

Kent Special Education Needs Trust
Meadowfield School
Swanstreet Avenue
Sittingbourne
Kent
ME10 4NL

6th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing on behalf of Kent Special Educational Needs Trust (KsENT) to update you on a recent development regarding post-16 transport arrangements for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Many families will be aware that Kent County Council introduced changes to its post-16 Transport Policy from September 2026. Under the new arrangements, a Personal Transport Budget has become the standard offer for most eligible post-16 learners with SEND, replacing the previous approach of routinely providing dedicated transport.

At a recent meeting of Kent County Council, Councillors agreed that the implementation and impact of the new post-16 SEND Transport Policy will be reviewed. The review will consider whether the policy is meeting the needs of young people with SEND, the affordability and effectiveness of Personal Transport Budgets, the operation of the appeals process, and the outcomes for families affected by the changes. The findings of this review are due to be reported back to the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.

KsENT welcomes this decision. We recognise the considerable concerns that many families, schools and colleges have raised regarding the practical and financial implications of the new arrangements. We believe it is important that the experiences of our young people and their families are carefully considered to ensure that all learners can access education safely and consistently.

As a partnership of schools committed to inclusive education, KsENT will continue to monitor developments closely and work with colleagues across the sector to ensure that the voices of our families are heard. In addition, schools in KsENT are collating evidence and data to present to Cabinet Members, highlighting the impact the transport changes are having on attendance, wellbeing and educational access for the young people we serve. We believe it is essential that future decisions are informed by the lived experiences of families and the demonstrable impact on learners. We will share further updates as more information becomes available.

If you are currently experiencing difficulties in relation to post-16 transport arrangements, we would encourage you to continue to raise your concerns with the relevant Transport Team at Kent County Council and discuss any concerns with your young person's school or college, so that appropriate support can be explored. You may also wish to seek updates regarding the review from the Local Authority.

Kent County Council Home to School Transport Team

Email: homeschooltransport@kent.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 412121

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Yours faithfully,

KsENT Schools