

# Young Persons' Free Bus Travel

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## Free bus travel for young people in Scotland

From 31<sup>st</sup> 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 your child?

Your child 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 my child obtain free bus travel?

Young people aged between 5 and 21 years old will need to apply for a Junior National Entitlement Card or a Young Scot National Entitlement Card. Children aged between 5 and 10 will receive a Junior National Entitlement Card. Young people aged 11 and over will be able to receive a Young Scot National Entitlement Card which carries all of the benefits of Young Scot services in addition to the free bus travel.

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 a to apply for a card.

### How can I apply?

For children aged 5-10 years old, you have the option of applying through [parentportal.scot](https://parentportal.scot). Manual application forms will also be available from your child's primary school.

For young people aged 11 and over you should apply through [getyournec.scot](https://getyournec.scot) as you will also need to include a photograph on your card. A video guide to using the Scottish Government's online application portal can be found here <https://youtu.be/EYiz87G0MSE>. If you cannot use the online route then you may also apply at any local library in Renfrewshire. You will need a passport photograph or something of a similar style printed and cut to size. If your child is aged 11-16, both they and their parent/guardian should attend. If the applicant attends school in Renfrewshire, no additional proof documents are required as we will check their details against their school record. If they do not attend a school in Renfrewshire, the list of proofs required to make an application through a library can be found here <http://nec.scot/proofs>. It is not possible to apply for the Junior National Entitlement Card through libraries. Each year Renfrewshire Council will run a bulk process for all primary 7 pupils to apply for their card if they have not already done so. This typically takes place beginning March each year.

What happens when I complete the form and give my approval for my child to receive a Card with free bus travel?

Once you have given approval, Renfrewshire Council will arrange for a card to be issued to your child/children. We aim to do this as quickly as possible but it can take up to three weeks. Cards are printed and posted by the Scottish Government's appointed supplier and not locally by Renfrewshire Council.

By agreeing to my child receiving a card and free bus travel what does it really mean?

By giving your approval, you will be agreeing to your child receiving a card which entitles them to free bus travel.

It will allow your child to travel for free on any registered bus service operating across the whole of Scotland, as well as a very limited number of local cross border services from the south of Scotland into northern England.

If your child is eligible and chooses to receive a Young Scot National Entitlement Card (aged 11 and over), they will also have access to other local and national services and opportunities. See [young.scot/card](http://young.scot/card) for more information.

What happens if I change my mind and want to stop my child having free bus travel?

If you change your mind at any time while your child remains under 16 years of age, you can apply to have the free travel product removed from your child's card. You can do this online at [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot) if you have an account or you can email [nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk) with your child's name, date of birth and address and the service can be remotely deactivated.

If it is a Young Scot National Entitlement Card, they will still have access to Young Scot services and opportunities.

What should I do with my child's existing card if I stop my child having the free travel offer?  
Please destroy the card to prevent your child from using it to travel.

What happens if my child loses or damages their card?

Requests for replacements can be sent to [nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk) Please include their name, date of birth and current address when getting in touch.

When a new card is requested it automatically deactivates any previous cards and old cards cannot continue to be used for free bus travel.

What happens if my child is aged 16+ and already has a card or has had one?

If your child is aged 16 or over and they already have a card, they can download the Transport Scotland Pass Collect app on their smartphone and apply free bus travel to their existing card themselves. Alternatively, a new card can be reissued by emailing [nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk) You may be asked to update your photograph and if you have moved since your previous card, we may need to request proof of address.

What do I do if my child has a Junior card but is now 11 and eligible for a Young Scot National Entitlement Card?

You can apply for an upgrade using the Scottish Government's online application platform <http://getyournec.scot>

Alternatively, you can email [nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk) You will need to supply a photo as, unlike the Junior National Entitlement Card, the Young Scot one carries a photograph. **It must be taken against a completely plain white or light background, no objects, lines or patterns behind the applicant.** Something taken on a phone is fine. We need to verify the person in the photo is indeed the applicant and so may check the photo against their school record and seek additional evidence.

A Junior will card will be valid until the cardholder's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, but they become eligible for the Young Scot National Entitlement card at 11. This gives you a year to upgrade their card. Ideally do it as soon as possible when they turn 11 years old.

What do I do if my child is aged 11-15 and already has a Young Scot National Entitlement Card but I would like them to have free bus travel?

You will need to reapply for a new card as we need to collect signed parental consent for anyone under the age of 16 requiring free bus travel on their card and it is important to have the most up to date photograph as possible on the card as drivers can refuse travel if the photo is not a likeness of the cardholder.

You can do this using the Scottish Government's online application platform <http://getyournec.scot> A video guide for parents with children aged 11-15 who already have a card but want a new one with free bus travel is available here <https://youtu.be/A3sKTzZVpiA> Alternatively you can reapply at any local library in Renfrewshire. You will need a passport photograph or something of a similar style printed and cut to size. If your child is aged 11-16, both they and their parent/guardian should attend. If the applicant attends school in Renfrewshire, no additional proof documents are required as we will check their details against their school record. If they do not attend a school in Renfrewshire, the list of proofs required to make an application through a library can be found here <http://nec.scot/proofs>

What happens if I applied through <http://getyournec.scot> and have issues with my application?

The online platform is run by partners of the Scottish Government and not Renfrewshire Council. Our teams do not have any direct access to this and cannot check the progress of applications made through it. Our teams are not involved in approving or rejecting applications made through it. To query any application made through [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot) you must contact them directly by visiting the site and clicking on the help section at the bottom.

## NATIONAL ENTITLEMENT CARD APPLICATION – 5-10 YEAR OLDS

Application for a Young Person's National Entitlement Card including Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme on behalf of a child aged 5 in nursery or primary school and up to 10 years old. Please be aware that for ages 11+, a different type of card is required that includes a verified photo and so you should apply through [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot) or your local library if you do not have access. If you have already applied for a National Entitlement Card for your child through ParentsPortal this year, please disregard this application.

BEFORE CONTINUING, PLEASE READ THE GUIDANCE NOTES AND PRIVACY NOTICE AVAILABLE AT [FREEBUS.SCOT](http://FREEBUS.SCOT) AND [NEC.SCOT](http://NEC.SCOT). THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

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**PART 1: Personal Details** This is the information that will be used to print your child's card and should match the nursery/school record information held for them.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
School/Nursery: \_\_\_\_\_

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### PART 2: Young Person's Free Bus Travel Scheme.

By requesting a National Entitlement Card for your child using this form, you will be asking for them to be given access to free bus travel within Scotland. Please read the Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme notes at [freebus.scot](http://freebus.scot). If you DO NOT want your child's card to include access to free bus travel within Scotland you can apply through [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot) or [parentsportal.scot](http://parentsportal.scot) in order to specify this.

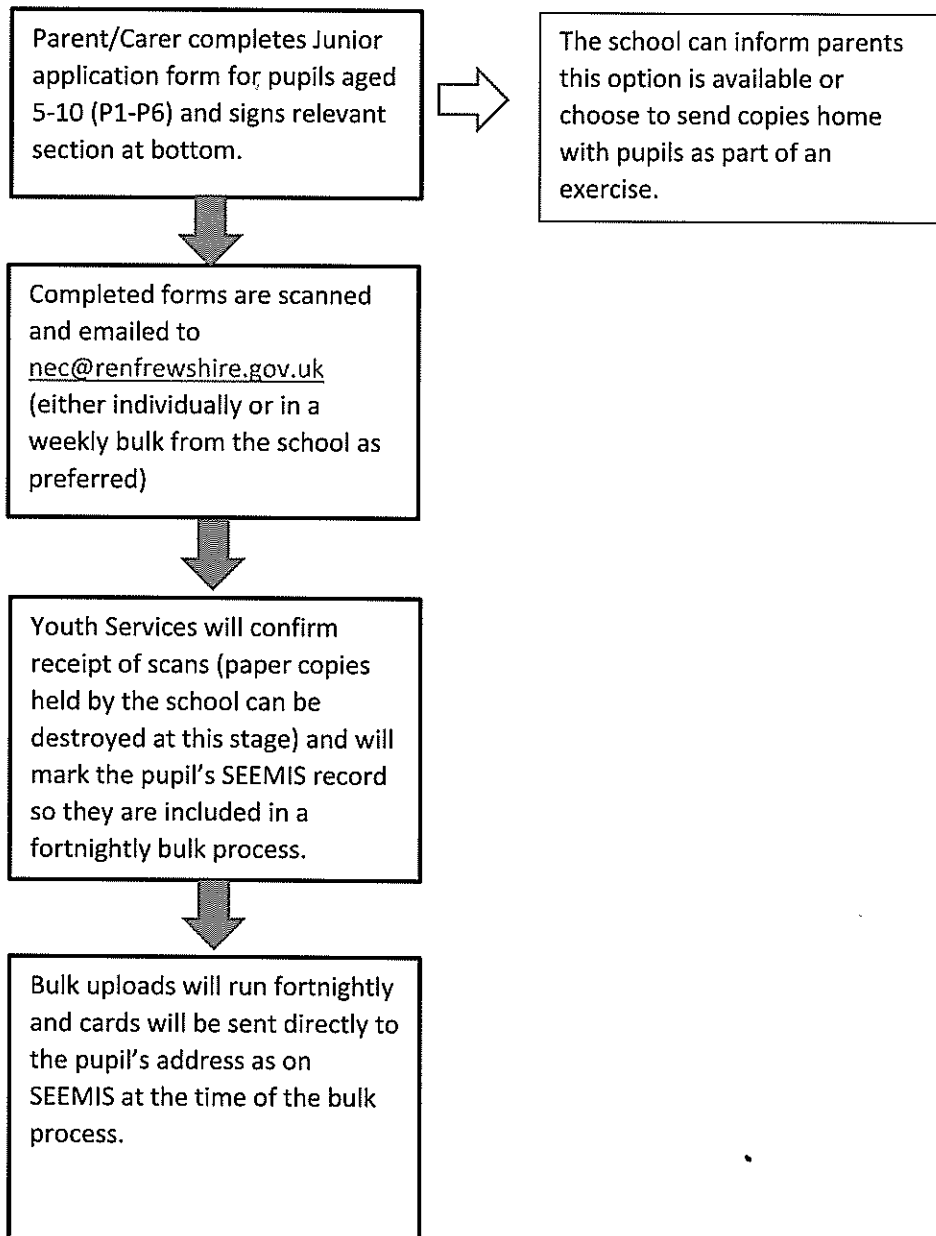
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### PART 3: Declaration of Parent/Guardian

I confirm that, as far as I know, the details I have provided are complete and accurate and understand that action may be taken if I have provided false information or if my child misuses the services provided. I understand that I must promptly inform Renfrewshire Council of any changes that may affect my child's entitlement to services. I have read the information on this form and the Terms and Conditions at [www.nec.scot](http://www.nec.scot) and agree to the processing of the personal details on this form to the extent necessary for the administration of the National Entitlement Card scheme and for the Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme. I confirm I would like to apply for a National Entitlement Card with Concessionary Travel included to be provided to my child as a result of this application.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
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## MANUAL APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PUPILS AGED 5-10 IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS



### Notes:

Pupils aged 5-10 can also apply online at [parentsportal.scot](http://parentsportal.scot) (easiest online option) or [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot)

Pupils aged 11+ (P7) get a different kind of card. There will be an annual bulk process beginning Feb/March for these pupils. They also have the option of applying online at [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot) or by applying at any library in Renfrewshire. They must go with their parent/carer if aged 11-15 and will need a passport photograph or something similar printed and cut to size. As they are on SEEMIS they won't require any additional proof documents.