

Other Transport Information

Please also see section 4 of the main booklet.

If the payment of travel costs is an important factor when expressing a preference for a school, you must check with the Area Education Office to discuss your entitlement to receive transport assistance. It may also be helpful to read the full Home to School Transport Policy which can be found on the County Council's website, under the section on school transport.

Provision of School Transport

Parents/carers of children not entitled to transport assistance are also reminded to exercise caution when considering preferences for a particular school based on current transport provision and the current cost of this provision. The County Council cannot guarantee that any specific school bus service will continue to operate in the future, nor can they guarantee that the bus services will operate at the current price charged. These prices could increase significantly in the future.

Transport Assistance to Community, Voluntary Controlled, Foundation Schools and Academies.

The Council is required by law to meet the cost of home to school transport for pupils aged eight years of age or over where they attend their nearest school and this school is over three miles from home. The distance is two miles for pupils under eight unless pupils are unable to walk due to a disability or the route is unsuitable.

For low income families there is free transport if a pupil attends one of their three nearest schools. For the assistance to be awarded the school must be between 2 and 6 miles away from the child's home.

Transport Assistance to Faith Schools / Academies / Grammar Schools.

Changes in policy:

Prior to September 2011, the Council exercised discretion and granted free transport to those pupils who attended their nearest faith school, provided they met the distance criterion and had been admitted to the school on denominational grounds. As the provision of the denominational subsidy is not statutory and as a result of reductions in Council budgets from September 2011, parents of pupils in these circumstances were required to make a contributory charge. The parental contribution for 2017/18 is £575.00

From September 2018, the County Council has removed this discretionary element of the Home to School Transport policy and there will no longer be any denominational transport assistance available for new pupils starting at either primary or secondary schools in September 2018, unless the family meet the low income criteria. Transport assistance will still be provided for existing pupils as it has been agreed that the changes in policy are phased-in so that children who started school under one set of transport arrangements continue to benefit from them until they either conclude their education at that school or choose to move to another school.

There also remains a statutory entitlement to transport assistance for families on low income where the child attends the nearest faith school, if the school is between 2 and 15 miles from home and the child has been admitted under the denominational criteria. This assistance is available for families in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits for free school meals or the maximum amount of Working Tax Credit.

For pupils who obtain a place at a selective grammar school in Lancaster, assistance with travel will only be provided if the school attended is the nearest and the distance criterion is met.