



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

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Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Academic Year 2027-2028

Implementation date 1 September 2027



Draft for consultation 27 February to 21 April 2026



Post-16 Transport Policy Statement

Academic Year 2027-2028

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.

Department Responsible:
Children's Services Directorate

Contact details:
0300 303 1591 (Option 2)

Document first release:
27 February 2026 v1

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Introduction

There is no legal duty requiring a local authority (LA) to provide free or subsidised school or college transport to a young person aged 16 to 19. However, where a young person is of 'sixth form age' and attends school or college, the law does require LAs to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the authority considers it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

This policy uses the term 'Post 16' to include both learners of sixth form age and those with learning difficulties / disabilities up to the age of 25.

A young person is of sixth form age if they:

- Are over **compulsory school age** (which ends on the last Friday in June in the academic year in which you turn or turned 16) but under 19¹, or
- Began the course they are studying at school or college before their 19th birthday. They will remain of sixth form age until they complete that course, even if they finish this course after their 19th birthday. The sixth form age duty applies to young people of sixth form age and young people with EHC plans up to age 25 where they are continuing a course started before their 19th birthday.

The overall intention of the sixth form age transport duty is to ensure that:

- Learners of sixth form age can access the education and training of their choice; and
- If support for access is requested, this will be assessed and provided where necessary.

This policy document specifies the support that Westmorland & Furness Council considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of Post 16 learners receiving education or training.

Education or training refers to learning or training at a school, further education institution, a council maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education, an establishment funded directly by the Education Skills Funding Agency, learning providers delivering accredited programmes of learning which lead to positive outcomes and are funded by the council, for example, colleges, charities and private learning providers.

For the 2027/2028 academic year, all young people carrying on their education post 16 must reapply for travel support apart from young people with an EHCP who attend LA Special Schools.

From September 2027 Post 16 Transport will no longer be free. Parents/carers will be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of SEND Post 16 transport and this will be at the same rate as the published "Spare Seat" Charge, as set out in the published fees and charges table.

All young people who are starting post-16 education, including those with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), will need to pay a contribution towards the cost of travel from September 2027.

This amount is reviewed every year and published on the council website before the end of May.

This fee is reduced by 50% for low-income parents that meet the criteria or waived if they are exempt.

Post 19 "adults duty" Local authorities also have a duty to encourage, enable and assist young people with learning difficulties / disabilities to participate in education and training for those aged 19 to 25 and for whom an EHC plan is maintained.

Detail of policy for the 2027/28 academic year is still to be confirmed in conjunction with colleagues from adults. Further consultation on Post 19 policy will follow in due course, but prior to 31st May 2027.

¹This also applies to children who have been placed a year behind cohort.

Aims and Objectives of the Statement

The main objective of the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement is to specify the arrangements for the provision of transport or otherwise that the authority and Post-16 education providers consider it necessary to make to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education and training.

Transport and travel support

Concessionary fares from public transport providers

A2B NowCard is a bus pass for young people which offers reduced fares on all local bus services in our area. If you are aged 5 to 20 and live in Westmorland and Furness you can apply for the pass. It costs XXXper year. To be confirmed after fees and charges decision agreed in February 2027.

When using your pass:

- Single tickets are capped at xx To be confirmed after fees and charges decision agreed in February 2027
- Return tickets are capped at xx To be confirmed after fees and charges decision agreed in February 2027

You can use your pass at weekends and school holidays, but not before 9.30am or between 3pm and 5pm. You can also travel as far as Carlisle, ,Keswick and Lancaster with a return ticket purchased in Westmorland and Furness.

Application forms are available at all libraries in Westmorland and Furness or can be downloaded from [NowCard Application Form](#)

The bus companies below provide scheduled bus services in Westmorland and Furness Council. Please note however, that many services do not operate at school times, and some are very limited timetables.

Please follow the links below for further information about their fares, timetables and any discounted travel or concessionary schemes they may operate.

Blueworks	www.blueworksph.com
CTOT	www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/bus-services
Cumbria Classic Coaches	www.cumbriaclassiccoaches.co.uk
Fellrunner	www.fellrunnerbus.co.uk
Go North East (to Alston)	www.gonortheast.co.uk
Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches	www.klch.co.uk
Lakeland Commercials	www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/bus-services
Little White Bus (service to Garsdale only)	www.littlewhitebus.co.uk
Mountain Goat (Summer only)	www.mountain-goat.com
NBM Hire	www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/parking-streets-and-transport/bus-services
Stagecoach	www.stagecoachbus.com
Telfords Coaches	telfordscoaches.com
Travellers Choice	www.travellerschoice.co.uk
Western Dales Bus	westerndalesbus.co.uk
Wright Bros	wrightscoaches.co.uk

Information on all scheduled bus services can be found at westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/buses

Details of all rail services in Cumbria can be found at National Rail nationalrail.co.uk

Travel Support from Westmorland and Furness Council

For the 2027/28 academic year, students attending a full-time course at sixth forms or colleges (educational establishment) must meet the following criteria for travel support

- Students must be under 19 at 31st August 2027
- They must live more than 3 miles by the nearest available walking route to the educational establishment or have a special education need/disability which would prevent them walking the three miles.

Extended Rights/Low Income

All young people who are starting post-16 education, including those with an education, health and care plan (EHCP), will need to pay a contribution towards the cost of travel.

This amount is reviewed every year and published on the council website before the end of May.

This fee is reduced by 50% for low-income parents that meet the criteria or waived if they are exempt.

Westmorland and Furness Council Post 16 “Spare Seat” Scheme

Transport support to schools with sixth forms can be provided through a seat on one of the council’s contracted home to school transport routes, where a “spare seat” is available.

Students of Post-16 age are prioritised and as set out in the council’s “spare seat” criteria.

Under the Post 16 “spare seat” scheme, spare capacity on vehicles contracted by Westmorland and Furness Council can be offered to Post-16 Education Providers at a cost of . The charge for the 2026/27 academic year is anticipated to be £867.03, subject to approval, per seat, payable termly. The charge for 2027/28 academic year will be the same amount, or a higher rate. This will be confirmed after fees and charges decision agreed by Full Council in February 2027.

All students attending a 6th Form and who require a Post-16 “spare seat” should apply direct to Westmorland and Furness Council for a Post 16 “spare seat”. More information is provided under the relevant school.

Visit Apply for [school transport | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) for more information.

Westmorland and Furness Council 16-19 Travel Bursary

Westmorland & Furness Council provide a bursary scheme to support travel for education and apprenticeships and other opportunities for young people aged 16-19. At the time of writing, confirmation that the 16-19 education travel bursary scheme will be open for applicants is pending approval. If approved, the scheme for the 2027/28 academic year will open for applications in August 2027. Full scheme criteria and application process will be available from the end of June 2027 by visiting

[Post 16 Transport and the 16-19 Bursary Scheme | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

LA support for young people without special educational needs or disabilities

Post-16 students who meet the 'low income' criteria can apply for free transport through the Student Support Fund if they are:

- A resident of Westmorland and Furness Council;
- Aged 16 years old, but under 19 on 31 August 2027, and have started the course before the age of 19;
- Undertaking a full time course of at least 16 hours study hours per week;
- Attending either:
 - The 6th Form in their nearest/catchment* secondary school (if the nearest/catchment* area secondary school does not have a 6th Form, another school is designated as the nearest suitable catchment* school for 6th form studies). A-level subject combination is not considered when determining whether a student qualifies for transport support;
 - Their nearest college providing the chosen vocational area;
 - A denominational school based on religion, provided the distance between the school exceeds the statutory walking distance of 3 miles.

* the reference to catchment secondary school reflects the current policy. At the time of writing, the Council is consulting on discretionary home to school transport policy areas which may result in transport to catchment school no longer being provided from September 2027. This is subject to the outcome of the formal consultation.

A seat on a vehicle contracted by the Council from the nearest pick up point may be provided, or a bus or rail pass may be provided.

To qualify for free Post-16 transport on low income grounds, parents/carers must provide evidence (dated within 3 months of the commencement of their course) that they are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support.
- Income based jobseekers allowance.
- An income related employment and support allowance.
- Support under Part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit) and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit.
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400

Please note that working tax credit is being phased out as claimants are transferred onto Universal Credit. For further advice about eligibility under Low Income/Extended rights, please telephone 0300 303 1591 (Option 2)

Applying for low income transport support

Post-16 students who may meet the 'low income' criteria should complete an application form which can be downloaded from [Apply for school transport | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) or by phoning the Integrated Home to School Transport Team on **0300 303 1591** (Option 2). Evidence of low income (for the 2026/2027 financial year) must be submitted with the form. Should the family income increase above the threshold limit for low income families, the free transport will continue up to the end of the academic year.

Continuing students can apply at any time before the start of the new academic year.

Applications are processed in order of receipt and transport arrangements can take time to be actioned. Until an application is approved the Council is not responsible for any travel costs incurred by students.

For details of any transport assistance or support available separately through the school or college, please see page details later in this document and centralised pick-up points may be used.

LA support for learners with special educational needs or a disability

What is Special Needs Transport?

The criteria are:

a) a long term impairment* which will affect the student's ability to travel without assistance i.e.:

1. Mobility (although mobility or independence training should be undertaken);
2. Eyesight (although mobility or independence training should be undertaken);
3. Perception of the risk of physical danger.

or

b) an impairment which is likely to last no longer than 12 months and has a medical report signed by a doctor specifying the student's difficulty and implications for independent mobility (This will be time limited but open to continuation should the impairment continue).

*i has lasted at least 12 months; or

*ii is likely to last 12 months; or

*iii is likely to last for the rest of the life of the person.

Who is eligible?

Currently any student with an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and who is attending a full time course of education (16 hours or more per week) and who is:

- Under the age of 19 (on 31 August 2027); or
- Began a course before attaining the age of 19 and continues to attend the course and has special transport needs which prevent him/her from travelling safely.

The plan is for young people up to the age of 25 and will end when the outcomes have been achieved so plans may change before the age of 25.

Specific transport needs for students with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will be considered, assessed and communicated as part of the EHCP plan review at transition to Post 16

Post 16 SEND students who have been directed to one of the Authorities special schools : George Hastwell, Sandside Lodge, Sandgate School or James Rennie in Cumberland Council area will see direct provision of transport continue. Parents/carers of any student entering into Year 12 of their Education in September 2027 will be required to contribute towards the cost of their home to school transport this will be at the same rate as the published "Spare Seat" Charge, as set out in the published fees and charges table. This fee is reduced by 50% for low-income parents that meet the criteria or waived if they are exempt.

Other Post 16 SEND students will require a further assessment of their individual needs and abilities to determine the level of transport assistance required. A contribution towards this transport will be required This fee is reduced by 50% for low-income parents that meet the criteria or waived if they are exempt. Eligibility for Post 16 transport to College will be determined on a case by case basis and a hierarchy of transport will be considered:

Parents will be required to confirm they have applied for other sources of assistance from education providers before applying for transport assistance from the local authority

- Bus/Rail Pass
- Independent Travel Training
- Parental Grant
- Personal Travel Budget

Only in exceptional circumstances, and agreed on a case by case basis will direct provision of transport be commissioned and provided. Where it is provided, this will be on the basis of a shared vehicle with other students.

Transport will be provided around a standard college day of arrival on site at 9am and departure at 4pm. No accommodation will be made around part-time timetables, and students will be expected to remain on the college site during the hours of 9am and 4pm.

From September 2027 Post 16 Transport will no longer be free. Parents/carers will be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of SEND Post 16 transport and this will be at the same rate as the published “Spare Seat” Charge, as set out in the published fees and charges table. This fee will be reduced by 50% for low-income parents that meet the criteria or waived if they are exempt.

Post 19 Transport Support Students aged 19-25

National Support Available The 16-19 Bursary Fund

[16 to 19 Bursary Fund: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

1. Overview

You could get a bursary to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and:

- Studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university
- On a training course, including unpaid work experience

A publicly funded school is one that does not charge you for attending it.

If you're 19 and over

You could also get a bursary if you either:

- Are continuing a course you started aged 16 to 18 (known as being a '19+ continuer')
- Have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

What a bursary is for

A bursary is money that you, or your education or training provider, can use to pay for things like:

- Clothing, books and other equipment for your course
- Transport and lunch on days you study or train

2. What you'll get

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursary:

- A bursary for students in vulnerable groups
- A discretionary bursary

Bursary for students in vulnerable groups

You could get a bursary worth up to £1,200, depending on your circumstances and benefits **[\(16 to 19 Bursary Fund: Eligibility - GOV.UK\)](#)**

Discretionary bursary

You could get a discretionary bursary if you need financial help but do not qualify for a bursary for students in vulnerable groups. Your education or training provider decides how much you get and what it's used for.

- If you're over 19, you'll only be eligible for a discretionary bursary.

Your provider will decide how you get your bursary. You might get:

- An instalment paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer
- Things like a travel pass, free meals or books

Some providers also offer one-off payments to cover study trips or travel for university interviews.

Your provider could stop payments if you break their rules, for example about attendance or how your bursary is used.

3. Eligibility

You must:

- Be at least 16 and under 19 on 31 August 2026
- Study at a publicly funded school or college, or be on an unpaid training course
- Meet the residency requirements - your school or college can check this

Bursary for students in vulnerable groups

You may be able to get a bursary if at least one of the following applies:

- You're in or you recently left local authority care
- You get Income Support or Universal Credit because you're financially supporting yourself
- You get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
- You get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name and either ESA or Universal Credit

The amount you may get depends on the costs you have and what you need for your course. This might include money for books, equipment or travel costs to school or college.

Discretionary bursary

Your school or college will have their own criteria for discretionary bursaries. They'll look at your individual circumstances - this usually includes your family income.

Ask student services about their criteria and any evidence you'll need.

You can apply to a discretionary bursary if you're over 19 and either:

- Continuing a course you started aged 16 to 18 (known as being a '19+ continuer')
- Have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

4. How to claim

Apply to your school, college or training provider. Ask student services or your tutor to explain what you need to do.

When to apply

Apply once you know where you'll study or train, so you'll get your bursary as soon as possible. You might need to reapply for a bursary for each year of your course. Check with your provider.

5. Help

Your tutor or student services can help you decide if you're eligible for a bursary and explain how to apply. Contact the [Customer help centre](#) if your tutor or student services cannot answer your question.

You think a decision is unfair

Speak to student services if you're unhappy with a decision. Follow their complaints process if you cannot resolve the problem.

Emergencies and hardship

You might be able to get more support if your circumstances change or you have an emergency. Your provider might also have a separate hardship fund. Speak to student services if you need extra help.

Young Parents/Care to Learn

www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

1. Overview

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.
- Claiming Care to Learn will not affect your family's benefits or allowances.

2. What you'll get

You can get up to:

- £180 per child per week if you live outside 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're 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

3. Eligibility

You can get Care to Learn if all the following apply to you:

- You're a parent under 20 at the start of your course
- You're the main carer for your child
- You live in England
- You're 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

Who cannot get Care to Learn

You're not eligible if:

- You're an apprentice who gets a salary
- You're doing a higher education course, for example at university or college

4. 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

Travel support from schools and colleges

Appleby Grammar School, Appleby

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Appleby Grammar School operates a Post-16 Spare Seat Scheme for those students who reside within their catchment area, in conjunction with Westmorland & Furness Council's Integrated Home to School Transport Team. This enables students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times, on contracted vehicles. Intention of interest to reserve a seat should be made via the school, although places are not guaranteed. We would encourage Post-16 students from low income families to apply for free discretionary transport through Westmorland & Furness Council, if they fulfil the eligibility criteria. In addition, financial assistance for the purchase of a bus pass may also be available through the 16-19 Bursary Fund, please contact the school for further information or go to the school website appleby.cumbria.sch.uk/sixth form/finance. The cost of the bus pass is determined by Westmorland & Furness Council. For further information please contact **017683 51580**.

Caldew School, Dalston

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

The school is committed to maximising access to post 16 study for students who have attended the school in Years 7-11.

For all 6th Form students who reside within the catchment area the school operates a Post- 16 Spare Seat Scheme in conjunction with Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council's Home to School Transport Teams. Information about applying for transport will form part of the 6th Form welcome pack. All transport applications are sent via the school to the Local Authority and the cost is determined by the Council, either by Westmorland and Furness Council or Cumberland Council. Please note, each individual Council sets these costs. Where it is not possible to secure spare seats then other transport in the form of minibuses or taxis may be provided, wherever practical, for the same cost.

The Spare Seat Scheme allows students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times on contracted vehicles.

Provision of assistance for learners with learning difficulties or disabilities will be made on an individual basis in line with each Council's Transport Policy.

We would encourage Post-16 students from low income families to apply for free discretionary transport through Cumbria County Council if they fulfil the eligibility criteria. Financial assistance may also be available for eligible students from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

No assistance is provided for students who attend a further education institution which is beyond their daily travelling distance in terms of accommodation.

The school may consider on an individual basis, students who feel they have exceptional circumstances, although a guarantee to school transport cannot be made.

In the first instance contact the school office on **01228 710044** or office@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk if you have a complaint or concern.

Dallam School, Milnthorpe

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Post 16 Spare Seat Scheme - For students who reside within the catchment area the school operates a Post 16 spare seat scheme in conjunction with Westmorland and Furness Council's School Integrated Home to School Transport Team. This allows students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times on contracted vehicles. The cost is determined by Westmorland and Furness Council.

Low Income Families - Westmorland and Furness Council make direct provision for children from low-income families or with special educational needs, who meet the eligibility criteria. To qualify as 'low-income' in years 12 and 13, the student must satisfy the criteria set out in the policy statement, and:

- Be under the age of 19 years on 1 September 2025
- Have applied for a full-time course (a minimum of 12 hours per week)
- Live over three miles from their catchment sixth form
- Live over three miles from their nearest college offering the vocational area they are studying

Please contact Westmorland and Furness Council for further information and to make an application.

16-19 Travel Bursary Scheme - Westmorland and Furness Council also offer a 16-19 Travel Bursary Fund which parents can apply for if Post 16 transport is not available to them. Full details will be published in the final policy document for the 2027/28 academic year and will also be followed up with full information from Westmorland and Furness Council. The Statements will be published on the following website: www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk.

Students Residing Outside the Catchment Area - For students who reside outside the school's catchment area, or where spare seats are not available through the Local Authority, the school has an agreement in place with KT's Coaches for seven routes running from the Grange/Lindale, North Lancashire or Kendal areas.

Financial assistance is available for eligible students from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Further information is available on the school's website www.dallamschool.co.uk or alternatively contact the Finance Office on **015395 65168**.

Complaints - Advice on how to submit a complaint is available on the school's website www.dallamschool.co.uk

Furness College including Barrow Sixth Form College, Barrow-in-Furness

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Furness College is committed to maximising all opportunities for students to study at their establishment and works along with the Transport Services Team at Cumbria County Council to identify transport solutions for Post-16 students.

To qualify for help from the College all students must live more than 2 miles from College, and meet the household income criteria.

The College will support qualifying students where public transport is available by preferably providing a Stagecoach bus pass or by refunding train tickets.

Where students do not qualify for help from Furness College, we are able to offer substantially discounted travel passes with Stagecoach. Students at the College can use their Stagecoach bus passes at any time of day, including weekends during term time.

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

Low-income families are advised to apply directly to the transport team at Cumbria County Council together with proof of receipt of eligible benefits. If not in receipt of eligible benefits students/parents are offered a Furness College Learner Support Fund application and are advised to submit it as soon as possible.

All applications are means tested. Prospective students are provided with the information when they are interviewed at the College from January onwards or advised to follow the link [College financial support \(bursary\) | Furness College, Cumbria](#).

They are asked to submit applications as early as possible.

In exceptional circumstances where students meet the criteria, but there is no public transport, it may be possible to claim a mileage allowance.

If a student does not strictly meet the funding criteria and there are extenuating circumstances, then the College will assess the application on an individual basis.

Kendal College, Kendal

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Please contact the college for details.

Keswick School, Keswick

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

For students who reside within the catchment area the school facilitates applications for the Post-16 spare seat scheme in conjunction with the Council's Integrated Home to School Transport Team. This allows students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times on contracted vehicles provided there are spaces available.

Students will be asked on application to the Sixth Form (in February of each academic year) if they would like the school to bid on their behalf for a place on the scheme. Students are made aware that a guarantee of a seat cannot be made: the cost and number of seats available is determined by the Council and that any seat may be revoked mid-year if it is needed by a learner who aged 11-16.

We would encourage Post-16 students from low-income families to apply for free discretionary transport through the Council's Support Fund if they fulfil the eligibility criteria. We also operate a Sixth Form Discretionary Bursary Scheme for students who are not eligible for free transport through the Council. Any student who applies to the Bursary Scheme will have their application considered by the bursary panel against a set of criteria outlined within the policy, which can then be used to pay for or subsidise travel to and from school.

Keswick School does not have the capacity to make additional provision for catchment transport to or from school outside of that offered by the Council through their spare seat scheme. Therefore for students for whom spare seats are not available through the Local Authority, the school will endeavour to advise families on alternative means of transport that may operate within their area. Any queries about cost, routes or seats awarded should be directed to the Council.

Kirkbie Kendal School, Kendal

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

To help enable Post 16 students to access their choice of education and training, Kirkbie Kendal School works with the Westmorland and Furness Integrated Home to School Transport Team, to provide access to a range of transport options:

- Low income or learning difficulty/disability – W&F Council
- Spare Seat Scheme – W&F Council
- 16-19 Travel Bursary Fund – W&F Council
- 16-19 Kirkbie Kendal Bursary Fund - KKS

We encourage Post-16 students from low-income families or for students with a learning difficulty/disability to apply for free discretionary transport. **Free** transport for Post 16 students is only available if students are Qualifying Post 16 Students from 'low income' families or are Qualifying Post 16 students who have a learning difficulty and/or disability. The criteria and application form is available from the Westmorland & Furness website <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-transport/check-if-your-child-eligible-free-school-transport>

The Spare Seat Scheme allows students to travel to and from school at standard times on contracted vehicles, if spaces are available. The cost for 2025/26 is determined by Westmorland & Furness Council. For further information and an application form contact the school transport team by emailing school.transport@cumbria.gov.uk or calling or accessing the Westmorland & Furness Website <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/spareseatscheme>

Places are not guaranteed and are offered on a first come, first served basis. Availability of spare seats will not be known until after the start of the academic year. This is likely to be as late as October half term. **Until you are advised by Westmorland & Furness Council that a seat is available, you must make appropriate arrangements to get your child to school.**

If Post 16 transport is not available, Parents can apply for financial support to help students with the cost of transport through <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-transport/post-16-transport-and-16-19-bursary-scheme> from Westmorland and Furness Council to enable students to remain in education and training.

Kirkbie Kendal School may be able to offer financial assistance for eligible students from the **Kirkbie Kendal 16-19 Bursary Fund**. Applications should be made by contacting Mrs S Timms, Head of Sixth Form by emailing stimms@kksa.co.uk.

Assistance may also be available for Post 16 Train Travel on the Windermere to Kendal line, applications are to be made at Windermere Train Station.

Kirkbie Kendal School Telephone Number: **01539 727422** or email info@kksa.co.uk

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, Kirkby Stephen

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Please contact the school for details.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith operates a Post 16 spare seat scheme in conjunction with Westmorland and Furness Council to make school transport available to sixth form students who live within the catchment area. This allows students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times on contracted vehicles.

For the academic year 2025/2026 the school is continuing with the pilot approach with WAF Council and UCC. This means that sixth form students can apply to buy a bus pass for spare seats on school buses where available.

The cost of the spare seat passes is determined by Westmorland and Furness Council.

To obtain a bus pass parents/carers must submit a Post 16 Spare Seat application directly to the Council, this form is available on the Council and School website. This will then allow the Council to offer seats where available on a first come first serve basis and the Council will invoice parent/carers directly for payment allocated in date order of receipt of application forms.

As soon as the Council has received payment, they will issue a travel pass directly to the home address. Parents are responsible for contacting the Council's integrated Home to School Transport Team to advise if a seat is no longer required so that the space can be offered to someone else on the waiting list.

Most bus passes are available to students before the start of term in September, but this is not always the case.

It is always advised to have a plan B for transport for the first week of term. For families on low incomes the school encourages applications via the Westmorland & Furness Council's low-income application process. If families are outside of these criteria but still require financial assistance then students may apply to the school's 16-19 Bursary Fund, detail of this are available on the school website: <https://qegspenrith.education/sixth-form/>

Queen Elizabeth School, Kirkby Lonsdale

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Queen Elizabeth School operates a Post-16 Spare Seat Scheme in conjunction with Westmorland & Furness Council's Integrated Home to School Transport Team. Applications are sent via the school to the Local Authority. The cost of the seats are determined by Westmorland & Furness Council and are offered on a first come, first served basis and only if seats are available.

We would encourage students from low income families to apply for free discretionary transport through Westmorland & Furness Council's Student Support Fund. Financial assistance is also available through our Sixth Form Bursary Fund. Please contact the school for further information **015242 71275**.

QESudio School, Kirkby Lonsdale

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

QESudio School operates a Post-16 Spare Seat Scheme in conjunction with Westmorland & Furness Council's Integrated Home to School Transport Team. Applications are sent via the school to the Local Authority. The cost of the seats are determined by Westmorland & Furness Council and are offered on a first come, first served basis and only if seats are available.

We would encourage students from low income families to apply for free discretionary transport through Westmorland & Furness Council's Student Support Fund. Financial assistance is also available through our Sixth Form Bursary Fund. Please contact the school for further information **015242 71275**.

The Lakes School, Troutbeck Bridge

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

The following provisions are in place for post-16 students attending The Lakes School:

Transport Assistance for Post-16 Students:

Low-Income Families: Students from low-income families are encouraged to apply for free discretionary transport through the Council's Student Support Fund, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. [Post 16 Transport and the 16-19 Bursary Scheme | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

Spare Seat Scheme: The Lakes School collaborates with the Council's Transport Services Team to offer a Spare Seat Scheme. This allows students to travel on contracted vehicles during standard morning and afternoon times, subject to seat availability. Applications for this scheme are coordinated through the school, with costs determined by the Council. Westmorland and Furness Council [If your child is not eligible for home to school transport \(Spare Seats Scheme\) | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

A2B NowCard: An alternative support option is the A2B NowCard, a reduced-fare bus travel card for individuals aged 5 to 20 residing in Westmorland and Furness. This card currently provides bus travel within the region at £1.80 for a single journey and £3 for a return trip. Westmorland and Furness Council

Application Process: Students seeking transport assistance are advised to contact The Lakes School directly for detailed information and application procedures. www.thelakeschool.com **015394 40810**

Note: Policies and provisions are subject to change. For the most current information regarding the 2025/26 academic year, please contact The Lakes School or visit the Westmorland and Furness Council's official website. [Apply for school transport | Westmorland and Furness Council](#)

The Queen Katherine School, Kendal

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Please contact the school for details.

Samuel Kings School, Alston

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Please contact the school for details.

Ullswater Community College, Penrith

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

UCC aims to support students wherever possible when accessing our sixth form.

Families of students intending to study in the Sixth Form are requested to note this when completing the initial Sixth Form Application form via our website. It gives a rough idea of numbers, but all formal communication will be between families and Westmorland & Furness Council directly.

Free school transport is only provided until a student completes Year 11, but for students who reside within the catchment area, the Westmorland & Furness Council Transport Services Team operate a Post 16 Spare Seat Scheme.

This means Sixth Form students can buy bus passes for the spare seats (where they are available) on school transport. This allows students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times on contracted vehicles.

Application forms for this scheme are available directly from the school.

This link [Apply for school transport | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) takes you to the Council's 16-19 bursary scheme for financial assistance with the cost of buying a spare seat, as well as their policy statement (which we advise you read.)

The council reviews the price of spare seats every year, you will be notified of this as soon as it is decided.

UCC operates its own 16-19 Transport Bursary Fund, the rationale for this is to support any student who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend our Sixth Form.

This bursary is independent of the Westmorland & Furness bursary, and can be applied for here : [UCC Bursary & Transport - Ullswater Community College](#)

Ulverston Victoria High School, Ulverston

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

For students who reside within the catchment area the school operates a Post 16 spare seat scheme in conjunction with the Westmorland & Furness Council's Home to School Transport Team. This allows students to travel in the morning and afternoon at the standard times on contracted vehicles. All applications are sent via the school to the Local Authority and the cost is determined by Westmorland & Furness Council. For students where spare seats are not available through the Local Authority, the school will work with parents to help facilitate transport. We would encourage Post-16 students from lower income households to apply for the Council's 16 to 19 Education Travel Bursary Fund. Financial assistance is also available for eligible students from the in school 16-19 Bursary Fund.

William Howard School, Brampton

The information below relates to 2025/26 academic year. This consultation seeks an update for the 2027/28 academic year.

Post - 16 Out of Catchment - We currently operate four bus routes running from Carlisle with pick up points at various locations for students living outside the William Howard School catchment area. All applications made are ranked in order of receipt and allocated accordingly. This service allows students to travel to and from school at standard times on contracted vehicles, if spaces are available, and once a bus pass has been received. Places are not guaranteed, but William Howard School give our assurance that we will do our best to accommodate all requests where it is possible to do so.

More details and further updates for William Howard home to school transport can be found on the school's website **Transport - William Howard School**

Again, students from low-income families can apply to the 16-19 bursary fund administered by the school for financial assistance and details can be found on the school website **16-19 Bursary - William Howard School**

Any travel queries for students with an EHCP should be directed to our SENCO on **016977 45700** or mail@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk

Residential Colleges

For those attending residential colleges out of Westmorland and Furness, transport will be on the same basis for those attending residential school. Transport to and from the college will be provided at the beginning and end of each designated term/half term. Transport will, where possible and compatible with the needs of the young person and the encouragement of appropriate independence, utilise public transport facilities. Transport will be provided up until the end of the course the student started prior to his/her 19th birthday.

Refunds

Westmorland & Furness Council does not offer an applicable refund policy. Post 16 transport is payable termly, and if a travel pass is returned part-way through a term, no refund will be made.

Independent Travel training

Westmorland & Furness Council has introduced a new Independent Travel Training Offer from June 2025. This scheme encourages learners, initially prioritised at those aged 16 plus to travel independently on public transport where applicable to enable them to develop the skills for successful transition into adulthood. Further information is available by visiting www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/family-help/send-local-offer/send-home-school-transport/independent-travel-training

Apprenticeships

Please refer to information regarding Westmorland and Furness Council 16-19 Travel Bursary for available support for apprenticeships.

LA support in other circumstances

Exceptional circumstances will only be considered for 'low income' students who qualify for assistance through the Student Support Fund.

The Council does not help with learners who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance from the student's home address.

Other Circumstances

In the absence of any other options, it is the learner's responsibility to arrange suitable transport to their place of education.

Home to School Transport Appeals Process

There are limited grounds on which you can challenge the Council's decision in respect of school transport. Those grounds are:

- The transport arrangements offered.
- The pupil's/student's eligibility.
- The distance measurement in relation to statutory walking distances.
- The safety of the route.

All other concerns or complaints should be registered via the Council's Corporate Complaints Procedure, please see link below:

The Council's Home to School Transport Appeals Process consists of 2 stages, as detailed below.

Stage 1 – Review by a Senior Manager

You have 20 working days from receipt of the Council's home to school transport decision to make a written request asking for a review of the decision. The written request should detail why you believe the decision should be reviewed and give details of any personal and/or family circumstances you believe should be considered when the decision is reviewed. Please make sure your request for a review relates to one of the grounds of appeal listed above.

Please submit your appeal by completing the form on page 31 of this document and post to the following address:

Integrated Home to School Transport Stage 1 Appeal, Children's Services,
Westmorland & Furness Council, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4DQ

Within 20 working days of receipt of your written request a Senior Manager will review the Council's original decision and provide you with a detailed, written notification of the outcome of your review setting out:

- The nature of the decision reached.
- How the review was conducted.
- Information about other departments and/or agencies that were consulted as part of the process.
- What factors were considered.
- The rationale for the decision reached.
- Information about how you can escalate your case to stage 2.

Stage 2 – Review by an Independent Appeal Panel

You have 20 working days from receipt of the Council's stage 1 written decision to make a written request to escalate the matter to stage 2. The two grounds on which the Independent Appeal Panel can allow an appeal are as follows:

- That the Council has not applied its Home to School Transport Policy.
- That there are compelling grounds to justify making an exception to the terms of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

Please submit your appeal by completing the form on page 19 of this document and post to the following address:

Home to School Transport Stage 2 Appeal, PA to Assistant Director – Quality, Resources and Transformation, Westmorland & Furness Council, Integrated Home to School Transport, Children's Services, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4DQ

Stage 2 Procedure

Within 40 working days of receipt of your request, an Independent Appeal Panel ('the Panel') will convene to consider your appeal. You are entitled to attend your appeal hearing and to make representations. You may be accompanied by a maximum of 2 individuals to provide you with support and/or assistance.

You will be given at least 20 working days' notice of the appeal hearing.

At this stage you will be asked to confirm if you are able to attend and who will be attending. If you fail to attend the appeal hearing without prior notification the Panel clerk will endeavour to contact you to establish the reasons for this. Unless there are mitigating circumstances the Panel will proceed in your absence and will consider your representations based on your written submission. Any additional representations must be submitted to the Council 10 working days prior to the appeal hearing unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The Panel will consider any documentation submitted by the above stated deadline, along with any papers submitted with your application and/or with your stage 1 review. They will also carefully consider any representations made at the appeal hearing.

An officer from the Integrated Home to School Transport Team will attend the Panel to present the case on behalf of Council ('the Council's Representative').

The appeal hearing operates in accordance with 'natural justice'. This means that every effort will be made to ensure the appeal hearing is fair, impartial, and as far as possible, informal and accessible. Hearings are not to be recorded except where this may help a parent/carer with a stated disability. Permission must be sought prior to the appeal hearing if a recording is needed.

The Panel will consist of the following representatives from the Council who will all be independent of the original decision making process:

- The Chair, a Council officer.
- Two other panel members will be officers from other service areas within the Council.

There will be a clerk at the Panel who will take a formal note of the discussion, but not take part in the decision making. The usual format of the Panel will be as follows:

- The Chair will welcome you and introduce everyone present.
- The Chair will explain how the proceedings will be conducted.
- The Council's Representative will explain the Council's decision.
- You will be given the opportunity to question the Council's Representative as will the Panel. You will be given the opportunity to present your appeal. We recommend you prepare a summary of your case to assist you with this.
- The Panel and the Council's Representative will be allowed to ask you questions.
- The Chair will ask you if you have raised all the issues you wanted to and give you the opportunity to sum up your case. It is important that you have told the Panel everything at this point, as there will be no further opportunity to introduce additional information at the summing up stage.

- The Chair will explain the decision making process as stated below.

Stage 2 Decision

In making their decision the Panel will consider the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, any timely information/documentation provided by you and/ or the Council's Representative, along with any verbal representations you and the Council's Representative make at the appeal hearing.

The Panel will reach their decision and will provide you with a detailed, written notification of the outcome, within 5 working days, setting out:

- The nature of the decision reached.
- How the review was conducted.
- Information about other departments and/or agencies that were consulted as part of the process.
- What factors were considered.
- The rationale for the decision reached.
- Information about your right to put the matter to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

Referral to Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

The decision of the Panel is final. When you receive the decision letter, if you consider that there has been a failure to comply with the procedural rules, or if you feel there are any other irregularities in the way your appeal was handled, you may have a right to refer the matter to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for further investigation, please see link below. Please note that this is not a further right of appeal.

lgo.org.uk

Alternatively, you may be able to seek a Judicial Review of the decision. However, this is a complex process and it is advisable to seek legal advice prior to pursuing this route.

Further Appeals

Please be aware that a further appeal will not be agreed unless there has been a significant and/ or exceptional change to your circumstances, and this change directly affects your application for transport.

Stage 1 Appeal Form – Review by a Senior Manager

Parent/carer name(s):

Parent/carer postal address(s):

Parent/carer telephone number(s):

Parent/carer e-mail address(s):

Accessibility or other requirements which we need to be aware of to assist with processing your appeal:

Pupil's/student's name:

Pupil's/student's date of birth:

Pupil's/student's place of education:

Please select the main ground which your appeal is based on from the list below:

- The transport arrangements offered.
- Pupil's/student's eligibility.
- The distance measurement in relation to statutory walking distances.
- The safety of the route.

Please outline the reasons for your appeal and attach documentation to support your case, where applicable.

When complete post to the following address:

Home to School Transport Stage 1 Appeal, Children's Services, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4DQ

Stage 2 Appeal Form – Review by an Independent Appeal Panel

Parent/carer name(s):

Parent/carer postal address(s):

Parent/carer telephone number(s):

Parent/carer e-mail address(s):

Accessibility or other requirements which we need to be aware of to assist with processing your appeal:

Pupil's/student's name:

Pupil's/student's date of birth:

Pupil's/student's place of education:

Please select the main ground which your appeal is based on from the list below:

- That the Council has not applied its Home to School Transport Policy.
- That there are compelling grounds to justify making an exception to the terms of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

Please outline the reasons for your appeal and attach documentation to support your case, where applicable.

When complete post to the following address:
Home to School Transport Stage 2 Appeal, PA to Assistant Director – Quality, Resources and Transformation, Westmorland & Furness Council, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4DQ



Translation Services

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone: **0300 373 3300**.

للوصول إلى هذه المعلومات بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال **0300 373 3300**

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার মাতৃভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে **0300 373 3300** নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，
请致电 **0300 373 3300**

Jeigu norétuméte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,
skambinkite telefonu **0300 373 3300**

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę
zatelefonować pod numer **0300 373 3300**

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua,
telefone para o **0300 373 3300**

Bu bilgiyi kendü dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen
0300 373 3300 numaralı telefonu arayınız

