

# **POST-16 TRANSPORT STATEMENT**

**For implementation from September 2019**

Isle of Wight Council

## 1. Document Information

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## **2. Contents and Explanatory Notes**

### Explanatory Notes

The Education Act 1996 (as amended) imposes a duty on Local Authorities (LAs) to facilitate the attendance of children at schools and to ensure no parent can have a defense to a prosecution for non-attendance simply because the LA has not made suitable arrangements for transport to and from school. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 created new duties on the IWC to provide free transport for pupils in receipt of free school meals or whose families receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit. Statutory Guidance has been issued by Central Government, particularly *Home-to- School Travel and Transport Guidance (July 2014)* and *Post-16 transport and travel support to education and training (January 2019)* and is used by all LAs to inform policy and provision of the transport service. This guidance refers to legislation regarding the provision of transport to Post-16 education and training for young people of sixth form age and legislation regarding the provision of transport to post-19 education and training for those aged 19 to 25 and for whom an EHC plan is maintained. All Local Authorities must publish annually a Post-16 Transport Policy Statement. The IWC statement will be updated each year and published on <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Schools-and-Learning/School-Admissions>

### **3. Post-16 students in sixth forms and further education (16-19 year olds)**

1. The IWC provides no free or subsidised transport for post-16 mainstream students in further education. Post 16 providers administer a bursary that may be used to support transport costs.

2. If a post-16 full-time student is allocated a place at St. George's School, by the Local Authority in the student's EHCP, then the following entitlement will apply:

(a) If the school is more than 3 miles from the pupil's home address, the pupil will be entitled to receive free home-to-school transport.

3. If a post-16 full-time student is a Learner with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and the school, institution or provider attended by the student is located more than three miles from the student's home address, the student will be entitled to receive home to education transport support from the Isle of Wight Council up until the age of 24. In drawing up the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for young people between the ages of 16 and 24, the Local Authority will consider the travel needs of the young person. This entitlement can be accessed through the purchase of a termly bus pass.

4. If a young person (16-19 years old) is not in education, employment or training (NEET), they may be entitled to financial support with travel costs associated with efforts to engage in education, employment or training. Such assistance is made available through travel tokens issued in advance of their travel. These tokens can be used for travel from their home address to the Isle of Wight Council's Island Futures Team or to a Post-16 provider. Travel tokens are available through the Island Futures Team, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight or by calling them on 01983 823888.

### **4. Transition: children entitled under the previous policy**

Any pupil entitled under existing discretionary provision and currently receiving discretionary transport, will continue to receive the same service until the end of their current phase of schooling, providing they are completing the same course and there are no change of circumstances (e.g. change of address or school). If circumstances do change then the new policy will apply.

### **5. Comments / Complaints**

If you want to make comments or complain about the Home-to-School service you have received, you can write to us at: School Admissions and Transport Team, Isle of Wight Council, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD or alternatively you can telephone us on 01983 823455.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Administrative and operational arrangements: Frequently Asked Questions**

**Where dedicated bus services are provided to special schools, are these specially adapted vehicles?**

Yes, with the following provisions:

- All buses are fitted with seat belts

- Booster seats are provided when required

- All buses have at least one escort on board

- All drivers and escorts operate the same route daily

- All vehicles have ramps accessible from the kerb-side for wheelchair travelers.

- Escorts and drivers receive appropriate training and basic first aid

- All vehicles are issued with mobile phones for use by the escort so help can be summoned in an emergency.

#### **Behaviour**

**What happens when pupils misbehave on school transport?**

The Authority has a misbehavior procedure for dealing with students who misbehave on school transport. If the term ticket held by a student is in any way discretionary, e.g. post-16 or a Privilege Seat, then withdrawal of the ticket and the requiring of alternative transport arrangements to be made could be a reasonable course of action to take following consultation with the school. Such alternative transport could be at the expense of the pupil or their parents.

## **Alternative Arrangements**

### **Will I be provided with independent travel training if I face difficulty with transport?**

The Local Authority (LA) encourages local education providers to support independent travel training for young people aged 16-19 as part of the curriculum. St. George's School and the IW College have trained staff that can offer this service to their students. If the student is eligible for Transport and meets the criteria, this will be included in their Education, Health and Care Plan.

### **Are there any travel concessionary tickets available for Post-16 students on local bus services on the island?**

Southern Vectis offer variable discounts on their multiday/period tickets for students aged 16-19. For further details please see the Southern Vectis website as detailed below:

<http://www.islandbuses.info>

### **What help can I apply for if I choose to travel to a Post-16 course that is on the mainland?**

The student should contact the establishment that they will be attending to enquire about accessing the Post-16 bursary.

Wightlink Ferries Student Fares allow students who are 16 to 18 years old and in full-time education at a mainland college, can apply for an academic season ticket. For further information please see the Wightlink website as detailed below:

<http://www.wightlink.co.uk/iow/go/tickets-prices/season-tickets/>

Red Funnel Student Saver tickets allow students who are 16 to 18 years old and in full-time education at a mainland college to travel on a reduced ticket rate. Students can apply online at:

<http://www.redfunnel.co.uk/ferry-travel/frequent-travellers/hi-speed-saver-tickets/>

Hovertravel offer a School Academic Year Season Card for students in full-time education travelling across the Solent on a daily basis. Students over 16 years of age can download an application form from the Hovertravel website, as detailed below:

<http://www.hovertravel.co.uk/pages/regular-travel-cards/>

### **What help is available for me if I attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and I need residential accommodation?**

The student should contact the establishment that they will be attending to enquire about accessing the Post-16 Bursary Fund.