

# Middlesbrough Council

## Post-16 Education Transport Statement Academic Year 2024/25

# Middlesbrough Council

## Post-16 Education Transport Statement

### Introduction

The purpose of this policy statement is to provide information to ensure that young people living in Middlesbrough are aware of what travel support is available when they are enrolling at FE or 6th form Colleges and Schools.

The legislation regarding travel assistance for further education is covered under Section 509 of the 1996 Education Act as amended by Schedule 19 of the Education Act 2002.

The Authority is required to prepare for each academic year a transport policy statement that specifies the arrangements for facilitating attendance of students of 6th form age at schools or further education institutions. This will be done in consultation and partnership with; schools, further education institutions, Council departments and local transport operators.

### Purpose and Objectives

The statement is a result of collecting information and developing strategies to ensure that;

- Opportunities for access to Post-16 education are available to learners in accordance with the Education Act 2002;
- To give particular consideration within the above to the needs of Post-16 students with disabilities and/or learning difficulties;
- To liaise and co-ordinate where appropriate with other partnerships.

Middlesbrough Council assesses and provides assistance with travel assistance for young people aged 16 to 18 (over compulsory school age) and those continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday.

In assessing travel assistance the Council has given regard to the following:

- The needs of those who could not access education if no arrangements were made;
- The need to ensure that young people have reasonable opportunities to choose between different establishments at which education is provided;
- The distance from the learner's home to establishments of education;
- The journey time to access different establishments;
- The cost of transport or travel assistance to the establishments in question;
- Alternative means of facilitating attendance at establishments;
- Non-transport solutions to facilitate learner access;
- Preferences made by an individual for a particular institution based on their religion or belief, and;
- Specific consideration of learners with learning difficulties and /or disabilities.
- The impact of the COVID19 pandemic and current economic climate on Post 16 transport.

**Young people attending specialist colleges** outside of the area, where there is no provision in the Tees Valley area, will need to discuss this with the appropriate College to apply through their hardship funds. The Council is unable to assist with this.

**Mainstream establishments** provide some subsidised or free transport. Further information will be available prior to enrolment with the provider. Please check with individual establishments for further information (contact details are contained at the end of this policy statement).

### **Provision for Students with disabilities and/or learning difficulties, or those who may face other difficulties in following their courses.**

Where a student has a learning difficulty or a disability, a transport referral must be completed to the Integrated Transport Unit for assessment. Travel Assistance will be arranged / sourced appropriate to the student's needs. Where the post 16 establishments runs standard class hours and the student is expected to attend the full day we will offer single pick up/drop off points which will be discussed further upon completion of eligible assessment.

Before seeking travel assistance from the Council, a young person must first consider where the course is available. This means that if the same course is available from a Post-16 provider closer to home in Middlesbrough than outside of the borough, then the latter would not be considered eligible for travel assistance or would need to be supported to meet the student's needs in their EHCP.

- **The Council** provides appropriate travel assistance for young people aged 16 to 18 and those continuing learners who started their programme of learning before their 19th birthday who have previously had a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or have an Education, Health and Care Plan and a further education College course has been identified to be undertaken at the nearest appropriate establishment. Travel assistance requirements will be reassessed before a young person moves from compulsory schooling to post-16 education.
- **The Council** in partnership with School 6th Forms and FE Colleges will also consider individual applications from eligible young people who have an identified learning or physical disability that prevents them from using public transport and who haven't been assessed as having transport needs prior to the age of 16. Independent information would be needed to support these applications. An assessment of need will be completed to determine the appropriate support.
- **The Council** will consider individual circumstances for those young people with learning and physical difficulties who apply for transport or travel assistance **over the age of 19 years**. It would be likely that in most cases, they will be referred to Health and Social Care for an assessment and use of their social care personal budget. The student will then be required to meet the full cost of the transport provision through their own personal budget. Students will need to discuss with their social worker funding as there may not be capacity within the social care personal budget to cover transport costs in addition to provision already in place/or needed to meeting other areas of need. The student may not be an open case to social care and may not meet eligibility criteria.

### **Transport and Travel Assistance Support Options**

**Students (aged over 19 years) attending a course at a college outside the Council boundary (without Learning/Physical difficulties)** - The individual student is advised to contact the further education institution.

**Student (aged over 19 years) attending a course at a College outside the Council boundary (with Learning/Physical difficulties)** - The individual student is advised to contact the further education institution in the first instance. The college may refer the application to Middlesbrough Council's Integrated Transport Unit, who will carry out an independent travel needs assessment. The individual student is also advised to contact the Council's Adult Social Care department to determine what level of support / assistance is available.

**Student (aged over 19 years) attending a course at a College within the Middlesbrough Council boundary (without Learning/Physical difficulties)** - The individual student is advised to contact the

further education institution and the Council's Adult Social Care department to determine what level of support / assistance is available. Student may not meet the eligibility criteria for social care; students will not qualify purely because the student needs transport

**Student (aged over 19 years) attending a course at a College within the Middlesbrough Council boundary (with Learning/Physical difficulties)** - The individual student is advised to contact the further education institution in the first instance. The college may refer the application to Middlesbrough Council's Integrated Transport Unit, who will carry out an independent travel needs assessment.

**Students (aged 16 –19 years) attending a course at a College outside the Council boundary (without Learning/Physical difficulties)** - Further assistance with travel costs outside of the Middlesbrough Authority may be sought from the appropriate College.

**Students (aged 16 –19 years) attending a course at a college outside the Council boundary (with Learning/Physical difficulties)** - The level of support will be determined by Middlesbrough Council's Integrated Transport Unit. When assessing the level of support we will consider the student's EHCP and their individual abilities and may include an offer for Independent Travel Training to suitable students. The individual student may wish to contact Stronger Families' Service or their Social Worker to discuss what course options may be available to them at a college in Middlesbrough.

**Students (aged 16 –19 years) attending a course at a college within the Council boundary (without Learning/Physical difficulties)** - Further assistance with travel costs may be sought from the appropriate College.

**Students (aged 16 –19 years) attending a course at a college within the Council boundary (with Learning/Physical difficulties)** - The level of support will be determined by Middlesbrough Council's Integrated Transport Unit who will assess the student's ability and include an offer for Independent Travel Training to suitable students.

**Students (aged between 19-24 with learning/physical disabilities) attending specialist Colleges outside the council boundary** - The individual student is advised to contact the further education institution in the first instance. The college may refer the application to Middlesbrough Council's Integrated Transport Unit who will carry out an independent travel needs assessment.

**Specialist Colleges (aged between 16-19) outside the council boundary** - Before seeking travel assistance from the Council, a young person must first consider where the course is available. This means that if the same course is available from a Post-16 provider closer to home in Middlesbrough than outside of the borough, then the latter would not be considered eligible for travel assistance or would need to be supported to meet the student's needs in their EHCP.

### **Independent Travel Training Scheme**

Independent Travel Training (ITT) is available for all eligible Post 16 SEND students. It is a programme of support that aims to enable a young person to become an independent and safe traveller; as a result it covers topics such as road safety, personal safety, journey planning and coping strategies.

If it is identified through the independent travel needs assessment process that travel training would be an option for an individual student, a referral will be made directly to Middlesbrough Council's Independent Travel Trainer. On receipt of a referral, the team will evaluate the suitability of travel training for that particular student, and where appropriate begin a personalised programme of training to meet their needs.

Applicants need to contact the Independent Needs Assessor via email: [act@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:act@middlesbrough.gov.uk) for more details.

Public transport travel planning advice is available to all post 16 students via the Connect

Tees Valley journey planning web portal ([www.connectteesvalley.com](http://www.connectteesvalley.com)) and other sites such as Google Maps.

**Please note that transport or travel assistance will not be provided by the Local Authority for induction week, transitions or taster days.**

**For various reasons requests for Travel Assistance for students are made outside of the required timeframe. The result is that travel assistance is not in place for the start of the September term. Therefore, students and their families need to plan and make their own travel arrangements for the first few weeks of the academic year until such a time when it can be determined if the student is eligible for travel assistance and any appropriate travel assistance can be implemented in line with an agreed timetable. Students or their parents/carers will be responsible for any transport if there is an alteration to any travel provision or timetable change.**

### **Higher Education, Apprenticeships and Supported Internships**

Transport or travel assistance to a young person's place of employment including apprenticeships and supported internships falls outside of the scope of this statement as it is not classed as education and therefore, is not part of the Integrated Transport Unit's remit. However, young people with disabilities or health conditions may qualify for some assistance with transport from the DWP's Access to Work Scheme, see <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work> for further details.

Higher education is also not covered by this statement and fall outside the remit of the Integrated Transport Unit. Support with transport might be available through Disabled Students Allowance, Contact the college or university for further information or see <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa> for further details.

### **Transport information from Further Education Institutions**

Please regularly check the government's latest guidance regarding using public transport safely [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). Please check with individual public transport operators what their regulations are regarding safe travel as they can vary.

### **Middlesbrough College**

Free\* bus travel:

We offer free\* bus travel to full-time students across the Tees Valley on Arriva, Stagecoach and Compass Royston. You can plan your journey to and from College at [Connect Tees Valley](http://www.connectteesvalley.com) or alternatively pick up a timetable from Student Services.

#### **Compass Royston – MC Mover:**

Students are able to access a free shuttle bus, the MC Mover, from outside the BBC Building on Newport Road to and from the College every 15 minutes. Timetables are available from Student Services. This service runs weekdays during term time only.

#### **Stagecoach:**

Unlimited free\* travel from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024, including weekends, bank holidays and term-time College holiday periods.

\*During the summer holiday period, students can travel for a flat fare of £1 per journey upon production of their College ID Card.

For any further updates past these dates please check the College website and the Stagecoach website

### **Arriva North East:**

Unlimited free travel\*, including weekends, within term time from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Journeys must be wholly within the Tees Valley Zone (Darlington, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar & East Cleveland) and only on production of a valid College ID Card.

Additionally, during Monday to Friday in term time, students can travel for free to/from Whitby on Services X4/X4A or X93/X94 to get to/from College.

For any further updates past these dates please check the College website and the Arriva website

Journeys made outside of term time will be charged at a flat rate of £1 per journey and this includes the summer holidays. However, this is not valid on Service X93/X94 between Guisborough and Whitby where normal fares will apply.

Weekends are classed as outside of term time if either the week before or the week after is a College holiday.

***\*Please note, there is a £5 administration fee if you travel by bus for your travel sticker and this is payable each term.***

MC Dedicated Bus Services:

### **MC 1 – 4**

- MC1 – Ingleby Barwick
- MC2 – Saltburn via Marske and Redcar
- MC3 – Great Ayton via Stokesley & Hutton Rudby
- MC4 – Easington, Skelton, Guisborough via Ormesby

### **I.D Cards:**

During enrolment, each student will be given an induction ID which will act as a travel pass.

This pass will last until November. Following this, students will be given a sticker to apply to the card with 'term 1'. In January the following year, learners will also be provided with a further 'term 2' sticker. In April, learners will also be provided with a further 'term 3' sticker.

***\*Please note, there is a £5 administration fee if you travel by bus for your travel sticker and this is payable each term.***

### **Other Information**

#### ***Losing your card:***

It's important for students to have their ID on them at all times, however, should learners misplace the card, we offer a replacement service. We ask our students to act sensibly on their travels. Anyone involved in causing disruption or concern on the above transport routes may have their card confiscated.

## Card replacement Cost

1st replacement Free

2nd replacement £1

3rd replacement £2

4th replacement £5

### By bike or car

If you want to travel and get fit, the College is on a number of the major cycle routes, and we provide secure cycle parking facilities. If you want to travel by car or motor-cycle, you can apply for a parking permit to allow you to use the College car parks.

### FREE train travel 16 – 17

Those students living further away from Middlesbrough College may find that rail is the perfect way of getting to college each day.

In order to take advantage of free train travel from September 2024 you will be expected to purchase a **16-17 Saver Card** which costs just £30 per year and will save you 50% off your train fare. Middlesbrough College will then reimburse the remaining 50% of your train fare when travelling from one of the named stations below – irrespective of your home postcode.

Stations include: Darlington North Road, Darlington Bank Top, Dinsdale, Allens West, Eaglescliffe, Hartlepool, Seaton Carew, Seaham, Thirsk, Northallerton and Yarm. New stations for 2021 include: Thornaby and Stockton.

With the 16-17 Saver Card you will be able to travel across the National Rail network, except on ScotRail and the Caledonian Sleeper, so you will be able to use it on weekends and college holidays to go on shopping trips, days out or to go to Festivals.

Visit [www.16-17saver.co.uk](http://www.16-17saver.co.uk) to apply for your Saver Card today.

If you are 18+, then please bring your normal fare ticket to Student Services for this to be reimbursed. There will also be a £5 administration fee if you are 18 and travel by train for your travel sticker and this is payable each term.

College ID cards will not give students free train travel.

For further information on eligibility and the process of refunds, our Student Services department will be happy to help on **01642 333606**.

The college travel offer is correct at the time of writing and can be subject to change, so please check regularly on the Middlesbrough College website.

<https://www.mbro.ac.uk/student-services/travelling-to-college>

## **Macmillan Academy:**

### Public Transport

We have fantastic local transport links making the journey to Post 16 very easy. You may also be eligible for support with transport costs via our bursary fund.

Stagecoach buses 36, 37, 38 stop outside the Academy.

## **Travelling from Middlesbrough and surrounding areas?**

When embarking at Middlesbrough bus station, Stagecoach buses 36, 37, 38 stop outside the Academy.

### By Bike or Car

If you would like to travel to Post 16 by bike, we offer secure cycle parking facilities. If you are planning to travel by car, there is plenty of free parking available along Stockton Road.

More information is available from: <http://www.post16.co.uk/nav/study/travelling.php>

**Trinity Catholic College:** currently cover the whole of the Teesside area, providing 12 bus routes. Transport is free for all sixth form students, no matter where you live!

More information is available at <https://trinity.npcat.org.uk/buses/> or by contacting the college direct.

## **Northern School of Art**

Free travel to study for all students coming from Tees Valley, East Durham, Darlington and Stokesley on public bus routes of their choice. Free or discounted Rail travel for 16–18-year-olds (depending on household income) \*

For students travelling from further afield travel:

- is free or discounted for 16–18-year-olds dependent upon household income\*
- may be discounted for students 18 plus dependant upon household income \*

You will be required to purchase a rail card for £30 but may be eligible to have this reimbursed

More information is available from: Student Support 01642 856138. <https://northernart.ac.uk/study-with-us/middlesbrough-campus/why-study-at-our-middlesbrough-campus/bus-routes/>

**The King's Academy** - Further Information should be sought from The King's Academy direct: [www.thekingsacademy.org.uk](http://www.thekingsacademy.org.uk).

## **Askham Bryan College, Stewarts Park, Middlesbrough Campus**

Students enrolled at Askham Bryan College will be offered transport to and from college for the duration of their course. We operate our own college bus service and work in partnership with local coach companies to provide efficient and reliable transport to and from our Middlesbrough campus, during term times only, Monday to Friday



All college bus services drop off and pick up from the campus and the return journeys follow the same routes as the inward journey. Current routes are regularly reviewed with new routes developed throughout the year; we would advise you to get in touch and let us know where you will be travelling from so we can assess your individual travel requirements. Whatever your transport queries, we will help wherever possible.

Askham Bryan College will subsidise a sum of the total cost of transport to help ensure that the travel fees for our students are as low as possible so we can continue to offer a cost effective, safe, and comfortable method of travel to and from our campuses.

There is a flat fee for students who use our transport providers to our Stewart Park, Middlesbrough locations. The flat fee won't apply for our SEND students who attend Stewart Park Base as they are eligible for transport.

Further Information should be sought from the college direct: <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/the-college/centres/middlesbrough-campus>

### **Appeals Process**

If you are dissatisfied with the decision not to be granted assistance with transport or travel, you have the right of appeal against the decision. This is the procedure that must be followed by any applicant who wishes to appeal:

- Write to the Manager, Integrated Transport Unit, Middlesbrough Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Resolution House, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough, TS3 8AL, stating the grounds of appeal and provide any other supporting evidence.
- Receipt of your appeal will be acknowledged within 14 days.
- The Appeals Panel meets as and when required.
- The Panel's decision on whether or not your appeal has been successful will be sent to you as soon as possible after the meeting.
- The decision of the Appeals Panel is binding on both sides. You have the right to refer the case to the Local Government Ombudsman if you feel there has been any maladministration, which is failure to comply with procedural rules or irregularities in the way the appeal has been handled.

### **Appeals Process (College Applications Only)**

The appeals procedure if applicable will be determined by each College or Further Education establishment and details will be issued by relevant student Support team.

### **Timetables**

Timetables for transport routes for colleges can be obtained by contacting the individual college.

Further Information regarding student travel and or assistance may be sought from: Middlesbrough Education Transport Partnership, c/o Middlesbrough Integrated Transport, First Floor, Resolution House, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough TS3 8AL. 01642 353447.

Useful Contact Information:

- Northern School of Art, Green Lane, Middlesbrough, TS5 7RJ, 01642 288000, <https://northernart.ac.uk>
- Macmillan Academy, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 4AG, 01642 800800, [www.macmillan-academy.org.uk](http://www.macmillan-academy.org.uk)
- Middlesbrough College, Dock Street, Middlesbrough, TS2 1AD, 01642 333700, [www.mbro.ac.uk](http://www.mbro.ac.uk)

- Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JP, 01642 298100, <https://trinity.npcat.org.uk/>.
- Priory Woods School, Tothill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS3 ORH, 01642 770540, [www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk](http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk)
- Beverley School, Beverley Road, Middlesbrough, TS4 3LQ, 01642 277444, [www.beverleyschool.co.uk](http://www.beverleyschool.co.uk)
- The Kings Academy, Stainton Way, Middlesbrough, TS8 0GA, 01642 577577, [www.thekingsacademy.org.uk](http://www.thekingsacademy.org.uk)
- Askham Bryan College, Stewart Park, Middlesbrough, TS7 8AR Tel: 01642 327998, <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/the-college/centres/middlesbrough-campus>
- SEND Assessment Team 0-25, Middlesbrough Council, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Middlesbrough House, PO Box 500, Middlesbrough TS1 2DA, [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk) Tel: 01642 201 831 or email: [sen@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:sen@middlesbrough.gov.uk)
- Integrated Transport Unit, Middlesbrough Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Resolution House, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough, TS3 8AL, 01642 353447, [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk)  
Email: [act@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:act@middlesbrough.gov.uk)
- Independent Transport Needs Assessor, Middlesbrough Council, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Resolution House, Cargo Fleet Lane, Middlesbrough, TS3 8AL, 01642 353447, [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk)  
Email: [act@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:act@middlesbrough.gov.uk), [independenttraveltraining@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:independenttraveltraining@middlesbrough.gov.uk)
- Stagecoach on Teesside, 01642 602112, [www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)
- Arriva North East, 0191 2811313, [www.arriva.co.uk](http://www.arriva.co.uk)
- Compass Royston, 01642 606644, [www.compassroyston.com](http://www.compassroyston.com)
- Stagecarriage, Tel: 01642 440809
- Govt. Website: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)
- Disabled Students Allowance <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>
- Access to Work <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>
- NHS Test & Trace Website: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/)
- NHS 111 service

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29/07/2024	1.0	Helen Harris Independent Travel Needs Assessor	Ged Faint Integrated Transport Unit Manager	October 2024
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