



**2009- 2010**

**TRANSPORT POLICY STATEMENT  
for  
LEARNERS AGED 16-18**

Transport policy statement for learners aged 16-18 in further education and continuing learners aged 19 and over

Name of Local Authority:

**Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

Department Responsible:

**Children's Services**

**1. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives (this section should give an overview/statement of intent of what the LA's transport policy is and what the subsequent desired outcomes are).**

The purpose of this statement is to clearly state what transport assistance Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council aims to provide for students to access 16-19 education at Blackburn College, St Mary's College, St Wilfrid's Sixth Form and the new Our Lady & St John 6<sup>th</sup> form Centre.

A separate policy already exists to address the needs of students that have an Individual Pupil Resource Allocation (IPRA) that have been educated in special or main stream school and wish to continue their studies in further education. (Blackburn with Darwen Special Education Policy).

In agreement with the providers named above the objective of this policy is to provide support to those young people who need it, subject to the published eligibility criteria in order to remove transport as a barrier to accessing Post 16 Education in Blackburn with Darwen.

In writing this statement regard has been given to:-

- The Education Act 1996 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance (DCSF) 2007
- Blackburn with Darwen Sustainable School Travel Strategy – Capita Symonds. April 2008
- Disability Equality Duty 2006
- The LA Children's and Young Peoples Plan.

**2. Please provide details of all concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for learners aged 16–18 and who provides them. Please provide details of any costs to the learner.**

Blackburn College, St Mary's College & St Wilfrid's intend to continue to provide dedicated coaches and or travel passes from home to college, for which a contribution will be requested from each student. The contribution asked for from the students will be the same as last year:-

- Blackburn College offer students a Transdev travel pass which is valid at all times. The students are asked for a contribution of £60.00 per term. Students that do not have access to Transdev bus routes can apply for a travel grant.
- St Mary's College operate a transport scheme which provides transport for students who live in Darwen, Feniscowles, Mill Hill and Cherry tree areas. The coaches bring students direct to college fro 9.00 am and leave college for the return journey at 4.10 pm. The cost to students is £200 per year and is subsidised by the college, the college also provides and issues the travel passes. This price is subject to annual review. Mary's' is part of the 'spot on' rover card scheme which allows students to gain 10% discount for travel on Transdev Lancashire United. There is also the opportunity to purchase a discounted travel pass to assist learners from other parts of the borough.
- St Wilfrid's 6<sup>th</sup> Form – each individual case assessed separately if the student can not access the buses provided by the school. Criteria used will be family income, those in receipt of EMA.
- Our Lady & St John will be providing post 16 education from September 2009 and have agreed to adopt a similar process as the other providers; in that they will assess the needs of all incoming students on individual circumstances.

A separate statement will be available from each institution regarding the assessment criteria and allocation of funding, which can be accessed via the individual institutes website.

The Local Authority Transport Partnership Fund will be used to provide assistance to students with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities that do not qualify for funding through the Local Authority Special Education Needs Transport Policy.

These joint and universal services will continue and promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

It is acknowledged, in the Borough's Sustainable School Travel Strategy that by providing good access to education can make a contribution to championing the needs of the community by providing equal access to services and promoting equal life chances and a good quality of life for all our residents.

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

Travel passes issued via Blackburn College have no restriction on times of travel. St Wilfrid's travel passes can only be used to and from the 6<sup>th</sup> form. St Mary's travel passes are only for use on the designated bus operation for the one journey in the morning and afternoon. The Pathfinder Rover card is available for other journeys at other times.

**4. Please confirm that support will continue to be made available to learners who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course.**

All institutions will continue to support students that carry on in their studies into year 13 up to and including the age of 19.

**5. How will learners be assessed to see if they are eligible for support? e.g. means-testing or must they be on benefits?**

The initial assessment of need is that students are in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance. Students facing financial hardship or other personal family circumstances will be considered and assessed by the individual institution. The student must be on a full time course at the college to be eligible

In the case of LDD students a clear assessment of any existing family financial assistance via Mobility schemes or SEN provision will be taken into consideration first, before further funding is allocated.

**6. What help do you provide for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or learners facing other difficulties in following their courses?**

In addition to the continued support provided through the SEN Transport Policy, special taxis or transport will be provided for students with a range of disabilities that do not qualify for mobility allowance and whose family do not have the means to meet these costs. (Mobility cars must be used in accordance with the condition for which they have been granted).

Each institution will apply the same criteria as above, where other support is not available the Local Authority Transport Partnership Fund will be used to assist students to access the course of their choice at the institution of their choice.

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

A range of training is offered by each provider or the Local Authority according to need. For further details please contact the Local Authority – see details in section 11 of this statement.

'Bus Confidence' – Travel safe, Travel Wise, Travel Smart – an on-line training package is available at [busconfidence.com](http://busconfidence.com) free of charge to students, parents & schools.

**8. When should learners start to apply for transport support?**

Students can start to apply for transport support on enrolment at the institution of their choice. Students can apply after starting their course at any time throughout the academic year, but it would be wise to apply early as funds are limited.

**9. What help can learners apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond your LA area?**

Students are referred to the institution of their choice and the Local Authority in which it is situated.

**10. 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 Residential Support Scheme supports some students who need to access education that is not available within a reasonable daily travelling distance from the or home. This programme, which is means tested, can pay for residential accommodation and it can also help with the associated travel costs of living away from home. A student information pack is available at [www.direct.gov.uk/moneytolearn](http://www.direct.gov.uk/moneytolearn) or by calling Prolog on 0845 602 2260.

**11. Please provide information about all points of contact for learners seeking transport support, e.g. LA/college, bus company contact. Please include any websites and e-mail addresses.**

Claire McGauley  
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High School and Technology College.  
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Education Maintenance Helpline  
0808 121 8989

Mobility National Helpline  
0845 456 4566

Further Education Residential Support Programme Helpline  
0845 602 2260