

Travel assistance for pupils in secondary school

Transport for London (TfL) provides free and/or discounted travel for children under the age of 18 in full-time education:

- 11-15 year-olds can travel free on buses and trams and travel at half adult rate on all other TfL services and most National Rail services in London
- 16 and 17 year-olds in full-time education or on a work-based learning scheme eligible can travel free on buses and trams and travel at half adult rate on all TfL services and most National Rail services in London.

(Please visit tfl.gov.uk/fares or call the Oyster helpline on 0343 222 1234 for further information and advice.)

If a child or young person has additional travel needs such as mobility problems or disability then the Council can provide travel assistance for eligible children of secondary school age.

For full details of the Local Authority's Children's travel assistance policy, the application form and guidance notes please visit the Tower Hamlets website - www.towerhamlets.gov.uk or alternatively contact the Pupil Services team on 020 7364 5006 for further advice or information.

Financial support for post 16 students

There are three main types of financial support for students studying post 16, all of which will take household income into account when consideration is given to the application:

- 16 to 19 Bursary Fund (provided by the EFA - Education Funding Agency)
- Discretionary Learner Support Fund (DLS)
- Travel assistance from the LA

16-19 bursary

Applications for the 16-19 bursary should be made through schools and colleges. There are two types of bursary - a vulnerable student bursary (for example if the young person has recently left local authority care) and the discretionary bursary where the school/college/training providers set their own criteria (for example they might look at family income).

Discretionary Learner Support Fund (DLS)

The Local Authority uses its DLS to assist students who are not receiving a 16-19 Bursary, but come from a low income family. It also provides a hardship fund that any student can apply to where they are experiencing financial hardship such as meeting the cost of travelling to school or to a university entrance interview.

Travel assistance from the LA

The Council can also operate a direct scheme of assistance for young people who meet the qualifying criteria (including income, distance etc.). The assistance is usually in the form of travel grants or travel passes for students.

Other support and information

Tower Hamlets also provides support through the Tower Hamlets Educational Maintenance Allowance (THEMA) which is a means-tested grant to help students meet the financial costs of further education.

Application forms can be downloaded via the Tower Hamlets website or you can apply online. Please check the website for the closing date.

For any queries regarding the Tower Hamlets Education Award you should contact the Benefits Service on 020 7364 5001.

For a full list of all the financial support available for post-16 students, please see the Transport Policy which is available on our website via the following link - http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/education_and_learning/school_finance_and_support.aspx or contact Pupil Services for a copy.