

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

School/College Travel from September 2026 for All Students aged 16+

This information is for all parents of year 11 pupils to give them more information about travel options for September. I want to let you know where to find more information about travel for young people of sixth form age in West Sussex who will be attending a school or a college in September 2026.

The council's policy is that it is normally the responsibility of parents to meet the travel costs. There is more information on travel and discounts on the council's website at www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooltransport including the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement. A short summary of the travel schemes and funding that are available is:

Students travelling by rail

- Details of the 16-17 railcard are available at www.16-17saver.co.uk The card costs £30 and gives 50% off the cost of fares.
- Students travelling on the South Coastline may find the Unizone ticket better value. Information is available online from [Southern](#).

Students travelling by bus

Students should contact their local bus operator for details of student discounts. More information, links and how to plan your journey can be found on the Council's [school transport website](#).

- **16 to 20 Bus Saver**
Young people in West Sussex can now get cheaper bus fares until their 21st birthday, by purchasing a 16 to 20 Bus Saver fare or ticket. This will be the same price as the existing child rate from the relevant bus operator. Just ask the bus driver or purchase the fare in the operator apps. Before travelling, make sure to bring a valid proof of age as bus operators may ask for it.
For further information, please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/16to20BusSaver
- Where schools are served by dedicated school buses, students may apply for a paid for **concessionary seat**. Spare seats on these vehicles may be offered to sixth form students at a charge of **£896 per annum**. Please note, this applies only to closed contract school buses and not to public service bus routes.

The application form for a 2026/27 Concessionary Seat will be available on the '[Paid school transport](#)' section of the school transport website from the beginning of June onwards. Applications should be made by end of July 2026; any applications received after the deadline may not be processed until after the middle of September.

- **Students from families on a low income**, or who are 'children looked after,' who need help with travel costs, may receive help from the 16-19 Bursary Fund administered by schools and colleges. Please apply direct to the college or school offering the course.

For those students with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)

Some students with special educational needs and/or disabilities who have an EHCP may require assistance with travel to college or sixth form. To be assessed for travel assistance these students **must apply** by 30 June 2026 to the county council by making a Post-16 application. The application form is at www.westsussex.gov.uk/post-16transport in the 'apply for support' section. Applications can be made from 2 March 2026.

There is a contribution of £896 where students with an EHCP are eligible to receive assistance. Families who are assessed as having a low income do not pay this contribution. The Post-16 policy detailing the criteria for eligibility is online on the council's website at [Home to school and college transport policies - West Sussex County Council](#). If you have any difficulties filling out the online form then please contact us on Post16travel@westsussex.gov.uk or 033 022 23588.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Waddingham
Specialist Transport Officer