

DORSET POST-16 TRANSPORT SUPPORT POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2026 - AUGUST 2027

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1 Post 16 Provision

The Education and Skills Act 2008, states that young people are required to stay in education, training or enter employment until they are 18.

When making decisions about which course, school or college to attend parents/students must consider:

- the different modes of transport available to them
- the timings for arrival and departure
- how much it will cost them?

There is no automatic entitlement to home to school or college transport once a student is over 16 even if free transport has been provided in the past.

Dorset Council is committed to supporting Young People in accessing Post 16 education and training and in addition have put the following provision in place to support this.

1.1 School Sixth Form Transport

All School Transport into Mainstream Dorset Schools that have 6th Form provision is provided by independent bus companies.

If you wish to purchase a seat on one of these services, you are required to contact the bus company directly. The availability and charges are at the discretion of the relevant bus companies.

School	Contractor	Contact Details
The Blandford School Ferndown Upper School Queen Elizabeth School Lytchett Minster School The Purbeck School Shaftesbury School The Thomas Hardy School Allenbourn Middle School Dorchester Middle School Ferndown Middle School St Michaels Middle School West Moors Middle School	Damory/Excelsior	Schools Timetables enquiries@damory.co.uk 01202338420
Beaminster School The Sir John Colfox School The Woodroffe School	First Bus	03456460707 Contact us First Bus

Sturminster Newton School	Vale Coaches	01963 363000 office@valecoaches.com
Gillingham School The Gryphon School	South West Coaches	01935 475872 Schools@southwestcoaches.co.uk
Budmouth College	Public Services provided by South West Coaches	01935475872 Schools@southwestcoaches.co.uk South West Coaches

1.2 Bursary Scheme

Each School and FE College has a Mandatory Post 16 Bursary (16-18) scheme. Eligibility for accessing these bursaries is managed by the individual schools. Some schools also provide other forms of support for Post 16 students to assist access to their place of learning.

**Please contact the school or college directly for further information and charges.
PLEASE SEE APENDIX A or B**

There is also further information on the Bursary Scheme through the following website:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-young-people-16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide>

1.3 FE College Transport

Colleges have transport routes available to help students access their course. It is important to contact the college to find out what is available and apply to them directly as soon as possible to ensure that transport is available for the start of the course.

Those attending Post 16 FE provision may also apply for a seat under the Surplus Seat Travel Scheme, if there are routes that wholly or partially assist a young person in accessing their Post 16 place and they fulfil the criteria set out in Section 3. They may also qualify for further assistance under Section 2.

Contact the college to find out if there is any support available for transport from the 16-19 Bursary. **PLEASE SEE APPENDIX B**

1.4 Apprenticeships and Traineeships

If a young person is looking to engage with an Apprenticeship or Traineeship, it is essential they talk to the Learning Provider who will be able to inform them of any transport assistance

that may be available. Employers and Learning Providers should take into account a young person's transport arrangements when planning any off the job training, particularly outside normal working hours. **PLEASE SEE APPENDIX B**

If you are studying a traineeship you are also eligible for the 16-19 Bursary Scheme.

1.5 Public Transport

Some local public transport operators have concessionary fares/discount schemes for students.

Transport Operator	Telephone	Website	Special arrangements for students
First Great Western	08457 000 125	www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk	16-25 railcard
Damory /Excelsior	01202 338420	Excelsior Coaches	Schools Timetables
First Bus	03456460707	Contact us First Bus	Contact Bus Operator
More Bus	01202338420	morebus - Your friendly local bus operator, providing links across Bournemouth, Poole, Ringwood, Blandford, Wimborne and Swanage	Contact Bus Operator
South Western Railway	03456000650	www.southwesternrailway.com	16-25 railcard

There are some situations where a young person travelling on public transport may be entitled to a free bus pass for off peak travel if they have a disability. Details are available at [Bus passes and concessionary travel - Dorset Council](#)

2 Travel assistance for students aged 16-18 with Special Educational Needs, Disabilities or Compelling Medical Circumstances

2.1 Criteria for additional support

Young people aged between 16-18 and fulfilling the criteria set out in Section 3 may also be provided with additional support when:

- A professional assessment clearly indicates that a young person would not be able to access existing public transport routes to a place of learning because of their SEN or disability, and meet the qualifying criteria.
- A young person is within the 3 mile distance criteria of a school but a professional assessment clearly indicates that a young person would not be able to access to their place of learning because of their SEND or disability.

2.2 Supplementary information

Types of assistance that may be provided are:

- PTB's – Personal Travel Budgets
- Contract Bus/Council Fleet
- Mini Bus
- Taxi
- Vehicle used by other Council directorates
- Fuel contribution, if it is shown to be a cost effective solution (Families should be prepared to use their own vehicle where there are no suitable or appropriate alternative arrangements in place). The rate paid to families, is for the shortest available driven route only (45p per mile x return journey/s). There is an additional allowance of 10p per mile for those with EHCP's.

2.3 The Terms and Conditions

Provision of dedicated transport is subject to the following conditions:

- Assisted transport will only be provided for one inward and one outward journey to/from college at the beginning and end of the college day. This may not be according to the start and finish of the timetable day.
- Assisted transport will only be provided between the same pick up/drop off points each day. If other destinations are required this will be parent/carer preference which they will have to organise and pay for.
- Transport is not provided for induction or taster days or work experience.
- If students move outside of the Dorset Council area part way through their course, transport assistance will cease and they must apply to their new Local Authority for assistance.
- The Council expects students to travel by public transport where it is available. Independent Travel Training may enable students to progress to using buses and/or trains. Please contact the school or college who may be able to access limited funds through Dorset Council to support this activity.

- Students who travel on contract bus routes or taxi with other students, have no choice as to the time for outward or return journeys.

2.4 Application process

Applications for transport assistance must be received by the SEN Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ, by 31 May prior to the start of the course. A young person must re-apply for transport for each year of study.

2.5 Charges and Contributions

All young people will contribute towards the cost of transport. For 2026/2027, Dorset Council has set this amount at £990.

If the family is on Maximum Working Credits or the student is entitled to free school meals, this will be reduced by 50%, consistent with the overall Post 16 Transport provision. (See **Section 3**)

In exceptional circumstances, the eligibility criteria with regard to 'live over 3 miles from their nearest and/or appropriate school/college' may be dis-applied for a young person with significant disability and/or mobility need and the contribution would be reduced by 50%.

3 Post 16 Reduced Rates for the Surplus Seat Travel Scheme

Dorset Council is committed to supporting families in accessing Post 16 education and has in addition set up the Local Authority 16+ Assistance Scheme whereby a Post 16 student can qualify for a 50% reduction in the cost of their travel pass (those passes provided by the OSOO Contractors) or a 50% reduction in the £990 contribution towards transport provided by Dorset Council.

50% reduction is not available on public transport routes or rail.

In order to qualify for assistance under the Local Authority 16+ assistance scheme a **student** must meet **each of** the following criteria:

- Be resident in the Dorset Council area
- Be under 19 on 31 August immediately preceding the start of the academic year or up to 25 if a Section 139a/Education, Health and Care Plan highlights transport is a necessity
- Live over 3 miles from the school/college they are attending and it is the nearest or previously catchment school or the most appropriate school/college if a child is subject to an Education Health and Care Plan

- Be in full time education (16 hours or more over 3+ days per week)
AND
- Families are in receipt of Universal Credit subject to the maximum £7,400 earnings threshold.
OR
- The student had a compelling medical circumstance prior to post 16 which attracted transport support and a case is made for it to continue (applies to nearest school/college only and supporting evidence from the appropriate Medical Officer will always be required)
OR
- The student has a compelling medical circumstance that arises during post 16 education (applies to nearest school/college only and supporting evidence from the appropriate Medical Officer will always be required).

Supplementary information:

- Assisted transport is only available for one inward and one outward journey to/from school/college at the beginning and end of the school/college day. This may not be according to the start and finish of the timetable day.
- Assisted transport will only be provided between the same pick up/drop off points each day. If other destinations are required this will be parent/carer preference which they will have to organise and pay for.
- Transport is not provided for induction or taster days or work experience.
- If students move outside of the Dorset Council area part way through their course they must apply to their new Local Authority for assistance.

4 Regulations Affecting Surplus Seats

Please note, at the time of updating this policy, it is the Government's intention to enforce the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) on all routes carrying paying passengers. In the context of school transport, this means surplus seat pass holders.

This will require that all paying passengers must travel on a vehicle that has suitable access for passengers with disabilities – eg low floors or wheelchair lifts. As many vehicles used on school routes, such as older coaches, do not comply with these regulations, this will mean that they cannot be used to carry paying surplus seat pass holders. This will apply to all local authorities in England, not just Dorset Council.

However, it will not affect those pupils who are currently eligible for free school transport or surplus seat holders travelling on low-floor public service buses, PSVAR-compliant coaches or smaller vehicles such as minibuses and taxis.

This is likely to have some impact on school transport operators during the 2026/27 academic year and could potentially limit the future availability of surplus seats as a result. It is unclear at the time of writing this policy what the scale and timing of this impact will be.

5 Post 19 Transport

Under Section 508F Education Act 1996 where a Local Authority considers it necessary for a young person between 19-25 to have travel assistance (Section 139a/Education, Health and Care Plans so highlights) in order to access an education institution or training, then the LA is required to provide free travel assistance.

6 General Terms and Conditions

6.1 When can a travel pass (public transport) or OSOO Seat be used?

- If travelling on coaches or other contract transport arrangements, which do not involve season tickets, there will be no choice over the outward or return journey details.
- If travelling with a season ticket these are usually available for use between designated stops and journeys and at an agreed time, morning and afternoon.
- Some bus operators have introduced a fare card system which allows travel in the evening and at weekends at a reduced cost. Check with your school/college or local bus operator.
- Opportunities for tickets, which can be used across transport providers, are not generally available.

6.2 Out of Dorset Council Area Colleges which are beyond daily travel distances

If you are attending a college that is a considerable distance away from the Dorset Council area you should enquire directly to the college about transport support arrangements. Further details can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/grant-bursary-adult-learners>

6.3 Complaints

Please refer to 5.1 in the Home to School Transport Policy for the complaints procedure.

6.4 Consultation

The Home to School Transport Policy and the Post 16 Transport Support Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect the changes to costs associated with SSTS fares. If further changes are required Dorset Council will consult with young people and their parents through the consultation pages contained on [Have your say - Dorset Council](#)

6.5 References

Please refer to other sections within the Dorset Home to School Transport Policy for further information on:

- 2.1 Methods of Transport
- 2.2 Journey Times
- 2.3 Pickup and Drop off Points
- 2.5 Personal Luggage
- 3.1 Advice for Parents
- 3.2 Advice for Children
- 5.1 Complaints
- 5.2 Transport Appeals.

APPENDIX A

Further information on the 16-19 Bursary scheme is available through the following website:

[16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Schools and Sixth Form Provision

School, address	Telephone, email, website	Travelling to/from
Budmouth Academy Chickerell Road Weymouth DT4 9SY	Budmouth 6 th Form: 01305 830560 Bursary Information - Budmouth Academy	There is a Vulnerable Student Bursary and a Discretionary Attendance Bursary. In addition students may apply for a Travel Bursary.
Beaminster School 6 th Form	Tel: 01308862633 6th Form Bursary Information beaminsterschool	The school operates a 16-19 bursary Fund to support access to Post 16 provision.
The Blandford School	01258451121 Sixth Form The Blandford School	The school operates a 16-19 bursary Fund to support access to Post 16 provision.
Ferndown Upper School Cherry Grove Ferndown BH22 9EY	01202 871243 sixthform@fernup.dorset.sch.uk	Ferndown Upper School offer a Transport Bursary: Application-for-bursary-towards-travelling-to-school.docx (live.com) – currently up to £300 to support transport to access Post 16 provision. In addition there is the 16-19 Bursary: 16 - 19 Bursary - Ferndown Upper School Sixth Form (fernup.dorset.sch.uk) – to support more general access to Post 16 but can be used in part to support transport.

Gillingham School Hardings Lane Gillingham SP8 4QP	01747 822222 office@gillingham-dorset.co.uk Financial Support – Gillingham School (gillingham-dorset.co.uk)	The school operates a 16-19 bursary Fund for its students.
The Gryphon School Bristol Road Sherborne DT9 4EQ	019358131 School Transport: School Life - The Gryphon School: Sherborne	The school operates a 16-19 bursary system to support access to Post 16 studies The school contracts a number of buses to transport students from the surrounding areas. Route G800 – Quicksilver Pub to Gryphon via Larkhill Route G801 – Yeovil Marsh to Yeovil Hospital to The Gryphon Route G858 – From the Sturminster Newton Area into the Gryphon Route G802 – Queen Camel – North Cadbury – Wincanton – Templecombe Paid seats available from Somerset - Request school transport on a paying basis (somerset.gov.uk) Paid Seats from Dorset - https://www.southwestcoaches.co.uk
Lytchett Minster School	01202622413 sixthform@lytchett.org.uk Support and Wellbeing - Lytchett Minster School	The school operates a 16-19 bursary system to support access to Post 16 studies
The Purbeck School	01929550077 Bursaries - The Purbeck School Transport - The Purbeck School	The school operates a 16-19 bursary system to support access to Post 16 studies. There are also details of various public routes that student can access for attendance at The Purbeck School. Routes running from The Swanage Area into the Purbeck School Routes running from Wool, Bovington, Lulworth Routes running from Morten, Broadmayne and Knitson Routes running from Weymouth & Poole

Queen Elizabeth's School Wimborne Minster BH21 4DT	01202 885233 office@queenelizabeths.com Queen Elizabeth's School - Bursary Funding (queenelizabeths.com)	QE have a 16-19 bursary scheme that will support students in accessing 6 th Form provision.
Thomas Hardy School	01305 756801 The Thomas Hardy School - Free Meals and Bursary	The Thomas Hardy School have a 16-19 bursary scheme that will support students in accessing 6 th Form provision.
Sir John Colfox	01308422291 The Sir John Colfox Academy - DT6 3DT - 16 to 19 Tuition Fund	The school manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6 th Form studies.
Shaftesbury School	Shaftesbury Sixth Form – 01747854498 SixthFormOffice@shaftesburyschool.co.uk Transport - Shaftesbury School Useful Information – Shaftesbury School	Shaftesbury School manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6 th Form studies. As there is a shared 6 th form provision between Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton – there is a free bus service between the two sites.
Sturminster Newton High School	01258 472642	Sturminster Newton High School manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6 th Form studies.

	Bursary — Sturminster Newton High School Transport — Sturminster Newton High School	As there is a shared 6 th form provision between Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton – there is a free bus service between the two sites.
Woodroffe School Lyme Regis	Tel: 01927442232 Financial Support – The Woodroffe School Sixth Form – The Woodroffe School	The Woodroffe school manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6 th Form studies.

APPENDIX B

Further information on the 16-19 Bursary scheme is available through the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-for-young-people-16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide>

Colleges

College, address	Telephone, email website	Support Provision
Kingston Maurward College Dorchester DT2 8PY	01305 215032 Transport - Kingston Maurward College (kmc.ac.uk) Financial Support - Kingston Maurward College	The College manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6 th Form studies. The College run a series of dedicated routes across the County to assist students to access their studies. These routes are finalised on an annual basis depending on demand for each annual recruitment cycle.
Weymouth College Cranford Avenue Weymouth DT4 7LQ	01305 764766 Financial Support - Weymouth College Transport - Weymouth College	The College manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6 th Form studies. There are a range of routes serviced by the College and other public bus providers: Blandford Piddlevally – Piddlehinton – Charlton Down - Charminster BCP area Dorchester East Dorset Portland West Dorset Yeovil

		As well as local routes in and around Weymouth itself. Students can apply for transport assistance if they live 5 miles from the college.
Bournemouth & Poole College North Road Parkstone Poole BH14 0LS	01202 205660 studentfinance@bpc.ac.uk Student Finance Bournemouth and Poole College thecollege.co.uk	Student Financial Support 16-18 year old students Vulnerable and Discretionary Bursaries; including College Meal and Travel Support At Bournemouth & Poole College, we can support with the cost of your course and travel costs. If you are a student who is either in care or leaving care, you would be eligible to apply for a vulnerable bursary, which could include a monthly payment, paid direct to you to help you with those little extras, as well as receiving a College Meal Card and Travel Pass. Discretionary bursaries are for those students who have a lower income within their families and are currently receiving one of the benefits stated in the criteria (http://www.thecollege.co.uk/student-support/student-finance).
Brockenhurst College Lyndhurst Road Brockenhurst SO4 7ZE	01590 625533 travel@brock.sc.uk Travelling to Brock Brockenhurst College Bursaries and financial support Brockenhurst College	The College manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6th Form studies. The College is accessible through both public and train services from Salisbury, Southampton, Isle of Wight, Bournemouth and Poole. There are various public bus routes to access Marchwood as well.
Yeovil College Mudford Road Yeovil BA21 4DR	01935 423921 iZone@yeovil.ac.uk College Courses Fees For Students, Full-time Courses Bursary Yeovil College	The College manages a 16-19 bursary fund to support access to 6th Form studies. The college is accessible from both Bus and Train routes: 1. Bus - Gillingham & Shaftesbury to Yeovil – (YC1) 2. Bus - Bridport & Beaminster (YC3) In addition there are routes from Blandford and Sturminster Newton, Dorchester, Sherborne – updated routings and timings - Plan Your Journey Traveline

	Travelling & Getting to Yeovil College, Car Park & Bus Transport Yeovil College	
Wiltshire College Salisbury Southampton Road Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 2LW	01225 350035 Travelling to College Wiltshire College & University Centre	Travelling to Wiltshire College <u>Studying at the Chippenham Campus - Travelling to Chippenham Wiltshire College & University Centre</u> The Chippenham Campus is services by both bus and rail. <u>Studying at the Lackham Campus - Travelling to Lackham Wiltshire College & University Centre</u> The Lackham Campus is services by bus. The nearest rail service eos to Chippenham (3.5 miles) <u>Studying at the Trowbridge Campus - Travelling to Trowbridge Wiltshire College & University Centre</u> The Chippenham Campus is services by both bus and rail. <u>Studying at the Salisbury Campus - Travelling to Salisbury Wiltshire College & University Centre</u> The Chippenham Campus is services by both bus and rail. For students from Dorset – there are bus routes into Salisbury from certain centres in Dorset with a range of ticket options – Salisbury Reds - Buses across Salisbury Morebus -

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