

SECTION 10.0: TRANSPORT FOR PUPILS AND STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION (JUNE 2007) THE POLICY FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORT IS UNDER REVIEW AND COULD WELL CHANGE.

Parents need to consider this when making applications for school places in 2008/2009 academic year.

The current situation is available from the Passenger Transport Group (Contact details available in [Section 8.9](#))

10.1 What transport assistance is available for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs?

Special Education provision is explained in [Section 13A](#).

Those children receiving transport under the County Council's previous transport policy for children with special educational needs (which expired July 1999) will continue to do so until they reach one of the following stages in their education, at which point the Policy for NEW ADMISSIONS AND NEW STATEMENTS (as detailed below) will apply:-

- 1) The end of National Curriculum Key Stage Two (i.e. at the end of the Academic Year following their 11th birthday, or at the end of Year Group 6);**
- 2) A Child's Transitional Review at 14+ (i.e. at the end of the Academic Year following his/her 14th birthday, or at the end of Year Group 9);**
- 3) The end of the Academic Year following their 16th birthday.**

When your child reaches the end of one of these stages, the need for free Home to School Transport will be reassessed in accordance with the Council's new Policy, as detailed below. The Council's Area Assessment Officers will carry out the reassessment that will carefully consider each individual child's particular circumstances determining whether or not free transport should continue to be provided.

The Area Assessment Officers, in making their recommendations, will take due account of any special circumstances relating to a child's condition which might prevent them from making their way to school.

NEW ADMISSIONS AND NEW STATEMENTS

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs who live in excess of the relevant statutory walking distance.

Free transport will be given to children with Statements of Special Educational Needs who live in excess of the statutory walking distances (**2 miles for children under 8 years of age and 3 miles for those children aged 8 years and over** ([see paragraph 8.1](#)) and who attend the nearest or designated school.

For the purpose of school transport a **designated** school refers to the school which the Local Authority has determined as being the appropriate school for a particular child's address/needs.

Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs who live within the relevant statutory walking distance or who are not attending the nearest or designated school.

Requests for transport in respect of other children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (i.e. those living within the statutory walking distances or those who do not attend the nearest or designated school), will be considered on an individual basis by the Director of Children's Services, as part of the statutory assessment and statementing procedure, to determine whether they have special transport needs. If such needs exist then transport would be provided free of charge.

Where other special transport needs exist, which require consideration outside of the standard policy (as detailed above) **i.e. for non-statemented children**, these too, will be considered on an individual basis by the Director of Children's Services.

Children with special educational needs who are under 16 years of age and who themselves are receiving a Disability Living Allowance.

Free Transport will be given to children under 16 years of age with special educational needs, who are themselves receiving a Disability Living Allowance and who are attending the nearest appropriate school (which for the purposes of children with special educational needs will be the designated school), irrespective of distance, as determined by the Director of Children's Services. However, this is currently under review and parents/students should check with the Director of Children's Services for up-dated information.

10.2 Children with special educational needs attending residential establishments

The County Council will provide transport at the beginning and end of terms and at half-terms for pupils with special educational needs attending residential establishments (where such placements have been agreed/arranged by the County Council).

In addition to the daily home to school transport provided for day pupils and the transport provided at the beginning and end of terms and half-terms for pupils attending residential establishments, there are other areas of assistance associated mainly with residential schooling (for which transport assistance will be provided for the child and not more than two parents) as necessary at the County Council's discretion:-

- a) Pre-admission assessments (in-county and out-county)
- b) Subsequent case conferences/reviews

(Where the location of a school makes it necessary, the County Council will also meet reasonable overnight accommodation costs).

It is important to note, however, that parents have full responsibility for transport arrangements when their child attends, by parental preference, a school other than the nearest or designated one for their home address. In a few such cases, it may be possible for parents to use spare seats that are occasionally available on school transport, on the terms indicated in [paragraph 8.7](#).

In most cases where transport is provided:

- Escorts are provided as necessary, to supervise the children on their journeys to and from school;
- Safety equipment, such as harnesses, is made available on all vehicles if needed.