

# KCC Transport Policy changes

# The key changes to know about

Kent County Council (KCC) has updated its Transport Policy, which could affect your young person.

This means KCC will no longer be organising transport and changing how parents have to apply for support with transport.

This is for students who are aged 19 and over on 1 September 2026 and will be introduced for the next Academic Year, 2026 – 2027.

- Students aged 19 and over with an EHCP will be required to apply to their education provider and KCC for bursary funding.
- We recommend applying to KCC at the same time as making your application to us to meet their deadline of **31 May 2026**.
- If an application for bursary funding is declined, or insufficient to cover the cost of travel, your KCC application will be considered.
- In exceptional circumstances, KCC may approve alternative, cost-effective arrangements to provide travel support to enable the student to attend their provider.

**Scan here to find out more about KCC's  
policy changes and applying for post 16  
transport assistance with KCC.**



## What we're doing about this

East Kent Colleges Group wants to support parents, carers and/or students to access their College.

We have created a flowchart to set out the process and changes for parents – you would have received this with your letter.

- The Group has put aside a portion of its bursary funding for students affected by the changes from KCC;
- The maximum award EKC Group offers for transport support is £2,000;
- As the bursary funding is limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, we would encourage everyone to apply as early as possible;
- Bursary applications will open early this year, to ensure you can access it as soon as possible;
- You will be able to apply for the bursary once EKC Group have been named by Kent County Council as your provider;
- Our funding rules are subject to change by the Department for Education, but we will update you on any changes as soon as possible;
- Our bursary application will open on **5 May 2026**.



# How to apply for a student bursary

## Eligibility

In accordance with the Department for Education's guidelines, EKC Group will assess a student's household income and actual financial needs when awarding bursary funding.

This will be assessed for each individual student, each academic year.

Applications are means-tested, and applicants will be required to complete an online application to verify the previous three months total net household income from point of application.

To be eligible for the 16-19 Discretionary Bursary, students must be a member of a household whose net income **is below £34,000 per year for full bursary or £36,000 net income per year for travel only assistance.**

# Eligibility

All income and benefits are taken into account, including Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Universal Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit, Working Tax Credits, Child Tax credits etc.

EKC Group does not take into account Child Benefit, Disability Living Allowance, the Disability Element within Universal Credit (for Children), or Personal Independence Payment when calculating total household income.

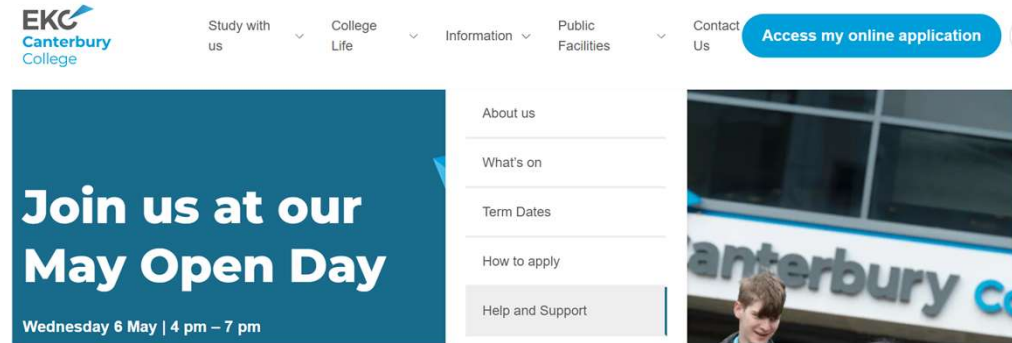
For parents/guardians who are self-employed, EKC Group will assess income based on gross profit, but taking into account any business expenditure.

For example, household items, mortgage and food would not be deducted from gross profit but servicing and maintenance of equipment, purchase of stationery etc would be deducted.

# Procedure

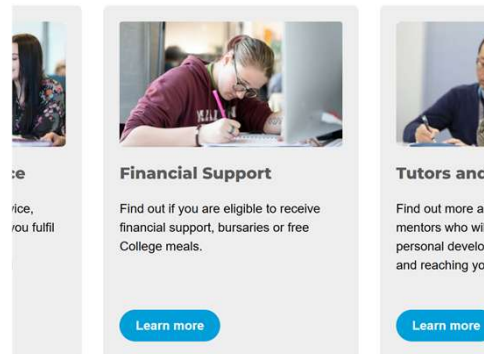
## Step one

Please visit your designated college's website and navigate to the *Information* section, then select *Help and Support*



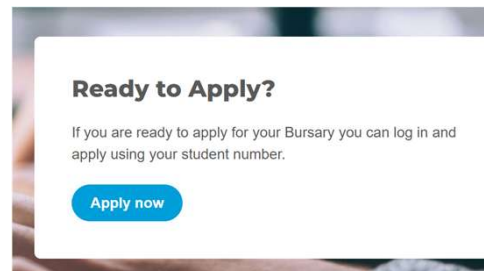
## Step two

Scroll down the page and select *Financial Support* further information regarding applying for a bursary is on this page



## Step three

When ready, select *Apply now*



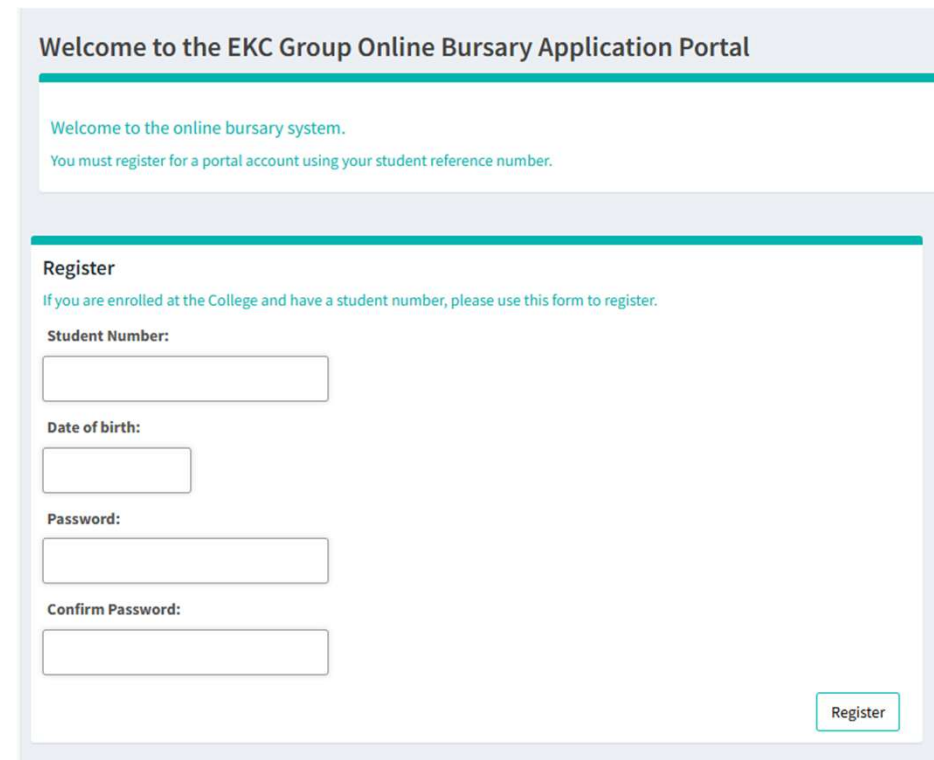
# Making an application

You will first need to register on the EKC Group Online Bursary Application Portal.

You should have already received your young person's **student number when EKC Group is named** - please enter this along with your young person's date of birth and create a password of your choice

A verification email will be sent to the email address provided at application. Once this has been confirmed a second email will be issued with a six-digit code. This code must be entered into the portal to complete the access process

Once you have access to the portal, please complete all relevant questions and upload all required documentation.



The screenshot shows the registration page of the EKC Group Online Bursary Application Portal. At the top, a header reads "Welcome to the EKC Group Online Bursary Application Portal". Below this, a teal bar contains the text "Welcome to the online bursary system. You must register for a portal account using your student reference number." The main content area is titled "Register" and includes the instruction "If you are enrolled at the College and have a student number, please use this form to register." The form contains four input fields: "Student Number:", "Date of birth:", "Password:", and "Confirm Password:". A "Register" button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

## Next Steps

- We will let you know the outcome of your application as soon as it has been processed.
- We aim to process completed claims as soon as possible, however this may take some time during busy periods. We thank you for your patience.
- If you have been unsuccessful, you are able to appeal against the decision. All appeals will be acknowledged within 10 working days. A decision will be made within 20 working days.
- Appeals will be reviewed by a panel to ensure a fair and equitable approach.
- If the bursary sum does not cover the cost of travel, you should highlight this in following up on your application to KCC.

**Any questions?**