

Middlesbrough Council

Post-16 Education

Transport Statement

Academic Year 2018/19

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 transport support is available when they are enrolling at FE or 6th form Colleges and Schools.

The legislation regarding transport 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 transport 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 the transport arrangements 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 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.

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 requisition must be completed to the Passenger Transport Team for assessment. Transport will be arranged / sourced appropriate to the student's needs.

Before seeking transport 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 transport assistance or would need to be supported to meet the student's needs in their EHCP.

- **The Council** provides appropriate transport 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. Transport 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 **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 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 the Middlesbrough Council's Passenger Transport Team who will carry out a travel assessment except if the student is aged 19-24 with an Education and Health Care Plan whereby a transport assessment will be required. The individual student is also advised to contact 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 eligibility criteria for social care-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 the Middlesbrough Council's Passenger Transport Team who will carry out a travel assessment except if the student is aged 19-24 with an Education and Health Care Plan whereby a transport assessment has already been completed.

Students (aged 16 –19 years) attending a course at a College outside the Council boundary (without Learning/Physical difficulties) - Further assistance with transport 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 Passenger Transport Team. 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 Transition 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 transport 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 Passenger Transport Team 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 the Middlesbrough Council's Passenger Transport Team who will carry out a travel assessment except if the student is aged 19-24 with an Education and Health Care Plan whereby a transport assessment will be required.

Specialist Colleges (aged between 16-19) outside the council boundary - Before seeking transport 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 transport 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 post 16 students with special educational needs. 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 a transport needs assessment process that travel training would be an option for an individual student, a referral can be made directly to Middlesbrough Council's Passenger Transport Team. 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 on 01642 353 434 or email 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).

Please note that transport will not be provided by the Local Authority for induction week or taster days.

Transport information from Further Education Institutions

Middlesbrough College provides all full time students with an ID badge that they are able to use for their journey to and from college, between the hours of 7am – 9:30pm on **Arriva, Stagecoach** and **Stagecoach** buses.

The College provides 6 dedicated shuttle services delivered by Arriva. These shuttles run only **once** on a morning and are in addition to the free travel agreement;

- **MC1 for Ingleby Barwick**
- **MC2 for East Cleveland**
- **MC3 for Great Ayton**
- **MC4 for Redcar and Marske**
- **MC5 for Guisborough**
- **MC6 for Coulby Newham**
- There is also a free shuttle service **TR1/2** delivered by **COMPASS ROYSTON** running throughout the day from the bus station to Middlehaven stopping at the college. More information is available from: www.mbro.ac.uk

Full time students can also get free train travel into college from selected rail stations. Tickets must be purchased up front and claimed back from Student Services. For a full list of dedicated stations and information on routes and times for all buses see the following link. 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.

<http://www.mbro.ac.uk/Home/index/studentservices/studenttravel.aspx>

Macmillan Academy has two dedicated bus routes that service the Academy's wide ranging catchment area. Fares can be paid on the buses daily, however, a better value termly bus pass is available on application to the Academy. More information is available from: www.macmillan-academy.org.uk

Trinity Catholic College operates a number of buses that provide students with free transport to and from college provided they live over 1 mile from the college. More information is available @ www.trinitycatholiccollege.org or by contacting the college direct.

Northern School of Art has a number of low cost, subsidised buses that travel into Middlesbrough from surrounding areas. <http://middlesbrough.ccad.ac.uk/bus-routes/>. There are income based Travel Bursary's available to students who do not have access to a College bus. More information is available from: <http://middlesbrough.ccad.ac.uk/fe-student-support/>

The King's Academy - Further Information should be sought from The King's Academy direct: www.thekingsacademy.org.uk.

Appeals Process

If you are dissatisfied with the decision not to be granted assistance with transport, 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 Principal Passenger Transport Officer, Middlesbrough Integrated Transport Unit, Letitia Industrial Estate, Middlesbrough, TS5 4BE, 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, Unit 1, Letitia Industrial Estate, Middlesbrough TS5 4BE. 01642 353447.

Useful Contact Information:

- Northern School of Art, Green Lane, Middlesbrough, TS5 7RJ, 01642 288000, www.ccad.ac.uk
- Macmillan Academy, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 4AG, 01642 800800, www.macmillan-academy.org.uk
- Middlesbrough College, Dock Street, Middlesbrough, TS2 1AD, 01642 333700, www.mbro.ac.uk
- Trinity Catholic College, Saltersgill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS4 3JP, 01642 298100, www.trinitycatholiccollege.org.uk
- Priory Woods School, Tothill Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS3 ORH, 01642 770540, www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk
- Beverley School, Beverley Road, Middlesbrough, TS4 3LQ, 01642 277444, www.beverleyschool.co.uk
- The Kings Academy, Stainton Way, Middlesbrough, TS8 0GA, 01642 577577, www.thekingsacademy.org.uk
- SEND & Vulnerable Learners, Middlesbrough Council, Civic Centre, Middlesbrough, PO Box 505, TS1 9FZ, www.middlesbrough.gov.uk Tel: [01642 729398](tel:01642729398) or email: sen@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- Passenger Transport Team, Middlesbrough Council, Unit 1 Letitia Industrial Estate, Middlesbrough, TS5 4BE, 01642 353447, www.middlesbrough.gov.uk
Email: act@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- Independent Needs Assessor, Middlesbrough Council, Unit 1 Letitia Industrial Estate, Middlesbrough, TS5 4BE, 01642 353447, www.middlesbrough.gov.uk
Email: act@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- 1st Floor, Civic Centre, PO Box 504, TS1 9FY, 01642 728115, www.middlesbrough.gov.uk
Email: independenttraveltraining@middlesbrough.gov.uk
- Stagecoach on Teesside, 01642 602112, www.stagecoachbus.com
- Arriva North East, 0191 2811313, www.arriva.co.uk
- Compass Royston, 01642 606644, www.compassroyston.com
- Stagecarriage, Tel: 01642 440809