
POST-16 TRANSPORT POLICY STATEMENT



Council of the
ISLES OF SCILLY

March 2025

Post- 16 Transport policy statement required under the provisions of the Education Act 1996

REVISIONS TO SOURCE DOCUMENT

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Date	Type of Assessment Conducted	Stage/Level completed (where applicable)	Summary of Actions Taken Decisions Made	Completed by.	Impact Assessment Review date
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DOCUMENT RETENTION

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CONTENTS

<u>REVISIONS TO SOURCE DOCUMENT</u>	2
<u>VERSION HISTORY</u>	2
<u>EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT RECORD</u>	2
<u>DOCUMENT RETENTION</u>	2
<u>CONTENTS</u>	3
<u>1. INTRODUCTION</u>	4
<u>2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY</u>	4
<u>3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY</u>	5
<u>4. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION GRANT</u>	5
<u>4.1 APPRENTICESHIPS</u>	6
<u>4.2 THOSE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)</u>	6
<u>5. THE 16-19 BURSARY FUND</u>	6
<u>5.1 TRURO AND PENWITH COLLEGE BURSARY FUND</u>	6
<u>5.2 CORNWALL COLLEGES BURSARY FUND</u>	6
<u>5.3 OTHER LEARNER SUPPORT</u>	6
<u>6. ARRANGING TRAVEL</u>	7
<u>6.1 TRAVEL ON THE MAINLAND</u>	7
<u>7. SUPPORT IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES</u>	7
<u>8. COMPLAINTS</u>	7
<u>9. POLICY REVIEW</u>	7
<u>ANNEX 1: CONTINGENCY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS</u>	8
<u>ANNEX 2: DETAILS OF CONCESSIONARY FARES, DISCOUNTS, SUBSIDIES, AVAILABLE FOR POST 16 YOUNG PEOPLE</u>	9

If you require this document in an alternative language, in larger text, Braille, easy read or in an audio format, please contact the Council at diversity@scilly.gov.uk or telephone 01720 424000

1. INTRODUCTION

We are ambitious about the future for young people on the Isles of Scilly. We want them to have experiences that lead to great preparation for adult life that enables them to be the best they can be. The Council has duties to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate in education or training.

The Council duties in relation to transport to school or college depend upon the young person being supported.

The Council does not have a duty to provide free or subsidised transport for those of sixth form age¹. The Council does have a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying the arrangements for the provision of transport or other support that the Council considers it necessary to make, to facilitate the attendance of all persons of sixth form age receiving education or training.

The Council does have a duty to provide free transport for certain adult learners²(where the Council considers it necessary to provide transport), and it has the discretion to pay some or all of the reasonable costs of transport for other adult learners. The Council has a duty to prepare and publish an annual transport policy statement specifying any transport or other arrangements and any payment of travelling expenses made or to be made to adult learners who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The Council has considered and had regard to the relevant legislation including sections 509AA – AC and Sections 508F-H of the Education Act 1996 and [the Statutory Guidance issued by Government on Post-16 Transport and Travel Support to Education and Training](#) when preparing this transport policy statement.

The legislation and guidance recognises that a local response to travel arrangements is important in enabling participation in education and training. This allows for local circumstances to be taken into consideration, and therefore the discretion to determine what transport and financial support are necessary to facilitate young people's attendance. This is important on the Isles of Scilly where there is currently no on island option for post-16 education or training, and therefore most young people live on the mainland in term time to attend school or college.

2. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy exists as the annual transport policy statement that is required, explaining the help that is available to support young people of sixth form age and adult learners with EHCPs.

This policy statement applies to young people who are resident³ on the Isles of Scilly ensuring they are able to continue in further education or training and are able to access information to help them to do so. It explains the financial support available in respect of reasonable expenses for travel and accommodation that the Council of the Isles of Scilly considers it necessary to make. It also provides information about local transport provision on island and in Cornwall to help young people and their families make their travel arrangements.

¹ Sixth form age means they are over compulsory school age and aged 16 to 18 or 19+ if the student began the course before their 19th birthday. This includes individuals with learning difficulties or disabilities.

² Student over sixth form age. This includes individuals with learning difficulties or disabilities.

³ Meaning habitually and normally resident and where the student has shared residence. Travel assistance will only be provided from one address to be agreed between the parents and where no agreement can be reached it will be deemed to be the home address of the parent who receives Child Benefit for the student (where applicable).

3. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy specifies the support that the Council of the Isles of Scilly considers necessary to facilitate the attendance of those of sixth form age and adult learners receiving education or training at:

- a school;
- a further education institution;
- a local authority maintained or assisted institution providing higher or further education;
- a 16 to 19 Academy; or
- at any establishment (not falling within the above categories) at which the authority secures the provision of education or training under section 15ZA of the Education Act 1996

It also sets out useful information on travel and other support to assist the young person and their family to make decisions about post-16 education or training.

4. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION GRANT

The Council received a grant of £6,365.00 for 2024/ 25 academic year from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). This grant alongside the Council provision of £1,635.00, provides a total of £8,000, to facilitate participation in education or training for those of sixth form age and adult learners. The ESFA grant will increase to £8000 for academic year 2025/ 26 with the Council contribution £1635.00, means a total of £9, 635.00 for 2025/ 26 academic year will be available.

The ESFA provide the grant due to the unique local circumstances where on the Isles of Scilly young people have to travel outside of the Council's area to the mainland to attend post-16 education or training. The grant can be claimed to be used flexibly towards travel and accommodation for the young person participating in education or training. Claims are issued to parents or carers in three instalments. Applications are made via post16@scilly.gov.uk using the post-16 travel and accommodation application form with receipt or invoices as proof of payment.

Whilst the choice of education, training provision and accommodation remains entirely one of parental choice in accordance with their child's needs. The Council is keen to develop an approach that promotes young people from the Isles of Scilly being as local as possible and is the reason why accessing post-16 education and training in Cornwall makes most sense. The Council expects that the most cost-effective travel should be accessed, making use of appropriate travel discounts. For many families the traditional solution to finding accommodation on the mainland whilst their children complete their studies, has been a host family. Host family accommodation remains an option of choice for many families on the Isles of Scilly. However, this accommodation option is one of several options available for parents and students. Further information about accommodation can be found in the post 16 information booklet here [link to be added].

Most young people with learning difficulties or disabilities are able to travel independently to college or other training provisions, apprenticeships and traineeships with personalised preparation. Young people with an EHCP will have an institution named in their plan at Section I. There is no entitlement to transport to and from this named provider and assistance will be provided in accordance with this policy.

However, we want to enable all young people with learning difficulties or disabilities to feel confident about participating in education or training on the mainland and understand that this can seem a daunting prospect. Many of whom have multiple skills and are able to hold down sessional employment. We are keen for them to have the same opportunities as all children. Children with SEND and those subject to an EHCP will have transport support in accordance with their assessed needs. The Council wants to take an inclusive approach where children's needs are assessed in accordance with their ability to live independently. Therefore, the Council will give consideration in relation to the young person's assessed needs, including those set out in any

EHCP when determining what travel arrangements, it deems necessary to make. This could include personalised travel training for students with high needs.

4.1 APPRENTICESHIPS

Whilst there are separate funding regulations in relation to apprenticeships that means young people on apprenticeships are not eligible for the specific ESFA grant they will be able to access the additional funding of £1,635.00 provided by the Council.

4.2 THOSE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

There are no specific transport arrangements made by the Council for young people of 6th form age who are not in education, employment or training. However, personalized support for any student NEET is provided by Children's Services.

5. THE 16-19 BURSARY FUND

Young people aged 16-19 may be eligible for a bursary fund to help with education related costs. There are two types of 16 to 19 bursary funding:

- a bursary for students in vulnerable groups- of up to £1,200 a year depending on your circumstances and benefits.
- a discretionary bursary- for young people who do not qualify for a vulnerable student bursary and may require financial assistance. Schools and colleges have their own criteria for discretionary bursaries and will make awards to meet individual needs, for example, help with the cost of transport, meals, books and equipment.

School and colleges are responsible for managing both types of bursaries. Young people who want to apply for support from the bursary fund should contact their school or college to make an application. Check application arrangements directly with the relevant education provider.

More details can be found at the following website:

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

5.1 TRURO AND PENWITH COLLEGE BURSARY FUND

Details about financial support for students attending Truro and Penwith college can be found on the college website at:

<https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk/parent-carer-hub/financial-support/>

5.2 CORNWALL COLLEGES BURSARY FUND

Details about financial support for students attending Cornwall colleges can be found on the college website at:

<https://www.cornwall.ac.uk/financial-support/>

5.3 OTHER LEARNER SUPPORT

If a young person is aged 19 or over, is on a further education course and facing financial hardship, they could get Discretionary Learner Support (DLS). This is similar to the 16-19 Bursary Fund. The young person must apply directly to their learning provider for DLS. How much the young person receives will depend on their circumstances.

[Learner Support: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

Young Parents / Care to Learn

For young parents under the age of 20, Care to Learn can help pay for childcare and related travel costs of up to £160 per child per week. For more information, please visit:

[Care to Learn: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

Access to Work

Young people who have a disability or health condition (physical or mental) that makes it hard to get to and from work (including apprenticeships and traineeships) may also be eligible for support through Access to Work. Further information, please visit: www.gov.uk/access-to-work.

6. ARRANGING TRAVEL

Detail about travel to and from the Isles of Scilly to the mainland are available via Isles of Scilly Travel on the link below:

[Fly and Sail to the Isles of Scilly | Isles of Scilly Travel](#)

6.1 TRAVEL ON THE MAINLAND

Most young people make their own arrangements to get to their education provider from their accommodation on the mainland. National Rail offer a student rail card for discounts on train fares. A 16-25 Railcard costs £35, allowing savings of 1/3 on rail fares throughout Great Britain for a whole year, including all Standard and First-Class Advance fares. Details can be found on:

[16-25 Railcard | National Rail](#)

Further information regarding transport services for students in Cornwall can be accessed on the Cornwall County Council website: [Other Travel Schemes - Cornwall Council](#)

7. SUPPORT IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

The Council funds a further one-off contribution of up to £250 towards visits to mainland post-16 education and training provider open days to families with children in Year 10. This payment is reimbursed upon receipts/invoices being provided as proof of payment. These should be sent to post16@scilly.gov.uk.

Families are encouraged to access the discretionary 16-19 bursary fund (details above) for further financial assistance. However, if your individual circumstances mean you are facing financial hardship then the Council may offer assistance in exceptional circumstances, on the basis of a hardship means test. Please contact the post16@scilly.gov.uk about this.

8. COMPLAINTS

Any complaints in relation to the implementation of this policy should be made via email enquiries@scilly.gov.uk or in writing to:

Council of the Isles of Scilly
Town Hall
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
TR21 0LW

Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's complaints policy which can be found at:

[Complaints | Council of the ISLES OF SCILLY](#)

9. POLICY REVIEW

The policy has to published annually on or before 31st May each year.

ANNEX 1: CONTINGENCY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

In the event of disruption to travel arrangements for young people returning to the Isles of Scilly due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances, families should consider contingency plans. However, Children's Services want to properly allay the anxiety about the impact of travel disruptions and could be an enabler to reducing the stress incurred by the impact of this unpredictable situation. This could include, if the need arises, contacting colleges, host families or boarding schools to broker emergency support.*

There are various options available to families in these circumstances, that could include:

- Early departure from mainland for holiday breaks where known weather impact is likely.
- Stay with other family member or friend on mainland.
- Stay with host family on mainland.
- Family member or friend travels to mainland earlier to stay in accommodation with student where weather impact looks likely.
- Student stays in offsite accommodation on mainland where age permits this.
- Boarding schools on mainland fulfil their pastoral duties to ensure a young person isn't stranded and are able to provide accommodation until the weather improves.

*The Council is currently discussing with our nominated Further Education college providers in Cornwall, the possibility of developing hybrid learning opportunities to assist students where physical attendance at the college is not possible due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. This is to ensure consistency for young people in their learning during these periods.

ANNEX 2: DETAILS OF CONCESSIONARY FARES, DISCOUNTS, SUBSIDIES, AVAILABLE FOR POST 16 YOUNG PEOPLE

Concessionary fares are available to residents of the Isles of Scilly through the Travel Club membership offered by Isles of Scilly Travel or Residents Travel Club offered by Penzance Helicopters. Details can be found at:

[Isles of Scilly Travel Locals Offer | Isles of Scilly Travel](#)

[Isles of Scilly Residents Travel Club | Penzance Helicopters](#)

Students aged 16 to 22 years old who are Travel Club members can also redeem reduced single fares on board Scillonian III and Gry Maritha, making travel between the islands and the mainland more affordable. Details can be found at:

[Student Discount – Isles of Scilly Travel](#)