

School Transport

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- This Home to School Transport Policy relates to the Education Act 1996 and additional duties required by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- National guidance (last issued in July 2014 by the Department for Education) sets out the expectations of authorities in regards to home to school transport arrangements for pupils. In particular, the guidance sets out the circumstances in which the local authority has a duty to provide or arrange free school transport for children of compulsory school age

Who is Eligible?

- Free home to school transport or assistance will be provided for the following eligible pupils who will be of compulsory school age during the current academic year:
- a) A primary school age pupil attends their nearest suitable school and that school is over 2 miles from the home address where the distance is determined by the Council and uses the shortest walking distance along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety;
- b) A secondary school age pupil attends the nearest suitable school and that school is over 3 miles from the home address where the distance is determined by the Council and uses the shortest walking distance along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety;
- c) A secondary school age pupil from a low income family and attends: i. any one of their three nearest suitable schools and the school is between 2 and 6 miles away from their home address, or ii. the nearest school preferred by their parents on the grounds of religion or belief and the school is between 2 and 15 miles away from their home address

Who is Eligible

- Transport requirements are considered as part of a full assessment of a child's special educational needs. If a child's needs are such that there are no associated transport requirements, then eligibility for free transport or assistance will be assessed against the policy given above. 18. If a child is unable to walk the statutory distance to their nearest appropriate school because of their special educational needs or disability, even if accompanied by a responsible adult, the Council will, subject to the statutory assessment/annual review process, provide travel assistance.

Personal Transport Allowance

- In some cases, where children qualify under this policy for assistance with transport, the Council will consider offering a personal transport allowance instead of direct transport provision, where this is in the best interests of the child and is the lowest cost option for the Council.
- Personal transport allowance is a sum of money calculated for each family to cover the cost of travel to and from school. A mileage allowance of 45 pence per mile will be awarded for the return journey to and from school at the beginning and end of the school day. As allowances are calculated on an individual basis they will vary from family to family.

Permanently Excluded Pupils

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36. It is expected that assistance will be on a temporary basis until such a time as the child is re-integrated into mainstream or special school and will be subject to review.

Other reasons for transport

- Temporary illness
- Parent with disability
- No safe walking route.

Types of Assistance

- Travel Training to use public transport.
- School Transport
- Paid Parent support
- Travel of ITU Bus or Taxi.
 - This can be with or without a PA

Breakdown of Transport Type

<u>Children 0.45p</u>	<u>62</u>
<u>Children in mode of transport</u>	<u>1217</u>
<u>EIA Coahes</u>	<u>167</u>
<u>EIA Payments</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Total supported</u>	<u>1556</u>

Cost of Service approx. £3.5m

Challenges

- Increasing number of children with complex needs
- Availability of staff
- Availability of private sector providers
- Inflation
- Supply of own vehicles.