

London Borough of Lambeth

Home to school/college transport policy for post-16 students – 2019/20

Transport policy statement for young people aged 16-18 in further education, continuing learners aged 19 and those young people aged 19 – 24 (inclusive) with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Introduction

Local authorities do not have the same obligations regarding travel support for post-16 learners as they do for 'eligible' children of compulsory school age (i.e. children aged between 5 and 16 years old). There is no requirement, for example, for local authorities to provide free or subsidised travel support students of sixth-form age.

Local authorities have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement which specifies the arrangements for the provision of transport, or other support, that the authority considers it necessary to make in order to facilitate the attendance of all person of sixth-form age receiving education or training at the relevant placement or institution. The legal basis for this duty (the 'sixth form-age transport duty') can be found in Section 509AA of the Education Act 1996.

As a London Borough, Lambeth benefits from an excellent transport infrastructure and we envisage that this will meet the needs of the vast majority of our post-16 learners. There are also several sources of funding for specific vulnerable groups, such as young parents, which may assist with travel costs.

There may be some circumstances in which a post-16 learner believes that they will require additional travel support from the local authority in order to access education or training. In such cases, learners can apply to Lambeth to request travel assistance. Lambeth will assess all such applications, and will determine whether or not they consider it necessary to provide any assistance. Depending on the circumstances, there may be a charge for any provision made. Further details regarding applying for assistance, Lambeth's criteria for assessing applications and the complaints and appeals procedures can be found in Sections xxxx and xxxx of this document respectively.

Scope of policy

1. Academic year: 1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020.

2. Learner residency: young people who are resident in Lambeth. Learners not resident in Lambeth or who are looked after by another Council, but live in Lambeth, should refer to the transport policy issued by their local authority.

3. Learner age: young people aged over 16 but under 19 as at 31st August 2019

4. Learning institution: Young people who are engaged in education or training at:

- a school (including academies);
- a further education institution (including sixth form colleges);
- a local authority maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education;
- an establishment funded directly by the YPLA, e.g. independent specialist providers for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
- a learning provider that is funded by the local authority to deliver accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes (this could include colleges, charities and private learning providers).

Available Support

1. Transport for London – free and discounted travel

16-18

Residents of London boroughs aged 16-18 and in full-time education or on a work-based learning scheme (at least 12 guided hours per -week on courses at level 3 and below) can apply for a 16+ Oyster photocard.

The card gives:

- free travel on London buses and trams;
- half adult-rate Oyster single fares on the tube, DLR and London overground;
- child rate travelcard season tickets on the tube, DLR and London overground;
- half adult-rate Oyster single fares on some national rail services;
- child rate travelcard season tickets on national rail services.

Free travel is available until the end of the course or the academic year, whichever is earlier.

18+ Student Oyster

18+ Student Oyster photo cards are available to students who are aged 18 and over, and are attending a full-time course (and in certain circumstances a part-time course) at universities, colleges and schools registered on the TfL.

The 18+ student card gives 30% discount on bus, tram, tube, DLR, London overground and national rail travelcard season tickets.

Application forms are available from Post Office® branches throughout Greater London and areas that are served by the London bus, tube and overground networks. For further details visit www.tfl.gov.uk

18+ Travel Mentoring

Transport for London operate a Travel Mentoring scheme to support those aged 18+ to develop the skills and confidence to use public transport independently. For further details visit www.tfl.gov.uk

2. 16 -19 Bursary Fund

From September 2011 young people who need some financial support to help them stay in education and training after age 16 can apply to their school, college or training provider for the new 16-19 Bursary fund. For further information go to <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

The 16-19 bursary fund has two elements:

Guaranteed bursary:

Those most in need will be eligible for a bursary of £1200 a year. To qualify students must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- in receipt of income support;
- care leaver;
- in care;

- disabled student in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

Discretionary bursary:

Providers may use their discretion to distribute any remaining funds to young people in ways that best fit the needs and circumstances of their students. Bursary funds should be targeted to young people facing financial barriers to participation, such as the costs of transport, book and equipment.

Providers have discretion to set policy, administer and allocate funds which best suit the needs of its learners. All organisations should have a 16-19 Bursary Fund policy which is available upon request. Applications should be made directly to the school, college or training provider.

If a learner feels aggrieved about how their request for a bursary has been handled, they should follow the school's/college's/provider's standard complaints procedure.

For further information on the 16-19 bursary fund visit: <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

4. Care to Learn

The Care to Learn scheme can help with childcare costs while you study. You must be aged under 20 at the start of your course.

For information on care to learn visit: www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

5. Support for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

The London Borough of Lambeth expects and would encourage most learners aged 16 to 18 to travel independently on public transport because of the beneficial effects this can have on the young person's development. However, we recognise that in some circumstances, additional assistance with travel may be required.

Applications will be considered from 16-18 year old students against the following criteria:

- The learner has an EHCP
- The learner is aged between 16 and 18 and is on a course of further education at a school, college or training provider.
- The course is deemed to be suitable and will provide an educational benefit to the learner – as assessed by the learner's transition adviser and/or an educational psychologist nominated by the Local Authority.
- The learner has a disability or learning difficulty that would make it impracticable or dangerous for them to try to undertake a journey to school or college. Applications will be assessed based on the individual circumstances.

Independent Travel Training

Lambeth offer an Independent Travel Training scheme, which teaches young people the skills and knowledge required to travel independently. Being able to travel independently is an important skill when preparing for adulthood, and opens many opportunities when

considering college and employment options. Travel Training is adapted to the individual, but generally the scheme involves accompanying a young person on 1:1 basis on their usual home to school/college route, teaches the skills and knowledge required to make the step towards independence on public transport. The training covers road safety, route planning, travel payments, safe places/people, and contingency planning in case things go wrong.

Enquiries/applications should be made via transport@lambeth.gov.uk or 020 7926 6839

6. Support for young people 19+

Young people with difficulties and disabilities who are 19 years old or older should contact Lambeth's Adult Social Care Department for consideration for travel support. All applications will be considered individually.

The Adult Integrated Disabilities Team
PO Box 734
Winchester
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