



Pupil Admissions and Travel Team, London Borough of Barnet
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TRANSPORT POLICY FOR STUDENTS OVER 16 IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN 2005/06

This policy applies to students living in the Borough of Barnet who are over 16 but under 19 years at the start of the academic year of a full-time course in a school or college. Eligible students at college will normally receive help with travel from their college while those at school will receive help from the local authority.

Although each case is considered on its own merits, there are two main categories of students for whom free travel or transport will be provided. These are students from families where there is financial hardship and students with special educational needs.

A. Financial Hardship

Almost all students who could qualify because of financial hardship will be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowances and these payments include an element (up to one third) for travel expenses. Therefore, most students in receipt of EMAs will not be entitled to receive additional help (but see **Section 2** below).

For students to qualify under **Sections 1 or 2** they must live more than three miles from their school or college by the shortest walking route.

Section 1

Free travel on public transport using the most economical route will be provided for those students who are **not** eligible for Education Maintenance Allowances but:

- (i) whose families are on income support, income based job seekers' allowance, working tax credit or are in receipt of child tax credit and have an assessed family income up to £13,910 pa
- (ii) who live with a single parent whose only source of income is a state pension
- (iii) who are being 'looked after' by the local authority
- (iv) who are living independently of their family and receiving income support in their own right, which would include those young people who have recently been in public care.

Rail cards or payments to cover the cost of travel on public transport by the most economical route will be provided for qualifying pupils. In a few cases, other

arrangements such as payments towards the cost of private coaches may be more appropriate.

Section 2

Students in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) may be awarded further payments towards their travel but only if the cost of their travel, by the most economical route, exceeds one third of the value of their EMA. Students eligible for further payments would also have to qualify under one of the four conditions listed (i) – (iv) in Section 1.

B. Special Educational Needs

Students assessed under this category would normally have had a statement of special educational needs prepared by a local authority that is still in operation at the end of Year 11 at their secondary school. These students could be continuing at the same school or transferring to an appropriate college course.

Eligibility would be reviewed on an annual basis and each case would be considered on its own merits. Assistance with travel to and from school will be provided if the student has a disability that seriously affects his or her mobility and he or she is not already in receipt of any allowances or benefits that support mobility. Similar provision will be made for students at colleges if they are not eligible for assistance from their college. Assistance may be in the form of a mileage payment for those students who are able to drive themselves or for parents who transport the students in family cars. If the student is able to travel by public transport, payments to cover the cost of travel by the most economical route may be made.

It is only in very exceptional circumstances that arranged transport from home to school or college is likely to be considered appropriate.

C. Other Grounds

There may be other instances of medical, social or educational need that the authority or an individual college could decide warranted assistance with the cost of travel. Each case would be assessed on its own merits.

Applications

Students in special schools or residential schools or colleges will have their travel needs assessed as part of their annual review. Other students continuing in full-time education at school who will be over 16 and under 19 years by 1 September and wish to be considered for assistance with travel costs should contact the Travel Team (see below) from June onwards, for courses that start in the following September. Students of the same age who will be studying at college should contact the relevant college for further information.

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