**Free bus travel for young people in Scotland**

From 31st January, 2022, all children and young people aged between 5 and 21 years will be eligible for free bus travel within Scotland.

### 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.

Children and young people aged between 5 and 21 years old will need to apply for a National Entitlement Card (Young Scot Card).  Their existing card, if they have one, will not work, they will need to re-apply..

The card has an electronic chip inside it. When entering a bus, the 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.

Children under 16 years old will need their parent/carer 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.

**Applications will open on 10th January 2022.**

All children and young people between the age of 5 to 15 will be required to get parental or carers consent to have free bus travel added to their card.  Please note this is not school transport.  The free bus travel is for **the public bus network only**.

Young people 16 years or older can apply for a new Young Scot card themselves.

Applications can be made in various ways:

* The **Parents Portal** can be used to apply for a card for children between 5 and 15 inclusive;
* Cards can also be applied for online at [**https://getyournec.scot/nec/**](https://getyournec.scot/nec/)
* Application forms for Young Scot cards with travel can be made through the school.  The new application form is attached.