greenbank School**

Greenbank Lane, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1LD

For further information call 01606 663820

<http://www.greenbankschool.org/>

**Hebden Green Community School**

Woodford Lane West, Winsford CW7 4EJ

For further information call 01606 594221

<http://www.hebdengreen.cheshire.sch.uk/>

**Inscape House School (part of Together Trust)**

Trust Centre, Schools Hill, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 1JE

For further information call 0161 283 4750 or visit

<https://www.togethertrust.org.uk/inscape-house-school>

**The Meadows School**

Springfield Road, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 6EU

For further information call 01538 225060, or visit

<https://themeadows.manorhall.academy/>

**Newfriars College (Formerly Blackfriars FE Department)**

Castle Grove off Newhouse Road, Bucknall, Stoke-on-Trent ST2 8BH

For further information, call 01782 987 180 or visit

<https://www.newfriarscollege.org.uk/>

**Oaklands School**

Montgomery Way, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 1NU

For further information call 01606 551 048 or visit

<https://www.oaklandsschool.org.uk/>

**Petty Pool College**

Pool Lane, Sandiway, Cheshire CW8 2DR

For further information call 01606 889097 or visit

<https://www.pettypool.org.uk/>

**Pinc College (formerly known as Project Inc.)**

The Heritage Centre, Rose Street, Macclesfield SK11 6UT

For further information call 0161 667 0910 or visit

[Home - Pinc College](#)

**Seashell Trust**

Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 6RQ

For further information call 0161 610 0100 or visit

<https://www.seashelltrust.org.uk/>

**Sir John Deane's College**

Monarch Drive, Kingsmead, Northwich CW9 8AF

For further information call 01606 810020 or visit

<http://www.sjd.ac.uk/search/transport>

**St Nicholas Catholic High School & Sixth Form College**

Greenbank Lane, Northwich CW8 1JW

For further information call 01606 706000 or visit

<https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk>

**Stockport College**

Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3UQ

For further information call 0161 296 5000 or visit

<https://stockport.tscg.ac.uk>

**Stoke-on-Trent College**

Cauldon Campus - Stoke Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DG

Burslem Campus - Moorland Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST6 1JJ

For further information call 01782 208 208 or visit

<https://www.stokecollege.ac.uk/>

**Tarporley High School & Sixth Form College**

Eaton Road, Tarporley CW6 0BL

For further information call 01829 732558 or visit

<http://www.tarporleyhigh.co.uk/>

**Trafford College**

Manchester Road, West Timperley, Altrincham WA14 5PQ

For further information call 0161 886 7070 or visit

[Trafford College - Futureproof Your Career - View Our Adult Offers For January 2024](#)

**Warrington & Vale Royal College**

Warrington Campus - Winwick Road, Warrington, Cheshire WA2 8QA

Winsford Campus - Weaver Street, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 4AA

For further information call 01925 494 494 or visit

<https://www.wvr.ac.uk>