



South Tyneside Council

Local Authority Transport Partnership Policy Statement 2013/14

Transport policy statement for students aged 16-18 in further education and continuing students aged 19 and over

Name of Local Authority: South Tyneside Council

Department Responsible: Children Adults & Families

1. Summary of Policy Statement and Main Objectives (this section should give an overview/statement of intent of what the LA's transport policy is and what the subsequent desired outcomes are).

South Tyneside Council's Children & Young People's Plan is framed on the Government's 'Every Child Matters' objectives, one of which is 'Achieving economic well-being'. To support young people in this objective South Tyneside Council, in conjunction with the Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Executive, Nexus, provides affordable transport to allow students to travel within the Tyne & Wear area.

2. Please provide details of all concessionary fares, discounts, subsidies, passes or travel cards available for students aged 16–19 and who provides them. Please provide details of any costs to the student.

Students aged 16-19 at the start of the academic year (1 September) and living within the Tyne and Wear region are eligible for discounted travel tickets. Tickets are available from Nexus travel shops; the level of discount is 25%.

Typical prices as of May 2013 are £1.98 per day for a Networkone two zone four weekly pass.

Ticket information is available on the dedicated NEXUS student travel web site www.nexus.org.uk/college or network one travel tickets at www.networkonetickets.co.uk/student

This website also provides information on the cost of other tickets and concessionary fares which are also available to students. Through the links to other sites further information can also be obtained on the services and concessionary fare schemes available from other transport providers in the region.

The site also provides a Journey Planner, which gives information on timetables for buses, trains, and the Metro.

South Tyneside College's Learner Support Fund is available to help eligible students with ongoing travel costs.

Terms and conditions apply, household income must be below £20,817 and students must live one mile away from their chosen site of study. If they meet terms and conditions then they would be eligible for a Network One Travel pass from the college whilst they are studying with the college (subject to satisfactory attendance and behaviour).

More information is available at;

www.stc.ac.uk/content/school-leavers-6th-form/student-support

The two local major bus operators provide the following student travel tickets;

Stagecoach has the "VIP" ticket for students, which gives unlimited daily travel on the Stagecoach network for £1.11 per day for a weekly ticket. A Stagecoach ID is required, more details can be found at the following web page;

<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/southshields-vip.aspx>

The GoAhead Group has the "Get Around" ticket. This is available to those in full time education up to the age of 22. This includes a day ticket which for £2.20 gives you unlimited travel on all Go Ahead services (except night buses). A Get Around ID card is required to get these tickets, more details can be found at the following web page;

www.simplygo.com/get-around/

3. What times during the day can students use their travel pass or obtain concessionary fares?

Stagecoach, GoAhead and Nexus will provide information.

4. Please confirm that support will continue to be made available to students who reach 19 whilst continuing on a course.

For the 2012/13 academic year only the Nexus student ticket will be available until the end of the academic year in which the student reaches the age of 19. The GoAhead Group ticket scheme is up to age 22.

5. How will students be assessed to see if they are eligible for support? Eg, means testing or must they be on benefits?

For the Nexus student travel scheme students must be resident within the Tyne & Wear area. Stagecoach and GoAhead require their own ID cards

6. What help do you provide for students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including those over 19 or students facing other difficulties in following their courses?

Nexus provide free Concessionary Travel Passes for bus travel to disabled residents, including students, of Tyne & Wear. Passes are available from the Nexus Concessionary Travel Bureau on 0191 2020 747. Students wishing to use the Metro under this scheme will need to apply for a Metro Gold Card.

Students who receive the High Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance can also apply to become members of the Nexus Taxicard Scheme, membership is £10 per year. The card has £100.00 of credit every six months and can be used for taxi journeys at any time. If your taxi fare is £6 or less, you can use your TaxiCard to pay half the fare. If your taxi fare is over £6, use your TaxiCard to pay £3, and then you will pay the rest of the fare to the driver.

For more information on TaxiCard contact Nexus on 0191 2020 747 or visit www.nexus.org.uk/bus/guide-buses/taxicard

or email customerservices@nexus.org.uk

Students aged between 16-25 who have a significant learning difficulty or have a disability that significantly impairs their mobility and who attend full time courses at local colleges of further education, sixth forms or special schools may, in exceptional cases, be provided with transport assistance by the LA. To help provide this assistance the LA may seek financial support from its partners such as the FE provider or Social Services. This support will be for a maximum of three years for those at college.

A Full-Time Course of Study is 12 guided learning hours or more per week for a minimum period of one academic year. Support is not available for students on part-time, distance learning or day release courses.

Students attending specialist residential colleges with financial support through the Education Funding Agency may also qualify for transport assistance at the start and end of each term.

Any transport assistance provided will be to and from the normal place of residence and the education establishment only. To promote the efficient use of resources students receiving transport may be required to have a period of waiting time either before and/or after the course starts/finishes so student journeys can be combined. Transport will be subject to continual review and where appropriate students will be required to participate in independent travel training.

Application forms for transport assistance can be obtained from SEN Transport,

Children Adults & Families, South Tyneside Council, Town Hall, Westoe Road, South Shields, NE33 2RL. Phone 0191 427 2689. Completed applications will need to be accompanied with a copy of the Learning Assessment form 139a from Connexions/Services for Young People.

7. Do you provide mobility/independence training for students who face difficulty with transport?

Staff in school/college may identify programmes to develop and foster independence skills for students and, where appropriate, to encourage independent travel. South Tyneside Council will support structured skills programmes where possible by phasing out transport over a period of time.

For those students attending courses at college further information will be available by contacting the individual college.

South Tyneside Council will encourage schools & colleges to promote independent travel. In partnership with the other Tyne & Wear authorities an independent travel coordinator has been appointed to work with students and colleges, for more information please contact the SEN Transport Section 0191 427 2689.

8. When should students start to apply for transport support?

Students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should apply in June to the SEN Transport Section.

Students can only apply for the Nexus student travel scheme when they start or during their course.

Information about applying for College Learner Support Funds is available from the individual Colleges.

9. What help can students apply for if they need to travel to a course that is beyond your LA area?

If they live within the Tyne & Wear area the Teen Travel ticket is available. GoAhead & Stagecoach tickets are valid across the region in their own networks

10. What help is available for students who attend a further education institution which is beyond daily travelling distance and they need to stay away?

Students can apply to their college for assistance from the college's Learner Support Funds and the Residential Bursary scheme if appropriate.

Students with disabilities and/or learning difficulties attending specialist residential colleges with financial support through the Education Funding Agency for England may apply to the SEN Transport Unit, South Tyneside Council, for assistance. Transport may be provided to college at the start and end of each term and half term. For those students whose parents prefer to take them to college by car, reimbursement of the fuel costs may be made.

11. Please provide information about all points of contact for students

seeking transport support, eg LA/college, bus company contact.

South Tyneside Council
Education Learning & Skills
SEN Transport Section
Town Hall & Civic Offices
Westoe Road
SOUTH SHIELDS
NE33 2RL
Telephone 0191 427 2689

trevor.reynolds@southtyneside.gov.uk

NEXUS

Nexus House
33 St James' Boulevard
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NE1 4AX
Traveline 0870 6082608 www.nexus.org.uk
Lost bus passes 0191 2033211

Stagecoach

www.stagecoachbus.com/sunderland-vip.aspx

Go-Ahead

www.simplygo.com/children-and-young-people/

Colleges in Tyne and Wear

Gateshead College, Quarryfield Road, Baltic Business Quarter, Gateshead,
NE8 3BE
Telephone 0191 4900300 www.gateshead.ac.uk

Newcastle College, Rye Hill Campus, Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7SA
Telephone 0191 2004000 www.ncl-coll.ac.uk

South Tyneside College, St George's Avenue, South Shields. NE34 6ET
Telephone 0191 4273500 www.stc.ac.uk

City of Sunderland College, Bede Centre, Durham Road, Sunderland, SR3 4AH
Telephone 0191 5116000 www.citysun.ac.uk

Tyne Metropolitan College, Coast Road Campus, Embleton Avenue, Wallsend
NE28 9NJ
Telephone 0191 2295000 www.tynemet.ac.uk

12. Other Learners

Learners aged 16 –18 who are undertaking a Foundation Learning programme may have reasonable travel expenses met by the learning/training provider.

13. Complaints/Appeals

Should a learner wish to appeal against the decision of the Authority not to provide transport support please write to the Head of Education, Learning and Skills, South Tyneside Council, Town Hall, Westoe Rd, South Shields, NE33 2RL stating why you disagree with the decision, providing any additional information to support your appeal. The Authority will review its decision in the light of any new evidence provided within seven days, this will then be communicated to the learner.

Should a learner wish to make a complaint about the content of the policy the appeal process outlined above should be followed, in your letter please indicate the omissions you consider have been made and how this affects you. The Authority will consider the complaint within seven days and inform the learner of the outcome.

14. Consultation/Stakeholders

Members of the Tyne & Wear Transport Partnership, which includes local colleges, transport providers, have contributed to the content of this Policy.