



Young Persons' Free Bus Travel

Free bus travel for young people in Scotland

I am writing to update you on an exciting new scheme which is due to launch in the New Year. From 31 January 2022, all young people living in Scotland aged between 5 and 21 years will be eligible for free bus travel within Scotland.

What does this mean for children in your establishment?

Children will be able to access free bus travel on registered bus services across Scotland including a very limited number of local cross-border services from the south of Scotland into northern England.

How will children obtain free bus travel?

Young people aged between 5 and 21 years old will need to apply for a Young Scot National Entitlement Card.

The card has an electronic chip inside it. When a child gets on a bus, the bus driver will ask them to tap the card against a card reader. The card reader will tell the bus driver if the child has free bus travel enabled on their card or not.

Children of 15 years and under will need their parent/guardian to apply on their behalf and provide approval for free bus travel to be enabled on their child's card.

Young people aged 16 years and over will be able to apply for free bus travel themselves.

Children under 5 years old can already travel on buses for free. They will not need to apply for a card. However we recognise there may be some 5 year old children within our early learning settings and with partner providers who will be entitled to benefit from the scheme.

When can parents or young people apply for free bus travel?

A national marketing campaign will begin in January 2022. It will provide advice on the date in January 2022 when applications will open.

Will families be able to apply before January 2022?

Good news!! Parents who are already linked via Parentsportal will see a new tile on their dashboard enabling them to request a transport enabled Young Scot card for their child. Parents who have yet to link via Parentsportal should be encouraged to do so prior to the addition of the new tile to allow them to benefit from the Young Persons' Free Bus Travel without the need go through any additional process. In schools working with Parentsportal already the verification process has already taken place so the addition of transport to parents requires no input from business support staff, except perhaps signposting parents towards Parentsportal and the Under 22's Free Transport scheme.

If you have any queries or questions please contact Julie Hughes on 0141 577 8513 or email on julie.hughes@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk



How can Parents apply?

5 year old children attending an early setting	Apply at https://getyournec.scot/nec/ This video explains the process: https://youtu.be/Ev_sEjprEDE If you have any difficulty and need help contact Main Street office, Barrhead in person or call 0141 577 3001 or email NEC@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
5 – 10 year old	Apply via Parentsportal at https://parentsportal.scot/home/ If you have already linked with your child, you will find a new link to request a card on your dashboard. If not, you can create a link and then request a card from your dashboard. This video explains the process: https://youtu.be/p4F-G-kzbNo If parents report any difficulties email julie.hughes@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or call 0141 577 8513
11-15 year old	Apply at https://getyournec.scot/nec/ This video explains the process: https://youtu.be/Ev_sEjprEDE If you have any difficulty and need help contact Main Street office, Barrhead in person or call 0141 577 3001 or email NEC@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
16-21 year old	The Young Person themselves should apply at https://getyournec.scot/nec/ This video explains the process: https://youtu.be/Ev_sEjprEDE If you have any difficulty and need help contact Main Street office, Barrhead in person or call 0141 577 3001 or email NEC@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

What should we do now?

Early learning centre and partner providers	Please share details of the scheme with parents of 5 year old children and how they should apply.
Primary Schools	It would be ideal if you could use this information to increase engagement with Parentsportal, which will in turn allows access to the Young Persons' transport scheme. Some schools have used their social media channels to encourage parents to link, sharing information regarding the scheme on your website and direct messaging via Groupcall are all options. It must be worth Eco School point too! Access to free bus transport starts on 31 January 2022 and we would like as many families to benefit from the scheme as is possible. In particular P7 pupils about to turn 11 years of age move from applying via Parentsportal to applying via getyournec. You have already verified their identity on Parentsportal so it is a significantly simpler process. If you could target this group in particular, it would be ideal!
Secondary Schools	Please share details of the scheme with parents and pupils and information regarding how they should apply.