

Children's Services

Belonging Directorate

Sheffield City Centre, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk



12 March 2026

Update – changes to Post-16 SEN transport charges from April 2026

Dear parent/carer,

Sheffield City Council are reviewing how we provide home to school travel support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Across the country, more pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are needing home to school travel support. The current service is no longer financially sustainable, and to keep the service going, we must make changes.

The annual parental contribution charged towards the cost of post-16 SEN transport is currently £540, which has remained unchanged since it was introduced in 2017. A proposal to increase the annual contribution amount was announced in July 2025 and public consultation closed on 24 September 2025. Following this, the proposal was taken to the Education, Children & Families Policy Committee, where it was approved on 17 December 2025.

From 1 April 2026 the annual parental contribution charge will be £1,000. The final contribution for the current academic year will be approximately £333. The invoices will be issued on Monday 4th May 2026.

The annual cost will be reviewed every year in line with inflation, with the next review due in September 2027. Despite the increase in the parental contribution, the council will continue to cover most of the transport costs, at an average cost to the council between £6000 - £9000 annually for each young person.

Families with a low household income can still apply for the 16-18 Discretionary Bursary Fund to help with the cost. The Discretionary Bursary is administered by schools and colleges, who set out the rules of who is eligible how it is awarded.

Some young people may be eligible for support from the 16-18 Vulnerable Student Bursary. This is intended to support a small group of young people in the most vulnerable circumstances.

You can find out more information about the Discretionary Bursary or the Vulnerable Student Bursary, and if you are eligible, by contacting your child's school or college. If awarded, either bursary can be used to help cover the post-16 SEN transport parental contribution.

Families who are not eligible for a bursary and have a net household income of £25,000 or below can apply for help with the parental contribution cost through the council's Low-Income Families Fund. This income level is increasing from the previous amount of £21,000. For more information about the Low-Income Families Fund and how to apply, please contact the Travel Assessment and Training Team using the contact details below.

If you would like any more information about this change, please contact the Travel Assessment and Training Team at indetravel@sheffield.gov.uk or call 0114 2053542.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meredith Dixon-Teasdale', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Meredith Dixon-Teasdale
Strategic Director for Children's Services