



Young Persons' Free Bus Travel

What does this mean for children in your establishment?

Children and young people 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 under 16 years old 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 is taking place throughout January 2022 to update families on how to apply. .

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.



How can Parents apply?

5 year old children attending an early setting	Paper applications will be available in the setting your child attends
5 – 11 year old without a Young Scot card	Apply via Parentsportal
11-15 year old with a Young Scot card	Apply for a new Young Scot card with transport enabled via Parentsportal
11-15 year old without a Young Scot Card	Apply for a Young Scot card with transport enabled via Parentsportal

What should we do now?

Early learning centre and partner providers	Have an awareness of the scheme before paper applications arrive at your setting
Primary and Secondary Schools	It would be ideal if you could use this information to increase engagement with Parentsportal, which will in turn allow access to the Young Persons' transport scheme. Many 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. Whilst a firm date for the tile being launched has yet to be given, the scheme launches on 22 January 2022 and we would like as many families to benefit from the scheme as is possible

Where should I go if I have a query?

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