

Appendix A
Home to School /College Travel Policies – Comparison of Current and Proposed Approaches

Current Approach	Proposed Changes
<p>All children who are in reception year to the end of year 11 qualify for free school transport if they go to their nearest suitable or catchment school and live at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 miles from the school if they are under 8 • 3 miles from the school if they are 8 or older. 	<p>Travel will only be provided from home to nearest available school with a place for that child, rather than to the nearest or catchment school. Where there are 'pyramids' of schools that will be to the next school in the pyramid, rather than to the nearest school. For children with a SEN, it will usually be the school named in their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).</p> <p>There will be no changes to other aspects of these policies.</p>
The statutory walking distances are measured by the shortest available walking route	No change.
If there is no available walking route, children may be offered free transport.	No change.
<p>If the family is in receipt of the maximum Working Tax Credit or your children are entitled to free school meals, they will get free school transport if they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. aged 8 to 11 and the nearest suitable school is at least 2 miles away II. aged 11 to 16 and attend 1 of the 3 nearest schools between 2 to 6 miles from the home address III. aged 11 to 16 and attend the nearest school of their chosen religion or belief and it is between 2 to 15 miles from the home address 	<p>As Universal Credit replaces Working Tax Credit we will use Free School Meal entitlement as the basis for entitlement to travel assistance on low income grounds.</p> <p>There will be no changes to other aspects of these policies.</p>
The majority of entitled pupils are transported on council contracted vehicles.	Provision of a pass to travel on public transport will be the first point of assistance offered to Middle and Upper school pupils ages 9 – 16, rather than the commissioning of routes through private operators. The council already provides bus passes for pupils to use public transport, but we will seek to increase the use of public transport.
Transport is provided to entitled under 5's starting in reception class	Transport will not be provided for children who are less than statutory school age (under 5).

Current Approach	Proposed Changes
<p>Concessionary passes are sold where there are spare seats on council contracted routes. The cost for concessions in 16/17 was £157 per term</p>	<p>Concessionary passes will be charged at a cost that better reflects the actual cost to the council of providing the transport. Under the revised scheme charges could vary from £100 - £300 based on journey cost.</p>
<p>Where students are on split time tables or only attend school for short periods in the day a contracted route is used to provide transport</p>	<p>Where it is more cost-effective, schools will be given the option to have a contribution made to allow them to run their own minibus to transport their pupils.</p>
<p>There is no automatic entitlement for pupils with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN). However transport can be provided if they live further than the statutory walking distances mentioned above and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend their nearest or catchment mainstream school. • attend the nearest suitable special school, which has been agreed by us as being able to meet their needs 	<p>Where a vehicle is provided to a family through the national Motability Scheme, we will provide parents/carers with a payment to cover the mileage, in order that they can use their specialised vehicle to transport their child to school or college.</p>
<p>If a child lives under the statutory walking distance but their needs would mean it was unsafe for them to walk (even when accompanied by an appropriate adult), then transport may also be provided.</p> <p>This also applies if the child's parent /carers needs mean it makes it unsafe for them to accompany their child, and there is no other responsible adult to accompany the child to school.</p>	<p>Provision of a pass to travel on public transport will be the first point of assistance offered, rather than the commissioning of routes through private operators.</p>
<p>If a child attends the nearest or catchment school and they have a medical condition which means they are unable to walk to school or access mainstream or public transport, then transport may be provided.</p> <p>This also applies if the child's parent/carer has a medical condition and there is no other responsible adult to accompany the child to school</p>	<p>Transport will be to the nearest available school only.</p>

Current Approach	Proposed Changes
<p>Where a boarding school has been identified as the nearest available school to meet the child's needs, travel assistance is provided in accordance with the boarding arrangements where the usual distance criteria are also met. Boarding arrangements for residential schools can be one of the following:</p> <p>Termly boarding – travel assistance is only provided at the beginning and end of each term and at the beginning and end of the mid-term holiday.</p> <p>12 day boarding – travel assistance is provided on alternate weekends and at the beginning and end of each term.</p> <p>Weekly boarding - travel assistance is provided to school on Monday and from school on Friday each week.</p> <p>52 week placement – travel assistance is provided up to a maximum of three return journeys each academic year.</p> <p>For all boarding arrangements, any additional journey to those laid out above remains the responsibility of the parent/carer.</p> <p>In the interests of the efficient use of resources the council, in all cases, encourages the parent/carer to make their own travel arrangements for which appropriate reimbursement is made</p> <p>The cost of attending one statement review per year at an out of council area school is met by the council by reimbursement of the most economical means of travel assistance available.</p> <p>No other additional costs (e.g. other members of the family, friends etc.) are met by the council.</p> <p>One parent/carer can be transported with the child to act as a passenger assistant to schools which are out of the council area if that results in the most efficient use of the council's resources.</p> <p>All additional transport requirements remain the responsibility of the parent/carer.</p>	<p>Where a boarding school has been identified as the nearest available school to meet the child's needs, travel assistance will change for new applicants.</p> <p>Where a Motability vehicle has been provided for the child, travel assistance will be by way of a mileage payment to the parent/carer.</p> <p>If there are spaces on a bus to the boarding school provided through the council's travel assistance scheme, these spare spaces will continue to be offered to pupils who are not eligible for travel assistance. However they will be charged at a fee that reflects the cost to the council.</p> <p>In future, parents/carers will be required to make their own travel arrangements, for which appropriate reimbursement will be made and the council will cover the costs when this is less than the cost of providing transport.</p> <p>This non statutory provision will no longer be made available.</p> <p>No change</p> <p>No change</p> <p>No change</p>

