

March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Travel information for Year 11 students commencing Post-16 education in September 2025

This letter contains information outlining travel options for young people currently in Year 11 and residing in West Sussex, of whom will be attending a school sixth form or an FE college in September 2025.

At Post-16, in most cases it is the responsibility of parents/carers to cover the cost travel. More information, including our Post-16 Transport Policy Statement and discounts, is available on the [school and college transport](#) section of our website. A summary of travel schemes and available funding are listed below:

Students travelling by rail

- Details of the [16-17 railcard](#) are available at www.16-17saver.co.uk. The card costs £30 and gives 50% off the cost of fares.
- Students travelling on the South Coast line may find the Unizone ticket better value. Information is available online from [Southern](#).

Students travelling by bus

Students should contact their local bus operator for details of student discounts. More information, links and how to plan your journey can be found on the Council's [school and college transport](#) section of our website.

- **16 to 20 Bus Saver**
Young people in West Sussex can now get cheaper bus fares until their 21st birthday, by purchasing a 16 to 20 Bus Saver fare or ticket. This will be the same price as the existing child rate from the relevant bus operator. Just ask the bus driver or purchase the fare in the operator apps. Before travelling, make sure to bring a valid proof of age as bus operators may ask for it. For further information, please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/16to20BusSaver
- Where schools are served by dedicated school buses, students may apply for a paid for **concessionary seat**. Spare seats on these vehicles may be offered to sixth form students at a charge of **£854 per annum**. Please note, this applies only to closed contract school buses and not to public service bus routes.

The application form for a 2025/26 Concessionary Seat will be available on the '[Paid school transport](#)' section of our website from June 2025 onwards. Applications should be made by 31 July 2025; any applications

received after the deadline may not be processed until after mid-September.

- **Students from families on a low income**, or who are 'children looked after,' who need help with travel costs, may receive help from the 16-19 Bursary Fund administered by schools and colleges. Please apply direct to the college or school offering the course.

For those students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Some students with special educational needs and/or disabilities who have an EHCP may require assistance with travel to college or sixth form. To be assessed for travel assistance these students **must apply** by 30 June 2025 to the county council by making a Post-16 application. The [Post-16 application form](#) can be completed on our website. Applications can be made from 1 May 2025.

Where students with an EHCP are eligible to receive assistance, there is a contribution of £854. No contribution is paid if you have a low family income. To qualify as Low Income, the applicant must meet the same eligibility criteria as for [Free School Meals](#). The [Travel assistance policy for 16 to 19-year-olds with an Education, Health and Care plan \(EHC plan\)](#) details the gateway criteria for eligibility.

If you have any difficulties completing the online form, please contact us at Post16travel@westsussex.gov.uk or 033 022 23588.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Ryan
Principal School Transport Officer