

What do I need to consider?

Primary and Infant School Transport

Will my child get free school transport?

You can express a preference for a place at any school, but your child may not necessarily have entitlement to free school transport. So it is important that you check whether your child will be entitled to transport and, if not, consider carefully how your child is going to get to the school you prefer for the whole of the time they will be at that school. Please note transport for non-entitled students such as taking friends home to tea and induction days is not provided.

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

If you apply for a place at the school designated to serve your home address and you live more than two miles away by the shortest walking route, you will be entitled to free transport. You can check which is the designated school to serve your home address at www.devon.gov.uk/schoolareamaps or by telephoning **0845 155 1019**

You will also be entitled to free transport to the school nearest to your home, provided it is still over two miles from your home by the shortest walking route.

Residents of Sidmouth should be aware that Sidmouth C of E Primary School operates two sites for children in Reception and Years 1 and 2: the former All Saints Infants and Sidmouth Infants Schools. **Transport on designated school grounds** is only available to the nearer of the two sites to the home address.

Residents of Harrowbeer should be aware that there are two designated primary schools for admissions purposes; St Andrew's and Lady Modiford's C of E Primary Schools.

Transport on designated school grounds is only available for new applications to Lady Modiford's.

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. Distances are measured using an electronic geographic information system (GIS).

What if I have expressed a preference for a school because of religion or belief?

Transport may be provided to your nearest school on grounds of religion or belief, provided:

- you live in Devon (but not Plymouth or Torbay)
- the school can confirm your faith or belief, and
- you live within the designated transport area for the school.

There is a charge for faith transport which is reviewed annually. If you receive an appropriate benefit, this charge is reduced.

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Whose responsibility is it to get a child to school?

All parents are encouraged to consider the practicalities of sending their child to a school which is not in walking distance, unless it is the designated or nearest school, because it is the parents' responsibility to get their child to school throughout the whole time the child is there. It is unwise to rely on lifts from friends, concessionary places on buses or public transport routes which could be changed.

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

Yes. On **20 April** the Admissions Team will tell you which school your child has been allocated a place at. If your child is likely to be entitled to free school transport, the Education Transport Team will send you a Transport Application Form in April or May. You should return this Form as soon as possible. If you have not received a Form by the end of June and believe your child should get free transport, call My Devon on **0845 155 1019**

If free transport is withdrawn can I appeal?

Withdrawal of free transport in cases where the pupil no longer meets the low income policy is not considered to constitute grounds for an appeal for assistance from the Council, as parents have been warned in advance that this could happen.

Travelling to school

It is the vision of Devon County Council that it will be the 'greenest' county in England and that every child will be able to travel to school as healthily, sustainably and, most of all, as safely

as possible. Please consider when selecting a school for your child, the proximity and accessibility of the school to your home. Daily physical exercise in the form of walking, cycling and walking for a bus or train are all beneficial for your child's health, as well as being sociable, better for your pocket and better for the local and global environment. Devon County Council works within a hierarchy of travel options giving priority to walking and cycling, then school and public transport followed lastly by taxi and car travel.

For more info email stplans@devon.gov.uk

Your local school could be filled by 'positive' preferences. If you do not express a preference for your local or designated school on time then it may be possible for your child to be allocated to a school with vacancies situated some distance from your home. If this happens any transport arrangements will be your responsibility.