

Local Authority Transport Policy Statement for Learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners age 19 and over 2017/2018

Blackpool Council



Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Contents

Summary of policy statement and main objectives	03
Blackpool Council Transport statement	03
Suitability of Courses	04
Blackpool and the Fylde College Support	04
Myerscough College Support	05
Blackpool Sixth Form College Support	06
GP Skills and Training Academy	07
St Mary's Catholic Academy Sixth Form	07
Blackpool Transport travel information	08
Additional Information	08
Complaints Information	10
Contact information	10
Document control information	12

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

1.0 Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives

This document describes the transport support available to young people aged 16-18 and 19+ who are entering or continuing in further education and learning. It explains the support packages in place to encourage participation and prevent transport being a barrier to learning. This policy statement provides information from Blackpool Council and the learning providers. It addresses transport arrangements for the academic year 2017/2018.

2.A. Blackpool Council Transport

Assistance may be provided on a discretionary basis for students aged 16-18 in the following circumstances:

Blackpool Council may offer transport assistance with home to college or home to school transport for sixth form students who are aged between 16 and 18 when their course starts and where they or (in the case of dependent students) their parents are in receipt of Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers

Allowance and where at least one of the following circumstances apply:

1. Severe or Complex Learning Difficulties –as evidenced by the statement/EHC Plan and where previous historical need for Transport Assistance is also evidenced.
2. Physical or Medical Condition –where this impairs the ability to travel independently as evidenced by professional medical reports.
3. Home to Special School Transport for Students Aged 16-18 attending a school –young people with transport assistance included as part of their statement of Special Educational Needs and who remain at a school beyond compulsory school age will be eligible for transport assistance until the end of the academic year in which they reach the age of 19.

Blackpool Council is not required to provide support for pupils with Special Educational Needs or disabilities who attend sixth form colleges of further education. However, discretionary support may be provided in certain circumstances.

Conditions

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

No assistance will be provided under this scheme for a student who is aged 19 or over when he/she begins a course of further education, a student attending a part time course or undertaking a higher education course.

Suitability of Courses

A student may wish to attend a college or sixth form other than the nearest suitable one because he/she considers that particular course is more suitable to him/her. In the case of A levels, (for the purpose of considering an application for transport assistance), the Council defines a 'suitable course' as one where at least two or more subjects are available, unless the student can only demonstrate that a third (or subsequent) subject is an essential requirement for a subsequent course or career. A similar test will be applied where a student is seeking to attend a more distant school or college in order to follow a particular syllabus within the same subject.

If a student's choice of course cannot be supported, travelling expenses may be paid only to the amount that would be payable to the nearest school or college offering the alternative course.

2.B Blackpool and the Fylde College

Support available in 2017/18

In 2017/18 funding for 16-18 (19-24 with an EHC Plan) and 19+ learners will be provided by ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency). Funding is available to support learners who are experiencing financial difficulty meeting the costs associated with learning. The purpose of the College's allocation of funds is to provide assistance for eligible learners facing financial barriers which impact upon their ability to continue in education or training.

All funds are managed locally by the College and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis via an application and assessment process. Students must meet the specified eligibility criteria in order to be considered for an award.

Eligible learners who live in Blackpool, Fylde or Wyre and who live 1.5 miles or more from the campus they attend may be able to receive a Smart Card bus pass for use on local transport services. Learners will be income assessed.

There is a College bus service available for full and part-time Further Education learners who live in the following Fylde areas, including Clifton (nr Preston), Wrea Green, Kirkham, Freckleton, Lytham and St Annes. The College bus travels to and from Lytham Sixth Form College, the University Centre and

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Bispham Campus. The College bus operates once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If learners live in areas not serviced by the College bus or Blackpool Transport, they can apply for a travel bursary which is payable every month based on attendance. Learners will be income assessed.

Learners aged 16-18 who are unable to use public transport as a result of a learning difficulty or disability should contact their Local Authority in the first instance.

Learners who are not eligible for assistance through their Local Authority will be income assessed and asked to provide evidence that they are unable to use public transport.

If learners are not eligible for financial support but experiencing financial difficulty, or there are exceptional circumstances, they can speak to the Careers Team on 01253 504298 or 504474 to discuss.

2.C Myerscough College

The College provides bus services for students travelling from Preston Railway Station, Fleetwood via Blackpool, Burnley via Blackburn, Clitheroe and St Annes, which run daily to and from the Preston campus. A service from Preston Bus Station runs every morning and lunchtime, with a return service at lunchtime and at the end of the College day.

Students travelling from Chorley, Lancaster and Morecambe can travel on Stagecoach service buses 125 and 40/41 linking to the 401 shuttle bus service to College. This service runs between College and Bilsborrow village all day giving easy access to public transport. In addition the Preston Bus number 80 service bus runs throughout the day. More details can be found on www.myerscough.ac.uk or e-mail transport@myerscough.ac.uk.

Students can pay on the bus daily or discounted bus passes can be purchased from the Finance Office at the College. Financial support is available from the College Further Education Bursary Fund for students with an annual household income of less than £30,000. Eligible students must complete an application form and provide evidence of household income as required. Students must live more than 3 miles from the College for help with travel to College.

Free bus passes are available for students with an annual household income of less than £24,000. In addition students can be issued with bus passes for other public services if required when travelling on a daily basis to College. All students are treated equally and the same criteria are used, although individual circumstances are taken into account.

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

In regards to these sentences I am unsure where this information has been taken from. The sentence in bold is not a complete sentence but unsure what you are advising? The College does not support students on transport, that would be through a private support worker, although we do offer courses for independent living that includes travelling by public transport.

Provision of mobility/independence training for students who face difficulty with transport

Some training is offered as part of independent living courses.

2.D. Blackpool Sixth Form College

Blackpool Sixth recognises that the cost of transport is a concern for some young people and their families. Our subsidised transport schemes not only help with transport costs to and from college but could also provide unlimited travel throughout the day, including evenings, weekends and during the college holidays. Below are the key details:

	Usual Price (monthly)	Subsidised price
Blackpool Transport Smart Card <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •valid 7 days a week & during holidays •Receive July & August travel for free! <p>Covers the following areas: Blackpool, Fleetwood, Thornton-Cleveleys, Bispham, Over Wyre & Lytham St. Annes</p>	£40.00*	<p>One payment of £360 (includes 10% discount for full payment upfront)</p> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •10 x monthly instalments of £40 (including free summer travel)
Stagecoach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Valid 7 days a week & during holidays <p>Covers the following areas: Lancaster, Garstang, and</p>	£98.00*	10 x £36.00* monthly passes

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Preston (buses 42, 61 and 68)		
<p>Blackpool Sixth College Buses</p> <p>•Services run twice a day (once in the morning to college and once in reverse after college finishes)</p> <p>Lytham Bus covers the following area: Lytham St. Annes</p> <p>Kirkham Bus covers the following areas: Freckleton, Warton, Wrea Green, Kirkham, Wesham, Elswick and Great Eccleston</p>	N/A	FREE in 2017/18**

* These are current prices and any changes would be minor reflecting increases from the transport companies.

** To access this service you will have to register with Student Finance and be provided with a pass. You will not be eligible for any other subsidised transport whilst registered on this free service. Passes will be available on a first come, first served basis.

2.E. GP Skills and Training Academy (formerly Beneast Training)

GP Skills Training Academy operate their own 17 seater minibus for transportation of Learners as may be required in conjunction with their Learning Programmes i.e. for taking Learners to other venues such as Careers Events, Job Fairs, Educational Trips, Sporting/Recreational Activities, Community/Environmental Project Works away from the centre etc.

2.F. St Mary's Catholic Academy Sixth Form

St Mary's Sixth Form offers a student bus service and generously subsidised fares on these journeys. Students who qualify for a bursary are given generous additional assistance, which may include a free bus pass, to ensure that transport to our Sixth Form is not a barrier to education. We run a number of

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

..... school buses, from Lytham Square through Ansdell and St Annes to Blackpool, from Fleetwood through Cleveleys to our school: other, more local routes are also available (this is currently under consultation).

Students may decide to purchase a termly discounted buss pass or may prefer to pay daily. Financial support is available from St Mary’s Bursary Fund – for details please see our website or contact our sixth form office and ask for Mrs Pickworth.

Contact the Sixth Form Office for more information (01253) 396286.

2.G. Blackpool Transport

The range of tickets Blackpool Transport offer are:

	1 day	3 day	7 day	30 day
16-19 Tickets *	£3.00 via the app or on a vehicle		£11.00 (via app) £ 12.00 on vehicle or from Travel Shops**	£40 (via app) £43 from Travel Shops**
Adult Tickets	£5.00	£11.00 (via app) £ 11.50 on vehicle or from Travel shops**	£14.00 (via app) \$14.50 (on vehicle of from Travel shops)**	£50 (via app) £55 from Travel Shops**

* Photo ID is required to purchase and travel with a 16-19 ticket

** Blackpool Transport Travel Shop at Market Street (Town Centre, next to BHS) or Rigby Road

Blackpool Transport Saver tickets give unlimited travel on Blackpool Transport buses and trams. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Travel Centres or at over 100 local Pay Point agents (local newsagents and convenience stores) a full list is available on the website at www.blackpooltransport.com. Alternatively purchase all saver tickets via the Blackpool Transport mobile app, search “BPL Transport” in the App Store or Google Play Store.

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Additional Information

What times during the day can learners use their travel pass or obtain concessionary fares?

The travel cards issued by both Blackpool Transport Services and Stagecoach are flexible. Details of any restrictions can be provided by contacting the companies directly using the contact details contained within this document.

Will there be continuing support to Learners who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course?

Support will continue to be provided where a student continues to satisfy eligibility criteria.

How will learners be assessed to see if they are eligible for support?

Predominantly the main test of eligibility is whether or not the student or their parent is in receipt of benefits. However, assessment criteria vary and have been described in the earlier sections of this document.

What help is provided for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or learners facing difficulties in following their courses?

Each of the further education institutions is responsible for ensuring that appropriate support is provided to ensure that students can successfully complete their courses. If a student has disabilities or learning difficulties these should be discussed with admission officers when making application to the college.

The Council makes direct provision to a significant number of post 16 pupils and students who are in receipt of income support or jobseekers allowance or are a dependent of someone in receipt of the same and who also has special educational needs. This support is predominantly made in the form of a taxi or minibus service.

Do you provide mobility/independence training for learners who face difficulty with transport?

The Council through the Local Transport Partnership has established the Blackpool MAP (Mobility Access Project), which aims to develop the skills necessary for independent travel for all young people as they transfer into further education. This scheme has been developed as part of the 2002/03 Transport Pathfinder project and has been created in partnership with Park Special School, Blackpool and the

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Fylde College and the Council. Further information is available by contacting the Passenger Transport Services.

What help can learners apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond the Local Authority area?

Under the Council's policy for the support to students aged 16-18, those students attending non-Blackpool institutions is based on the same basis as for those studying within Blackpool.

What help is available for learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?

The Council may assess such applications on an individual basis at the discretion of Children's Services.

Complaints

Should you have a complaint please contact the provider. If the transport is provided by Blackpool Council please refer to our complaints procedure by contacting the address below. If this does not result in a satisfactory outcome, learners and their families may complain to the Secretary of State.

Useful Contacts

Blackpool Council

PO Box 4

Blackpool

FY1 1 NA

Tel: 01253 477477

E-mail:

Website: www.blackpool.gov.uk

Blackpool and The Fylde College

Careers Team

Ashfield Road

Blackpool

FY2 0HB

Tel: 01253 504298 or 504474

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

E-mail: careers@blackpool.ac.uk

Website: www.blackpool.ac.uk

Myerscough College

Bilsborrow

Preston

PR3 0RY

Tel: 01995 642398

E-mail: transport@myerscough.ac.uk

Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Blackpool Sixth Form College

Victoria Jackson

Deputy Head of Student Services

Tel: 01253 394911

E-Mail: victoria.jackson@blackpoolsixth.ac.uk

Website: www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk

St Marys Catholic Academy

St Walburgas Road

Blackpool

FY3 7EQ

Tel: 01253 396286

E-Mail: jem@st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk

Website: www.st-mary.blackpool.sch.uk

GP Skills and Training Academy

Chiswick Court

Off Preston New Road

Blackpool

FY3 9TN

Tel: 01253 757985

E-Mail: dratcliff@gpstrategies.com

Website: www.gpstrategies.com

Blackpool Transport

Rigby Road

Blackpool

FY1 5DD

Tel: 01253 476036

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

E-Mail: jean.cox@blackpooltransport.com

Website: www.blackpooltransport.com

Stage Coach

Central Bus Station

Tithebarn Street

Preston

PR1 1YU

Tel: 01772 255777

E-Mail: colin.nicholson@stagecoachbus.com

Website: www.stagecoach.com

Transport Policy Statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Document Control

Document owner:	Director Of Children's Services
Document number:	
Document category:	
Document location:	
Issued by:	
Last edited:	

Record of Amendments:

Date	Version	Amended by	Description of changes
November 2016	V1/2016	Philip Thompson and Trevor Stone	Update for New Year

Approved By:

Name	Title	Signature	Date