



Media Release

From January 2022, 5-21 year olds living in Scotland will be eligible to benefit from free bus travel. Children and young people who are **5-21 years old will need a new or replacement National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot National Entitlement Card (Young Scot NEC) to travel for free by bus**. Parents or guardians of 5-15 year olds must apply on their behalf. Children under 5 years old already travel for free on commercial bus services and do not need a card.

Full details on how to apply will be advertised in January 2022.

The Scottish Government continues to work with the Improvement Service – who is accountable for the NEC Scheme - and National Entitlement Card Programme Office – who is responsible for the management of the NEC and support local authorities with the application process – and Young Scot to deliver the scheme, **which it is currently expected to become operational on 31 January 2022.**

More information on the scheme can be found here: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/young-persons-free-bus-travel-scheme/>

You may wish to ensure that young people in your area are aware and your key workers may be required to assist young people in getting a new or replacement card”.