

4.2 PUPILS AGED BETWEEN AGED 11 AND 16 WHO ATTEND SECONDARY SCHOOL

Free transport will be provided for secondary school pupils in years 7 to 11 who go to:

- ♦ the school the LA has said is the normal school for the home address, as long as it is over three miles (the minimum distance) from home; or
- ♦ the preferred school, if that school is over three miles, but nearer to home than the normal school.

If children receive free school meals or parents receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, transport will be provided for Secondary school pupils in years 7 to 11 who go to:

- ♦ one of their three nearest qualifying^[1] schools, if that school is more than two but less than six miles from the home address; or
- ♦ the nearest suitable school preferred because of parents' religion or belief, where that school is more than two but less than 15 miles from home.

If children go to a school that is on split sites, the measurement of the walking distance will be taken from home to the site the children normally attend.

4.4 TRANSPORT TO A SCHOOL ON THE GROUNDS OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Since September 2012 pupils starting a 'denominational' school, either secondary or primary, have not been entitled to assistance with home to school transport.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school. Where possible paid permits will be available to purchase for surplus seats on services that are under contract to the County Council.

Where a family has two or more children who are not entitled to assistance with transport a 'family ticket' may be available to purchase. This will be one and a half times the cost of a paid permit. This will only be available to families attending the nearest denominational school, on the grounds of religion or belief

Pupils who, prior to September 2012 were already attending a 'denominational' secondary school will continue to be entitled to assistance with transport to that school until the end of year 11, providing that they do not move address.

Pupils who, prior to September 2012 were already attending a 'denominational' primary school will continue to be entitled to assistance with transport to that school until the end of year 6 providing that they do not move address. They will not be entitled to assistance with transport when they transfer to secondary school.

[1] Qualifying schools are: Community; foundation; voluntary aided or controlled schools, community or foundation special schools; non-maintained special schools; pupil referral units; city technology colleges(CTC); city colleges for the technology of the arts (CCTA) or Academies (source *Home to school travel and transport guidance para 104* published by DCFS 2007)

Arrangements for transporting pupils to denominational schools will remain in place until 2016 for secondary aged pupils and 2018 for primary aged pupils, at which point the network will be reviewed and all provision removed.

Please note that pupils starting denominational secondary school from September 2012 onwards will not be able to purchase paid permits on existing transport from 2016 and those primary pupils starting from September 2012 onwards will not be able to purchase paid permits from 2018.

This means that parents will be responsible for all transport arrangements and costs to denominational schools as the County Council will not arrange any transport after these dates.

It is important that you do not rely on existing travel arrangements when deciding which school you wish your child to attend.

Exceptions

The exceptions are

- If the denominational school is nearer to the home address than the catchment school (s) and the distance from home to school is over the walking distance of 3 miles

Also where children receive free school meals, or whose parents receive the maximum level of working tax credit we will provide assistance with transport to the nearest suitable school parents prefer because of their religion or belief:

- For secondary aged pupils where the distance from home to school is more than two miles but not more than 15 miles,
- For primary aged pupils where the distance from home to school is more than two miles but not more than 5 miles.

This will be assessed on an annual basis and may be withdrawn if parents' benefits change.

Denominational school refers to schools where pupils are admitted on the grounds of their parents' faith as part of the published admissions criteria. This will not normally apply to a Voluntary Controlled School as pupils are not admitted to schools on these grounds.

Some 'denominational' primary schools are also the 'normal' school for the home address. In cases where pupils are attending the school as it is their normal or community school they will remain entitled to free transport if they live more than two miles from the school .

We check with the school to see if a child has been admitted on denominational grounds.