

Brighton & Hove City Council

Transport Policy Statement For Students In Further Education Aged 16–18 In Further Education, Continuing Students Aged 19 And Over And 19-24 Year Old Students With Learning Difficulties Or Disabilities

Academic Year 2014/15

Name of LEA and Department responsible:

Brighton & Hove City Council

1. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives.

Brighton & Hove City Council hopes to ensure that transport issues are not a barrier to learning in the area. In partnership with our neighbouring authorities, schools, colleges and transport providers, we hope to ensure that learners in the City are not prevented from studying by the financial cost of travel, nor by the length or difficulty of their journey.

The discounts outlined at part 2 below apply to all students aged 16 to 19. Additional travel assistance from Brighton & Hove City Council may be offered to individual students with low incomes who meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 5 below. This policy statement applies to young people studying in schools, colleges or other mainstream Further Education Institutions.

2. Please provide details of any concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for learners aged 16 to 18 and who provides them. Please provide details of any costs to the learner.

Bus Travel

The following concessions are all operated by **Brighton & Hove Bus Company** (see contact details below):

- In place of the former Bus ID+ card, the **Bus ID** card has had its age range extended, now giving discounts from age 5-18 until the end of August following the student's 18th birthday. There is no charge for the card.
- Special deals available to **NUS card** holders.
- Both cards give discounts on **SAVER** tickets, including 3 month tickets.

A reduction in the City Council's transport allocation prevents a continuation of subsidy for Brighton & Hove Buses' route 88.

Rail Travel

Brighton & Hove City Council, in partnership with West & East Sussex County Councils, has negotiated a discount ticket scheme that can give one third off the cost of daily travel by rail from home to school or college. The discount is available to full-time FE students aged 16 and over, whose home address is in **Brighton & Hove** and can be verified by means of the Sussex Student card. This discount is currently being renegotiated for 2014/15. The discount applies:

- to any train journey within the **Southern Railways** and **Southeastern** areas (not including London);
- to season tickets of between one month and one year; and
- currently, if the discounted fare is not less than £8 a week or the equivalent (this works out at roughly £10 a week full fare).

This is a separate scheme that cannot be combined with other discount schemes such as **Unizone**.

See part 12 below for links to the details of the bus and rail discounts offered by the companies above.

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

There are no restrictions on use of the **BUS ID** card or saver tickets. These can be used at any time, including evenings and weekends. The Sussex Student railcard allows purchase of season tickets which may be used at any time of the day.

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

Yes, although **Bus ID** cards are valid only up to the August after a student's 18th birthday.

Travel Assistance

The council will consider offering some additional direct financial help towards travel costs for young people with low incomes in certain circumstances. Please see below (5) for details.

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

In order to qualify for help with travel costs under the Council's policy:

- Students must be living in Brighton, Hove or Portslade when their course starts;
- They must be taking or about to take a full-time further education course such as 'A' Level, GCSE, GNVQ, BTEC National Diploma, Art Foundation etc;
- They must be aged under 19 on 31 August before their course starts. We do not normally offer help to students aged 19 and over or those wishing to take part-time courses. However, students who fall into either of these groups and feel they may have an exceptional case may put this in writing and return an application form for special consideration;
- They or their families must be receiving one of the following benefits or tax credits:

Income Support
Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
Income related Employment and Support Allowance
Child tax credit **where the household income is £16,190 or less**
Universal Credit
- Their journey to school or college must be over 3 miles (by the shortest walking route) from their home and must be within the Brighton & Hove area.
- Assistance is not normally given for attendance at private colleges.
- Eligible students will be reimbursed by calculating the cheapest available fare for the journey and paying those expected costs which exceed the first £10 per week.
- The bursary fund aims to address specific barriers to participation faced by individuals, and may include payment for transport. Individual schools and colleges have their own policy's which prescribe how they use bursary funds. More information is available from the institutions. Links are below. Block subsidy of transport by schools and colleges is not allowed.

6. What help do you provide for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those over 19, or learners facing other difficulties in following their courses?

The transport needs of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should be reassessed when a young person moves from compulsory schooling to post 16 education. The 'local offer' sets out Brighton & Hove City Council services for children and young people with special educational needs. At age 16, every case is examined on an individual basis. Where necessary/appropriate, specialist advice is sought, e.g. from the Youth Employability Service. Taxi transport is provided where there is a demonstrable need for it. More information about the 'local offer' for children with special educational needs (pre 16) or Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (post 16) in Brighton & Hove is available here:

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/brighton-hoves-local-offer>

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

Mobility and independence training have been provided for many years as part of the general curriculum in the LEA's special secondary schools. Brighton & Hove students who were selected as candidates for Sussex Downs College's Independent Travel Training programme has been funded in previous years. The college should approach the Local Authority. For 2014/15 such cases will be considered on an individual basis.

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

Application forms for travel assistance will be available from July. Forms can be obtained from Brighton & Hove schools and colleges or from the authority direct (see below).

Forms for the **rail discount ticket** schemes will be available for students to collect from their post-16 establishment at the start of the autumn term. Information will also be posted on the City Council website (see below).

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

If students want to attend a school or college outside Brighton & Hove, they may get help but this may be limited to the amount they would get if they were attending a school or college in the Brighton & Hove area. Exceptions may be allowed where:

- The course they want to study is essential to their career plan and there is no suitable course at a school or college in Brighton & Hove; or
- They have special educational needs and there is no course appropriate to their needs in Brighton & Hove.

We will not normally offer support for journeys from home to college that exceed 15 miles or one and a quarter hours' travelling time.

10. What help is available for learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?

We would expect such cases to be rare and, where they do occur, to be considered on an individual basis by the Local Authority and the institution involved.

11. What do I do if I am unhappy with the outcome of my application for transport?

Write to Michael Nix, Head of Education Planning and Contracts, Brighton & Hove City Council, Room 322, King's House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS in the first instance.

12. Please provide information about all points of contact for learners seeking transport support, e.g. LA/college, bus company contact. Please include any websites and e-mail addresses.

Annex A gives contact details for local schools and colleges who will be able to provide further information about assistance which may be available through their institution's bursary scheme.

Further details about discounts offered by Brighton & Hove buses within the city and bus travel in neighbouring counties for all 16-18 year olds can be found here: <http://www.buses.co.uk/tickets/busid.aspx>

Details of the **rail discount ticket scheme** can be found at:

<http://www.southernrailwaytickets.com/buytickets/furthered/FurtherEd.php?sEvent=TicketDetails>

Details of the Brighton Unizone can be found here:

<http://www.southernrailway.com/tickets-and-fares/ticket-types/16/>

A Sussex Student card should be obtained for regular discounted travel during the week before 10am. Young people aged 16 to 25 can purchase a young person's railcard that entitles them to one third off travel throughout Britain after 10am on weekdays and off peak.

<http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>

NUS card holders can obtain further discounts here:

<http://www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/> PS1 Applications for travel assistance are available from individual local school sixth forms, further education and sixth form colleges or from the City Council at:

Room 310
Brighton & Hove City Council
PO Box 2503
King's House, Grand Avenue
HOVE BN3 2SU

tel: **(01273) 290525**
email: **bryan.deakin@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

You can also check the Brighton & Hove City Council website for information at **www.brighton-hove.gov.uk**.

To access the student support pages, click the link below. This information will be updated regularly.
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/student-support-student-grants-loans/help-travel-and-living-costs-fe>

National information about post 16 transport is also available from the government here:
<https://www.gov.uk/help-home-school-transport>

Bursary Fund

The bursary fund aims to address specific barriers to participation faced by individuals, and may include payment for transport. Individual schools and colleges have their own policies which prescribe how they use bursary funds. More information is available from the institutions by following the links below.

Brighton Aldridge Community Academy: <http://www.baca-uk.org.uk/academy-information/6th-form/>

Portslade Aldridge Community Academy: <http://www.baca-uk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/BACA-PACA-Joint-6th.pdf>

Cardinal Newman: <https://cardinalnewman.fluencycms.co.uk/Bursary-Fund-Information>

Hove Park: <http://www.hovepark.brighton-hove.sch.uk/sixth-form/student-support>

Blatchington Mill School: Students can access information about the bursary fund using their student login to the school intranet. They should contact the school Finance Office with any problems.

Varndean College: http://www.varndean.ac.uk/sites/default/files/financial_support/financial_support1618.pdf

Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College: <http://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/students/student-services.aspx>

City College: <http://www.ccb.ac.uk/public/college-life/financial-assistance-and-fee-assessment#.U05dCx37KYE>

Northbrook College: <http://www.northbrook.ac.uk/collegelevelfinance>

Sussex Downs: <http://www.sussexdowns.ac.uk/financial-information/financial-information-for-16-to-18-years/>

Plumpton College: <http://www.plumpton.ac.uk/page/study-here/course-fees-and-funding/further-education-courses/156>