

Fitness to Travel Policy

Halesowen College provides a coach service to and from selected College premises Monday to Friday during term time at designated times. This is operated by a third party.

The service operates on several routes which, in the main, provide a transport choice from the areas where the College's key feeder schools are located. Students may use this coach service should it provide a convenient option to travel to and from College and, that they are fit to travel.

To be fit to travel each individual student must be able to:

- Board and disembark the coach without assistance from the driver
- Not require the assistance of the driver during the journey (unless there is an emergency situation)
- Not need to stow any items in the coach hold
- Be able to understand and respond to instructions and information provided by the driver
- Identify the stop where you need to disembark the vehicle even if this is modified due to road works and/or traffic conditions
- Be prepared to share with the coach company any personal details, such as a medical condition, which may need to be known to the driver to ensure safe travel
- Walk to the required Campus from the coach drop off point

College learning support staff are available to meet students with disabilities, health conditions and/or learning difficulties from the College coach drop off at Whittingham Road and/or the inter site shuttle stops.

Should the College coach not service a student's area then advice on public transport routes can be obtained from Student Services – contact studentservices@halesowen.ac.uk or telephone 0121 602 7688. A student discounted Centro bus pass can be arranged. Any student requiring financial support may apply to the College 16-18 discretionary bursary fund or 19+ learner support fund for assistance with travel costs should they not live on a bus route and/or are not fit to travel on College coaches.

Whereas the third party coach company may have vehicles in their fleet with disabled access facilities, these cannot be guaranteed to be available and/or allocated to specific routes.

Where a student has a disability, health condition and/or learning difficulty and is not able to utilise public transport and are not fit to travel on College coaches then the Local Authority travel policy will explain options for alternative travel options such as taxis and any funding available. Useful web links are:

www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/parking-roads/travel-and-transport/
www.sandwell.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/ip_directory_category.php?directoryCategoryID=67
www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50052/school_travel/900/specialised_transport_for_pupils_with_learning_difficulties_or_disabilities
www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/2556/School-transport
www.sstaffs.gov.uk/transport/index.cfm
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20007/travel_and_roads/452/community_transport

Halesowen College is not in receipt of funding to support individual travel arrangements outside the scope of the maximum awards from the 16-18 discretionary bursary fund or 19+ learner support fund.

The third party coach provider are unable to make bespoke travel arrangements for College learners. All queries about fitness to travel should be directed to the College.

Covid 19 Addendum

Learners who are displaying any signs of Covid 19 will be unable to travel on College coach services. The most common symptoms include high temperature, loss of taste and/or smell and continuous or new cough. Any learner who appears to have such symptoms will not be allowed to board and will be asked to return home and follow NHS advice for self-isolation; which is currently not to leave home for at least 7 days. Learners must not leave home if a member of their household is displaying symptoms and again must self-isolate for a period of 14 days. All passengers on a College coach service will be asked to occupy one double seat to themselves. Students cannot elect to sit together as social distancing must be observed. Permission to board the coach will only be granted if students cover their nose and mouth using a mask, scarf or similar, to protect themselves and others. This must be worn for the duration of the journey. Students will not be able to consume food or drinks on the journey. All coaches will be sanitised after each journey. Should a learner feel unwell whilst at College then return transport home cannot be by College coach. Failure to comply with the College's fitness to travel policy and requirements to minimise the risks of Covid 19 will result in action taken in accordance with the College's disciplinary policy.