

# Young Persons' Free Bus Travel Scheme for Under 22s

## ABOUT THE SCHEME

### Overview

From 31 January, nearly one million 5–21 year olds living in Scotland will be eligible to benefit from free bus travel. The scheme will embed sustainable travel behaviours from a young age, open doors to new opportunities, and help to meet our target of net zero emissions by 2045.

Children and young people who are 5–21 years old will need a new or replacement National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC) to travel for free by bus. Parents or guardians of 5–15 year olds must apply on their behalf. Children under 5 years old already travel for free on commercial bus services and do not need a card.

**Full details on how to apply will be advertised in January 2022.**

The Scottish Government continues to work with its partners at the Improvement Service (who is accountable for the NEC Scheme) and National Entitlement Card Programme Office (who is responsible for the management of the NEC) and support local authorities with the application process and Young Scot to deliver the scheme, which will become operational on 31 January 2022.

Read the [latest news on free bus travel for under 22s/](#) and find out [more information on the legislation/](#).

### Eligibility

If you are 5–21 years old and live in Scotland then you are eligible for free bus travel from 31 January 2022, no matter your nationality.

You must have a valid National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC) that is in good working order. The photograph on the card must look like you (if your NEC or Young Scot NEC includes a photo) to travel by bus for free.

### Getting your NEC

Getting your NEC Age	Which NEC?	Approval required?
0–4 year olds	No card needed to travel for free by bus	N/A
5–10 year olds	NEC	Parent / guardian to apply
11–15 year olds	NEC, or Young Scot NEC	Parent / guardian to apply
16–21 year olds	NEC, or Young Scot NEC	Apply by themselves

Lots of children and young people already have an NEC or Young Scot NEC. However, this cannot be used to travel by bus for free. You must replace this or get a new one to travel by bus for free.

How you do this depends on what age you are:

- o A parent or guardian must apply on behalf of 5–15 year olds and provide approval for them to travel for free by bus.
- o 16-21 year olds can apply themselves.

Applications open in January 2022. Full details on how to apply will follow.