

Transport for Students aged 16-19 in Continuing Education

Academic Year 2019/2020



Oldham
Council

BACKGROUND

1. This policy has been developed in response to responsibilities placed on the LA under the consolidated version of the Education Act 1996, Learning and Skills Act 2000, Education Act 2002, Education and Inspections Act 2006 and Education Skills Act 2008, in respect of transport arrangements for 16-19 year olds in continuing education.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE OF THE POLICY

2. The policy relates to provision planned for the academic year 2019/20, i.e. from 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020.
3. The policy is in two parts: the main body provides background and context; the support available to students, which is provided through the partners, is described in detail in Annex A.
4. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the detail contained in Annex A, the Council reserves the right to modify the detailed arrangements over the life of this policy.
5. In line with the legislation, this policy is primarily aimed at **full-time students aged 16-19 inclusive**, with support continuing to the end of the course, where the course started before the student had reached the age of 19. In this context, a full-time education means a programme of education provided by a recognised provider such that the young person's timetable taken across all courses would require him or her to be in a class, or other taught or guided study session, (including practical work), for at least twelve hours per week. A learning programme means full time education (as defined above), or; a YPLA or SFA funded Foundation Learning programme.
6. However, subject to the terms and conditions used by the partners, some of the benefits set out in the Annex are also available to part-time students and to students aged 19+. Students should refer to Annex A for more detailed information.
7. Financial support through the Learner Support Fund for school sixth forms, and transport funded through the Council's People Communities and Society Department are exclusively for **Oldham residents**. All other benefits set out in the Annex A are available to **all students studying at schools and colleges in Oldham**, subject to the terms and conditions of each scheme (e.g. UK residence and means-testing arrangements).

CURRENT TRANSPORT PROVISION

8. Oldham Sixth Form College and The Oldham College are situated in the western sector of Oldham town centre. The main bus station is only five minutes' walk away and the Metrolink route through Oldham town centre includes stops at King Street and Union Street, providing excellent public transport access to the colleges.

9. A significant amount of investment has recently gone into Oldham town centre to improve sustainable transport accessibility, particularly around the colleges. This includes two key infrastructure schemes.
10. The Campus Oldham Highway Improvement Project is intended to create improved cycle infrastructure leading to Oldham town centre retail, amenities and educational facilities, whilst also enhancing the overall appearance of the area. The project involves the construction of widened footways, kerb line realignment, minor drainage works and the installation and upgrade of signalised crossing points along the King Street corridor.
11. The Union Street West Footbridge Enhancement Project is intended to improve pedestrian and cycle infrastructure leading to Oldham town centre retail, amenities and educational facilities, whilst also enhancing the overall appearance of the area. The scheme will improve the overall appearance of the footbridge which has been temporarily boarded for some time due to broken and missing glass panels. The approved scheme will enable the boarding to be removed and provide pedestrians and cyclists with a modern, well lit, more open structure providing a 'gateway' to the town centre.
12. All Oldham secondary schools and colleges are well served by local buses, including dedicated services to schools. All key bus routes in Oldham stop at Oldham bus station and services are mainly provided by First Manchester, with some local services provided by Stagecoach, Manchester Community Transport and Stotts.
13. Oldham is currently served by 2 rail routes, from which colleges and schools in Oldham and the adjacent areas can be reached:
 - A. Manchester Victoria to Rochdale, via Moston, Mills Hill and Castleton.
 - B. Manchester to Huddersfield / Wakefield, via Ashton Under Lyne and calling at Greenfield.
14. The Oldham - Rochdale Metrolink line runs from Rochdale through to central Manchester and includes stops in Oldham Town Centre at Oldham Mumps, King Street and Union Street (Oldham Central), which provide direct access to the town centre colleges. There is now an additional Metrolink line operating from Shaw and Crompton to central Manchester, which provides a 6 minute service throughout Oldham.
15. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) offers a range of concessionary fare schemes throughout Greater Manchester, making it possible for students to travel across local authority boundaries to access colleges in neighbouring local authority areas. These include special schemes for students, young people and people with disabilities. A range of tickets allows mixed modes of transport, using bus, rail and the Metrolink tram system. This is particularly beneficial to students now the Metrolink is running to Oldham. In addition individual transport operators offer their own schemes: in Oldham the primary bus operator is the First Group.
16. The LA funds the second and subsequent fare(s) for eligible students who are required to undertake more than one bus journey to the nearest suitable school or college.
17. Young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, who have an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of special educational needs and who previously

qualified for travel assistance, may continue to receive support with travel from the LA between the ages of 16-19. The type of support is determined by the LA and, wherever possible, students are encouraged and supported to become independent travellers. For details of support at 19+, please see the Annex to this policy, question 5.

18. Support for travel is also available through the Learner Support Funds in school sixth forms and colleges.
19. Full details of concessionary fares schemes and support to students are included in the Annex.

GAPS IN PROVISION

20. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Authority has a duty to promote sustainable travel to schools to pupils of all ages, including the 16-19 age group. Investment in sustainable transport infrastructure around the colleges has been possible through funding from different grants including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Cycle City Ambition Grant. Improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities are being installed as part of the Campus Oldham scheme.
21. The Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College are also both participating in Transport for Greater Manchester's Cycle City Ambition Grant Partner Schools and Colleges Programme following successful bids. This will provide up to £80,000 per site towards interventions to increase the number of staff and students cycling. Only ten schools/colleges across Greater Manchester have been awarded funding.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN 2019/20

22. The Annex summarises the range of transport assistance that will be available to students for the 2018/19 academic year.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

23. The policy and annex will be monitored throughout the 2019/20 academic year will be updated and amended in line with any changes in provision of legislation.