The information below was reviewed in March 2013. We would like your feedback on the proposal to keep the process the same for the 2013-14 academic year. For more information and to give your views, please go to [www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport](http://www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport)

(The dates in the document below are applicable for the 2012-13 Kent 16+ Travel Card, and would be updated accordingly for the 2013-14 card).

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**Kent 16+ Travel Card - information for learners**

**Who is eligible**
To apply for a Kent 16+ Travel Card to use between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 you must be:

- a resident of Kent (you live in a house that pays Council Tax to a Kent district council for Kent County Council services)
- attending a participating school, college or work-based learning provider.

If your school, college or work-based learning provider is based outside of Kent, but you live within the boundary of Kent County Council you can still apply.
If you live in Medway or a London borough with a Kent postal address (for example Bromley) you aren't eligible and should contact your own council to find about their schemes.
If you currently receive transport assistance from us and started your post-16 studies before 1 September 2012, you will continue to receive existing transport until you finish your course, or circumstances change, whichever is sooner.

**Using your Kent 16+ Travel Card**
The Kent 16+ Travel Card can be used at any time of day, every day – including evenings, weekends and school holidays. There are no restrictions on the number of journeys you can make.
They are issued as smartcards, so need to be looked after. If the card becomes damaged, it will no longer work on the bus ticket machines. The cost of replacing a damaged, lost or stolen card is £10.

**Where can I travel?**
The card allows free travel on virtually all public bus services in Kent operated by participating operators ([PDF, 23k](http://kent.gov.uk/post16transport)). You cannot use it on a service that isn’t a public bus, for example private bus services and coaches not available to the general public.
You can travel over the county boundary provided that no change of service is made, and you can return on any direct service into Kent. For example you can travel from Kent into Medway, and back, but you cannot travel wholly within Medway, even if your school, college or work-based learning provider is based in Medway.
Transport for London bus services do not accept the Kent 16+ Travel Card, but young people can travel at reduced fares if they have an Oyster® Card. The Kent 16+ Travel Card will not entitle you to travel on a particular service or guarantee a space or seat. Any problems with availability of bus services or space on a particular service should be directed to the relevant bus operator.

Abuse it - Lose it

All passengers are responsible for their own behaviour. Kent 16+ Travel Card holders are expected to follow the Code of Conduct at all times. Additionally, passengers who breach the operator’s Conditions of Carriage, which are published by each bus company, may be refused travel or have their passes confiscated. In serious circumstances, the bus company may involve the police or ban a passenger from their services. Kent 16+ Travel Cards used fraudulently will be withdrawn and holders who make or allow fraudulent travel will be banned from the scheme.

I have a statement of special educational needs - what arrangements are in place to help me?

Arrangements will continue unchanged for any student who began their post 16 studies before academic year 2012-13. If you are in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, or fulfil one of 7 statutory categories of disability, you can apply for an English National Concessionary Travel Pass, which gives you free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England.

I already receive transport assistance from Kent County Council to get to school or college – how does this affect me?

If you began your post-16 studies before academic year 2012-13, your transport assistance will continue unchanged, as long as you continue to re-apply, fulfil the eligibility criteria and pay the charge (if appropriate). Due to the changes in funding arrangements for post-16 studies, it is not possible for you to access both schemes at the same time or pay the difference between the existing Post-Statutory Charge and the standard Kent 16+ Travel Card. All applications for the Kent 16+ Travel Card and existing post-16 transport will be cross-referenced by us, so applying for both may delay your application. You can hold a Kent 16+ Travel Card and access the Vacant Seats Payment Scheme at the same time.

How to apply for a Kent 16+ Travel Card

If you are eligible for a Kent 16+ Travel Card, you will need to contact your school, college or work-based learning provider to find out what arrangements they have for applications. You will need to give your school, college or work-based learning provider:

- your details
- your parent or carer details
- a passport-sized photograph
- your payment – your provider may offer assistance with the cost or allow you to pay by installment.
Please do not send any application direct to us, we can only accept them once they are approved by your provider.

**When to apply**

You can apply from Monday 2 July 2012 for passes valid from September 2012. You provider will give you the deadline for making applications to make sure you have your pass available for the start of term in September. As a guide your provider must have passed it on to us by Friday 27 July 2012 for processing. We will not refund bus fares you have to pay until your pass is ready.

However, applications can be made at any time of the year until 31 May 2013 - there are different costs for part-year travel cards.

**Cost of the Kent 16+ Travel Card**

The maximum cost of a full-year travel card is £520. Based on your circumstances you could be entitled to financial assistance with the cost of your Kent 16+ Travel Card. The amount you actually pay is determined by your school, college or work-based learning provider, who at their discretion can contribute to the cost of the Kent 16+ Travel Card based on the following criteria:

- A learner with a travel need, whose household income is above £20,818 a year will pay £520.
- A learner with a travel need, whose household income is between £16,191 and £20,817 a year can receive a contribution so they pay between £260 and £520.
- A learner with a travel need, whose household income is less than £16,191 a year can receive a contribution so they pay no more than £260.
- An employed 16 to 19 year old apprentice who can demonstrate hardship caused by travel-to-learn and travel-to-work pressures, can receive a contribution to the cost so they pay between £260 and £520.
- Learners who have received the full Vulnerable Learner Bursary Payment will pay £520.

You will not be charged an administration fee, so your provider cannot charge more than £520 for a Kent 16+ Travel Card.

**What if I apply after the start of the academic year?**

(These dates would be updated for the 2013-14 academic year)

The cost of part-year cards is based on the date it's applied for. The latest you can apply for a card is Friday 31 May 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date applied for</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After 26 October 2012 (term 1)</td>
<td>£432.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>After 21 December 2012 (term 2)</td>
<td>£345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 15 February 2013 (term 3)</td>
<td>£260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 29 March 2013 (term 4)</td>
<td>£170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After 24 May 2013 (term 5)</td>
<td>£87.50</td>
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</tbody>
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