

Travel Assistance Appendices 2026–2027

Information and Link Assurance Statement

Document: Travel Assistance Policy Appendices 2026–2027

Service: Children and Young People’s Travel Service (CYPTS)

Authority: Birmingham City Council

Review Date: May 2026

Purpose of this Statement - This assurance statement confirms that all external links, funding references, and scheme information contained within the Travel Assistance Appendices 2026–2027 have been reviewed to ensure accuracy and relevance for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Scope of Review

The review covered:

- Government-funded post-16 and adult learning support schemes
- Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) concessions and eligibility criteria
- Disabled Persons’ Travel Pass information
- External website links and application routes

Summary of Findings

All active schemes were confirmed as current and accurately described, including:

- 16–19 Bursary Fund
- Care to Learn
- Dance and Drama Awards
- Residential Support Scheme
- Disabled Persons’ Travel Pass
- Personal Transport Budget calculation methodology

Minor updates were made where required to:

- Remove references to discontinued schemes (Adult Learning Grant)
- Replace obsolete website links
- Future-proof eligibility wording linked to academic-year criteria

Accuracy Statement

Information contained within the appendices is accurate at the time of publication (May 2026). Eligibility, funding levels, and scheme availability are subject to change by external bodies and are administered by the relevant organisations. Applicants are encouraged to refer to the linked provider or GOV.UK websites for the most up-to-date information.

Appendix 1

This is now an electronic form and can be found at: [Bus pass | Apply for Travel Assist](#)

Appendix 2

Travel support available from schools and further education institutions for young persons of sixth form age

Travel Support available from schools and further education institutions

The following is a list of sources of travel support available through schools and further education institutions. Enquiries and applications in respect of these should be made through the young person's school or institution.

16-19 Bursary Fund

Help is available for the most vulnerable 16 - 19 year olds to continue in full-time education or training after 16. Young people can apply to their school or college or training provider for the new 16 -19 Bursary Fund. The scheme is made up of two parts – a guaranteed payment to a small group of the most vulnerable and a discretionary fund for schools and colleges to distribute. Guaranteed bursaries of £1,200 a year will be paid to the most vulnerable groups.

This includes young people in care, care leavers; young people claiming Income Support or Universal Credit, disabled young people in receipt of Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. The second element of the scheme enables schools and colleges to award discretionary bursaries to any students who face genuine financial barriers to participation, such as the costs of transport, meals, books, and equipment etc. Schools and colleges set their own eligibility criteria, decide on how much is paid and set their own conditions for students to meet in order to receive a bursary, for example, linked to behaviour or attendance.

Further information about the 16 -19 Bursary Scheme can be found at:

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

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.

The scheme is available for [publicly-funded courses](#) in England.

Care to Learn provides financial support to young parents who want to continue their education or training and need support with the cost of their childcare, and associated travel.

What you will get

You can get up to:

- £180 per child per week if you live outside London
- £195 per child per week if you live in London

What it covers

Care to Learn can help with the cost of:

- your childcare, including deposit and registration fees
- a childcare taster session for up to 5 days
- keeping your childcare place over the summer holidays
- taking your child to your childcare provider

Payments

Your education provider will make payments directly to your childcare provider.

Before they can be paid:

- your childcare provider needs to confirm your child's attendance
- your education provider needs to confirm that you are attending your course

Your education provider will either pay your travel costs or arrange travel for you.

When payments stop

Payments end when:

- you stop attending your course
- you reach the end of your course
- your child stops attending childcare

Eligibility

- You can get Care to Learn if all of the following apply to you:
- you are a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- you are the main carer for your child you live in England
- you are either a British citizen or have a legal right to live and study in England
- your course qualifies
- your childcare provider qualifies

Your course

- Care to Learn is only available for publicly-funded courses in England. This includes courses that take place in:
 - Schools,
 - sixth-forms in schools,
 - sixth-form colleges
 - other colleges and education providers, including Foundation Learning your community at Children's Centres
- Your education provider can tell you if your course is eligible.

Your childcare provider

To qualify, your childcare provider must be one of the following: registered with Ofsted registered with a childminder agency a school They can be a: childminder pre-school playgroup day nursery out of school club

How to apply:

Apply for the Care to Learn scheme through your education provider. They will tell you if you and your chosen childcare provider are eligible. When you apply, you must give your education provider either: a copy of the child's birth certificate a letter confirming receipt of Child Benefit for that child

Further details can be obtained [Care to Learn: What you'll get - GOV.UK](#)

Dance and Drama Awards: funding for students

You could get a Dance and Drama Award (DaDA) to help with fees and living costs at one of 15 private dance and drama schools.

Apply direct to the dance and drama school you want to go to. Tell them you want to apply for a DaDA.

You must be aged 16 to 23 and show talent and a likelihood to succeed in the industry.

Eligibility

To get help with fees and living costs you must have been living in the UK, the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Gibraltar for the past 3 years.

You must also be one of the following:

- a UK or Irish citizen

- a family member of a UK National - you must both have both been living in the UK, the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, or Liechtenstein for the past 3 years
- a migrant worker from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein or the family member of a migrant worker from one of these countries and both have settled or pre-settled status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#)
- a person granted indefinite leave to remain
- the child of a Turkish worker who has permission to stay in the UK

You can get a 16-18 photocard if you are aged 16–18 and are under the age of 18 on 1 September of the relevant academic year.

Qualifications

You must be studying for one of these Trinity College London Diplomas:

- Level 6 Diploma in Professional Acting (3 years)
- Level 5 Diploma in Professional Acting (1 year)
- Level 5 Diploma in Professional Dance (Classical Ballet or Contemporary Dance) (2 years)
- Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance (3 years)
- Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre (3 years)

Age

- You must be aged 16 to 23 for dance courses.
- You must be aged 18 to 23 for acting courses.

Help and advice

For help and advice contact the school to which you are applying.

[Dance and Drama Awards: funding for students - GOV.UK](#)

Residential Support Scheme

The Residential Support Scheme (RSS) is designed for the exceptional situations where the same or a similar substantial level 2 or level 3 qualification the student wishes to study cannot be accessed locally. Most students supported by RSS tend to live in rural areas and have limited access to a wide range of 16 to 19 further education provision.

Institutions are responsible for assessing if a student meets the eligibility criteria for the scheme, as set out in this guidance, using an RSS application form they have developed. This includes assessing the student against the nationally set household income scales and verifying with us whether each student's substantial level 2 or level 3 qualification is eligible.

Institutions cannot confirm to any student whether they are eligible for RSS, or make any RSS payments, until all the eligibility checks have been completed.

[Residential Support Scheme guide - GOV.UK](#)

Appendix 3.

Travel concessions which may be available for young persons of sixth form age

Public Transport Assistance Birmingham has a comprehensive public transport network which includes buses, trains, and metro. Network West Midlands is the new name that connects all public transport in the West Midlands metropolitan area.

This includes Birmingham, Dudley, Coventry, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, and Wolverhampton. It clearly identifies the complete network of bus, train, and metro services.

Further information can be found at: www.networkwestmidlands.com

Network West Midlands, the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority, is responsible for promoting and developing public transport across the West Midlands metropolitan area. They co-ordinate local transport information for Birmingham and publish bus timetables. This includes the Network West Midlands Map and Guide to Public Transport in Birmingham.

The Birmingham map shows all bus operators, routes, rail and metro services and the frequency of bus services.

The bus map is available online at:

<http://www.networkwestmidlands.com/Maps/maps-home.aspx>

A journey planner is also available online at:

www.networkwestmidlands.com

or via the free NetNav and Net WM App's.

The majority of school journeys that are made by bus use public operated transport, although there are a number of special bus services procured directly by schools or run commercially, and some dedicated bus services run by private operators. The Network West Midlands Sustainable Travel Team informs individual schools and Council School Travel Advisers within the West Midlands when school specific buses are being withdrawn or of any changes in timings of which they are aware.

Network West Midland's Sustainable Travel Team work with schools in Birmingham to assist with the public transport elements of school travel plans and promote sustainable travel. The support offered includes the following:

- We work with schools, colleges, and universities
- Journey planning at key transition times
- Class trip support
- Disruption and infrastructure changes
- Transport for West Midlands Youth Forum
- Sustainable travel options

We help students, staff and parents consider:

- the time they travel
- the modes of transport they use
- the route they take

We also help people to take up walking and cycling.

There are resources to help teach students about:

- [sustainable travel](#)
- [how to plan a journey](#)

For more information:

[Resources and support for education providers | Transport for West Midlands](#)

Network West Midlands works in partnership with the Safer Travel Police Team, West Midlands Local Authorities and Transport Operators. Within local authorities Network West Midlands liaise with School Travel Advisers, Travel Wise Officers and Post-16 Transport Partnership Groups.

Safer Travel is committed to creating a Safer Transport Network in the West Midlands.

Together, West Midlands Police, British Transport Police and Transport for West Midlands make up the Safer Travel Partnership and work to identify areas of the network vulnerable to crime, anti-social and nuisance behaviour.

Our team is intelligence led, drawn from a number of sources such as the officers, transport operators and reports from the public. The team also have access to over 1400 CCTV cameras, which are staffed 24/7 to identify and respond to incidents which are located in Bus, Rail and Metro stations.

Network West Midlands – 16 - 18 Photocard: There is an extensive public transport network of buses, trains, and metro in the Birmingham area. Students aged 16-18 (Years 12 & 13) and in full-time education (minimum 12 hours per week) can purchase a '16 - 18 Photocard' (valid for one academic year). You can get a 16-18 photocard if you are aged 16-18 and are under the age of 18 on 1 September of the relevant academic year.

It is valid until July 31 of the academic year you turn 18.

You can use the card to buy child rate:

- single or return tickets
- season tickets (for 1 week, 4 weeks or an academic term)
- bus day tickets
- monthly direct debit tickets

There are 2 ways to get a 16-18 photocard. You can get the photocard on its own or with a Direct Debit or season ticket.

If you would like a 16-18 photocard without purchasing a ticket, you can apply online

[Log in or create an account](#)

For more information visit: [Swift 16-18 Photocard | Transport for West Midlands](#)

CONTACT NETWORK WEST MIDLANDS DIRECT SALES TEAM ON 0121 214 7550 OR VISIT

<http://www.networkwestmidlands.com/DIRECTDEBIT>

Get a disabled person's pass

If you are disabled, you might be able to get a free bus pass for travel anywhere in England.

The pass lets you travel for free during off-peak times:

- between 9.30am and 11pm, Monday to Friday
- all day at weekends and on public holidays

If you live in the West Midlands, you can use your pass on the buses from 9.30am until 11.59pm. You can also get free travel on:

- trains in the [Blue Zone](#) from 9.30am to 11.59pm
- trams from 9.30am until the last service of the day

If you often travel before 9.30 am, you can get a pre-9:30 add-on ticket. [Use our ticket finder to find pre-9.30 add-on tickets.](#)

Check if you are eligible

You can get a disabled person's travel pass if you:

- have an eligible disability that is expected to last at least 12 months
- are aged 5 or over

You may be eligible if you:

- are registered blind or partially sighted
- are severely or profoundly deaf in both ears
- cannot talk
- cannot walk easily
- cannot use both arms
- have a learning disability
- have a medical condition that means you cannot get a UK driving licence

You will need to include proof of your disability when you apply. The application form explains how to do this.

Apply for a disabled person's travel pass

You can [apply for a disabled person's pass online.](#)

You can also apply with a paper form:

1. Download one of these application forms:

- [Disabled person's travel pass application form](#)
- [Disabled person's travel pass application form - large print](#)
- [Disabled person's travel pass application form - easy read](#)

2. Fill in the form.

3. Send the application and supporting evidence to the address on the form.

Under 18 & Term Plus -Unlimited bus travel to school or college

National express west midlands offer a whole range of products suitable for young people between the ages of 16 -18, providing they qualify for and obtain a network west midlands 16 -18 photocard. There is also a direct debit option that does not require a

network west midlands 16 -18 photocard, but proof from the student's school/college that they are in full time education is required.

Unlimited travel on all National Express buses and any other bus operator that is part of the [nBus scheme](#), within the [nBus zone](#).

**16-18 year olds must have a valid [16-18 Swift card](#).*

[Local Bus Services | NX Bus West Midlands](#)

WEST MIDLANDS SPECIAL NEEDS TRANSPORT LTD (WMSNT) – RING AND RIDE

WMSNT Is the largest, non-statutory, accessible passenger transport provider of its kind not only in the West Midlands but also the world. It operates a range of services all focussing on the needs of people with limited mobility in the West Midlands urban area.

These include Ring and Ride, a door to door bus service for people unable to use mainstream public transport provision. Ring and Ride is aimed at meeting individual travel needs, enabling people to maintain their independence whilst being supported by appropriately trained driving staff throughout their journey. It also has a contracts division which currently provides complete home to school transport solutions for eleven special needs schools in Birmingham plus a number of smaller contracts at other similar schools. In addition to home to school, it also provides transport for activities during and also outside the school day.

All WMSNT's activities are supported by its own training department which is an NVQ approved body as well as being certified to provide RoSPA Advanced Driver Training. It also provides external training including pupil guides for Birmingham Local Authority and also registered taxi drivers for Coventry City Council.

As a registered Charity, with 30 years of specialist experience, recently recognised by the DfT "...as best practice for home to school transport in the UK", WMSNT offers cost effective, "not for profit" transport solutions to include and beyond the statutory obligation to get children to and from school.

Further details can be obtained from Sue Cozens, Operations Manager on 0121 327 8128 or email: sue.cozens@wmsnt.org

School Travel Plans The Birmingham City Council Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy

Sets out how Birmingham will develop and promote sustainable travel within the city, so that the needs of children and young people are better catered for.

It has four main objectives: • Increase the use of sustainable travel on the school journey • Work with all Birmingham Schools to develop and implement a school travel plan

- Provide infrastructure to support sustainable travel
- Take a partnership approach to sustainable travel to school issues

In 2015 the Council adopted Modeshift STARS (MSS) a sustainable travel online tool which is a nationally accredited awards scheme that supports schools in the promotion of active, sustainable, and safe travel. The online tool is provided, maintained, and endorsed by the Department for Transport (DfT) and is included in their Cycling and

Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS). This scheme is the only national accreditation scheme for rewarding sustainable School Travel Plans. Whilst the online tool is universally available to schools, the ‘self-service’ nature of Modeshift

STARS enables schools to achieve a national school award that demonstrate excellence in supporting road safety, cycling, and walking. Most Birmingham schools have a School Travel Plan (STP), and the Council is encouraging schools to review their travel plan using Modeshift STARS with the aim of achieving either a Bronze, Silver, or Gold accreditation.

When signing schools up to Modeshift STARS and developing activities/initiatives with schools this will be co-ordinated with existing delivery programmes. All these delivery programmes are linked to the accreditation process and address low activity levels and high incidence of obesity in Birmingham’s school children along with tackling local traffic congestion and reducing road accidents. School Travel Plans help improve the fitness of children by setting targets aiming for the increased of walking and cycling and enhance parent and child interaction.

They can ease traffic congestion and pollution around schools by reducing the number of vehicles arriving at the beginning and end of the school day. Additionally, they can draw attention to local issues of road safety and are used to support requests for highway improvements.

The Council can support schools with resources to help promote sustainable travel and the first step towards this is for schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS

www.modeshiftstars.org.

The Council will then work with schools to start the process of reviewing their plan.

Contacts:

Children and Young People Travel Assist Service PO Box 16541 Birmingham B2 2DD

Email: travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk

Telephone: 0121 303 4955

Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/travelassist 16-19 Bursary Fund

Telephone: 0300 303 8610

web site: www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund Care to Learn

Telephone: 0300 303 8610

web site:

www.gov.uk/care-to-learn Dance and Drama Awards

Telephone: 0300 303 8610

web site: www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards

Residential Support Scheme

Telephone: 0300 303 8610

web site: www.gov.uk/residential-support-scheme

Network West Midlands website: www.networkwestmidlands.com or telephone 0345 303 6760

Travel West Midlands web site: <http://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands>

Appendix 4

Birmingham Schools and Academies An up to date list of schools and academies in Birmingham is available at:

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schools>

Appendix 5

Funding for adult learners (19+)

Adult learners aged 19 and over may be eligible for financial support to assist with the cost of education or training through:

- Advanced Learner Loans
- Adult Skills Fund provision
- Discretionary bursaries offered by education and training providers

Eligibility criteria and application processes vary depending on the course and provider. Further information is available at:

Details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/grant-bursary-adult-learners>

Concessionary bus travel

The scheme is administered at a local level by Travel Concession Authorities (TCA). Many TCAs provide enhancements to the statutory scheme, which for example allow for free or discounted travel before 0930 or on other modes of transport.

Applications can be made at the start of the course at the following contacts:

Telephone: 0800 121 8989.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk>

Rail Cards

A range of railcards are available that offer discounts on rail travel. These include:

16-25 Railcard

This provides up to 1/3 off rail fares to those aged 16-25 or full time students. It is reported to provide an average saving of £145 per year.

[Railcards | Digital Railcard and Prices](#)

Appendix 6

Personal Transport Budget Information and Calculation Standard.

Personal Transport Budgets (PTBs) are calculated at the HMRC National Milage Rate, namely £0.45 per mile. Calculations are made for two return journeys between home and qualifying school based on shortest driven distance.

For the Pre-School travel assistance offer, the first 2 miles of each single journey will not be included as part of the distance calculation. For the Post-16 (16-18) travel assistance offer, the first 3 miles of each single journey will not be included as part of the distance calculation.

Personal Transport Budgets are paid by monthly bank transfer to the bank account nominated by the applicant or their parent/carer. Personal Transport Budgets are a subsidy offer by Birmingham City Council and can be spent at the discretion of the applicant but are conditional upon the applicant attending their school, college, or other place of education.

Birmingham City Council must be informed immediately of any changes in personal circumstances, such as a change of home address, so that the application can be re-evaluated. Payments may be withheld if the student is not attending school/college regularly and feedback may be sought from the establishment.