

Home to School Transport

Some helpful information for home to school transport

Central
Bedfordshire

Who is eligible for School Transport?

Your children may be able to get travel assistance to school depending on how far the walk is and any special needs they have.

All children who are in reception year (term after the 5th birthday) to the end of year 11 qualify for travel assistance if they go to their nearest suitable or Local Authority catchment school and live at least:

- ✓ 2 miles from the school if they are under 8
- ✓ 3 miles from the school if they are 8 or older. The statutory walking distances are measured by the shortest available walking route
- ✓ live in an area where there are no viable walking routes



Children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)

For new school starters in September and any existing pupils who have changed school or moved house, you may apply for transport as soon as your placement and EHCP have been finalised. The deadline for transport applications is 31 March for secondary-age pupils and 19 May for primary-age pupils.

For pupils who receive their placement late in the year, please make an application as soon as you receive confirmation of your placement, including your SEND officer's name within one of the free text boxes on your application.

If you would like to apply for transport for your child, please do so as soon as possible before the deadline. It may not be possible to process applications received after the deadline before the start of the autumn term.

If your child has had transport during the current academic year and hasn't changed school or house, you don't need to re-apply. If for any reason we do need you to re-apply, we will notify you. If your child has reached the age of 16 by September, please contact the team, who will advise if an application is required under the P16 policy terms.

Deadline Dates for Transport Applications

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Upper(Yr9) & Secondary Schools(Yr7): **31 March**

Lower, Middle(Yr5) & Primary Schools: **19 May**

SEND applications can be made as soon as your placement and EHCP has been finalised.

Post 16 Applications: **15 July**

Please be aware applications received after this date may not be processed to start until October half term



Post 16 School Transport

The post 16 policy has changed.

Details can be found online, and a full policy will be released in May 2025.

If a young person is aged between 16 and 18 and in further education or training, we may be able to help with transport. Transport is provided to young people who attend the nearest establishment which offers the chosen course or training. If a young person chooses to attend another school or college that is not the nearest establishment offering the course or training, they would not qualify for Post 16 transport.

A young person may be entitled to free travel assistance if he or she has certain medical needs, an EHCP and someone in the household is in receipt of one of the qualifying income-related benefits. A list of benefits can be found on our website 'Apply for transport for low income families'

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools_and_education/530/apply_for_school_transport/3

How much it costs

£434.00 per term or £1300.00 for the academic year. This equates to approximately £6.60 a day

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Changes to the P16 Policy

- ❑ Council agreed to implement a voluntary Independent Travel Training scheme for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), helping them become more independent and confident using public transport.
- ❑ Further changes will affect students over 16-years-old, including an amendment which now means they *may* be provided with seats on home to school transport but only where there is a surplus, although this is not guaranteed.
- ❑ Low-income families will be asked to apply for a discretionary bursary which can be used to contribute to the cost of their transport. Where this doesn't cover the full cost, the Council will make up the difference so low-income families will still get transport for free.
- ❑ Additionally, students with SEND attending college will be provided transport at the start and end of the college day, regardless of lesson times.

Useful Links

- Apply for transport and policies
[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools and education/530/apply for school transport](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools_and_education/530/apply_for_school_transport)
- Post 16 information -
[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools and education/530/apply for school transport/6](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/3/schools_and_education/530/apply_for_school_transport/6)
- Bad Weather – This page is updated in real time when bad weather occurs.
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school-transport-disruption
- Code of Conduct - www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Code-of-conduct

Contact us...

By telephone: **0300 300 8339**

Contact forms:

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/344>

You will be required to sign up as a registered user and then can submit all enquiries via our web contact form.

Write to: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

