

Whose responsibility is it to get a child to school?

It is the parents' or carers' responsibility to get their child to school for the whole time that they are there. You should think about how practical it is to send your child to a school which is not within walking distance, unless it is the designated or nearest school. It is not a good idea to rely on lifts from friends, concessionary places on buses or public transport routes which could change.

Do I have to apply for school transport for my child?

Yes. In March the Admissions Team will send you a letter to let you know which school your child has been allocated a place at. A transport application form will be sent to you with this letter. You must return this application form by 1 April, with proof that you are in receipt of an appropriate means tested benefit, if that applies to you.



What happens when my child reaches 16 years of age?

There is no automatic entitlement to free education transport if your child is over 16 at the beginning of the academic year (1 September). However, we will help with travel expenses in certain circumstances. Where help is given, we pay part of the cost, but you will be asked to make a contribution. The level of contribution is set by us and we review it every year.

Code of Conduct

We want all passengers to enjoy a safe and pleasant journey. A Code of Conduct leaflet is sent out with every transport application form. All pupils and their parents must sign a declaration on the application form to agree that they will abide by the Code of Conduct and behave appropriately on school transport.

Is there an appeal process?

Yes. If you are unhappy with the decision about eligibility for education transport or the withdrawal of transport, please contact the Education Transport Team on **0845 155 1019** and explain the problem fully. They will advise you on the next step.

For more information

Please contact **0845 155 1019** or visit www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport

Transport for secondary school pupils

what you need to know



Information correct
May 2011

Will my child get free school transport?

You can request a place at any school for your child, but your child may not necessarily be entitled to free school transport. It is very important that you check whether your child will be entitled to transport. If they are not entitled, you will need to think carefully about how your child is going to get to the school you prefer for the whole time they will be there.

How do I check if my child is eligible for free school transport?

If you apply for a place at the school designated for your home address and you live more than 3 miles away by the shortest walking route, you will be entitled to free transport. You can find out which school serves your home address by phoning **0845 155 1019**. You will also be entitled to free transport to the school nearest to your home if it is closer than the designated school, as long as it is still more than 3 miles away from your home by the shortest walking route.

How are distances measured?

Walking distances are measured using the shortest available walking route. This may include roads, recognised footpaths and bridleways. The measurement is made between the nearest entrance to your house (for example, a front gate) and the nearest entrance to the school grounds. Private driveways to homes and in schools are not included in the measurement.

What if my address changes?

Please advise the Education Transport Team on **0845 155 1019** so that they can check your child is still entitled to education transport. You must allow at least one week's notice for transport to be changed.

What if I am on a low income?

The statutory right to free transport for secondary school pupils from low income families provides a choice to one of the 3 nearest schools to the home address. However, transport will only be provided if the school is between 2 and 6 miles of the home address. If your child is entitled to free school meals or your family gets the maximum level of Working Tax Credit then your family is considered to be on a low income. You will need to give us proof that you receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit. Distances up to 2 miles are measured using the shortest available walking route and distances over 2 miles and up to 6 miles are measured by road.

What if my circumstances change?

Benefit evidence will be reassessed every year so if your circumstances change and your child stops getting free school meals, or you are no longer getting the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, then your child may not continue to have free school transport. You should think carefully about how you would get your child to the school of your choice if your circumstances change and free transport is no longer provided.



Is transport provided to grammar schools?

Transport will only be provided to grammar schools if the school is the nearest to the home address and you live more than three miles from the school, or you are on a low income (please see section on low income).

What if I have chosen my child's school because of religion or belief?

Transport will not be provided on faith grounds unless the school is the nearest to the home address and you live more than three miles from the school.

However, if your child gets free school meals, or you get the maximum level of Working Tax Credit your child will be entitled to transport to the nearest faith school to your address provided the school is over 2 miles and up to a maximum of 15 miles from your home. Distances of up to 2 miles are measured using the shortest available walking route and distances over 2 miles and up to 15 miles are measured by road. This entitlement also has to be applied for every year.