

Regeneration & Environment

Hellaby Depot | Sandbeck Building| Rotherham | S60 1AE

Email: education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk

Email the Council for free @ your local library!

Our Ref:

P16/RA/CC

Date:

4th June 2024

Please Contact:

education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear parent/carer

IMPORTANT information regarding your young person's home to school transport arrangements - September 2024

Your son/daughter currently has a home to school travel solution provided by the Local Authority, and as they are now in school year 11 they are reaching the end of their compulsory education.

In accordance with our current Home to School Transport Policy:

'There is no automatic entitlement to free home to school or college transport once a young person is over 16 years old and beyond statutory school age and the Local Authority (LA) does not have a duty to provide transport assistance'.

However, the LA recognises that some children and young people with SEND may still need assisted transport to continue into further education and would like to advise you of what support may be available.

Travel Assistant Options

16 to 19 Student Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Student Bursary Fund is designed to help support those young people who face the greatest barriers to continuing in education or training post 16. If the learner is aged between 16 and 19 years and think that they may struggle with the costs for full-time education or training, they may be eligible for a bursary. This can be used to assist with transport costs.

To receive the maximum bursary, the course must last for 30 weeks or more. If the course is shorter than 30 weeks, the student may receive less funds.

Other students facing genuine financial difficulties may be awarded a bursary at the discretion of their school, college or training provider.

Further information can be obtained directly from the learner's school or college on how to apply for a bursary.

Full details of the bursary scheme are available on the Directgov website at: www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund.

There are no associated costs to families.

Travel Solution offer provided by the Local Authority

If you would like the Local Authority to consider an appropriate travel solution for your son/daughter, you will need to make a new application for assistance, even if they are returning to the same school. Please be aware that all applications will need to be received by no later than **30th June 2024** to allow them to be considered appropriately.

Unfortunately, there are no guarantees that transport will be available for September 2024 for any applications received after this date due to the volume of new applications the Local Authority have to process during the school summer holiday period.

Where a young person is moving onto college, transport is not usually provided for the first week of the new term as students are only attending college for induction and receiving their timetables. It is important that this timetable is sent to the Local Authority before a travel solution can be put in place.

To make an application for transport, or to view a full copy of our current Home to School Transport Policy, please visit Rotherham SEND Local Offer to find the relevant application form, [Transport/Getting Around – Rotherham SEND Local Offer](#), or scan the QR code below:



The Local Authority will consider the following travel solutions for each application:

Offer 1 Independent Travel Training

Offer 2 Parental Reimbursement

Offer 3 Shared transport on taxi/minibus

Please also be advised that, if offer 3 is agreed, parents/carers will be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the transport provided. This is not a charge for the full cost of each journey.

The financial contribution is based on the current concessionary fare of £1.00 per journey for transport to school/college within the Rotherham Borough, and £2.00 per journey for transport to school/college outside the Rotherham Borough.

Transport will be provided free of charge for families who have a combined family income of below £16,190 (low-income family) under Extended Rights criteria. Relevant proof must be provided at the time you make your application. The application will time out after 10 minutes, for security reasons, so it's important that you have any documents you need to support your application ready to be uploaded with your application.

Documents accepted as proof of low income are:

- *A full copy of your tax credit awards notice for the current financial year (1.4.24 – 31.3.25). This usually consists of 4 pages.*
- *Copy of confirmation that your son/daughter is eligible to receive free school meals.*
- *Copy of any letters confirming you are in receipt of income support which must be relevant to the current financial year (1.4.24 – 31.3.25).*

- *Proof you are in receipt of higher level of Universal Credit. Please provide a copy of your full Universal Credit Statement which can be accessed online. **Do not send screenshots of monthly payments as these are not sufficient.** (Families will be required to pay the contributory charge if they are not on the higher level).*

If your family are not on low income, or you do not provide the relevant evidence to support your claim of being on low income before the new school year, then you will be charged accordingly. Charges are sent to families during each school term (i.e. 3 invoices per year).

If you have any queries or any issues making an application for assistance, you may be able to find advice on the Rotherham SENDLocal Offer page above. If you still have any queries, please email education.transport@rotherham.gov.uk for support.

Yours sincerely

ESaxton

Elise Saxton
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