

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Clarification and Amendments - 2015/16 Home to School Transport Policy

In response to queries from parents, the Council has amended the wording of the policy to provide more clarity. These changes do not affect entitlement:

- Parent's responsibilities – these are now highlighted throughout the policy for ease of reference.
- The information that is required to allow us to consider applications for transport under the *temporary medical condition* or *parental disability* clauses is now explained (page 5)
- The definition of an *Available route* has been expanded to provide more information on what is considered (section 9)
- In relation to *Appeals* (section 18), the content has been updated to provide a clearer explanation of the grounds for an Appeal and to explain the process where we need to ask for additional evidence.
- In relation to *Complaints* (section 19), the content has been updated to provide a clearer explanation of when a representation from a parent is a complaint and when it is an Appeal.

Amendments have been made:

- In relation to *Pupils attending a Pupil Referral Unit*, the content has been updated to reflect current practice. (Page 6)
- In relation to *Pupils permanently excluded from school*, the content has been updated to reflect current practice. (Page 6)
- In relation to *post-16 students with a statement of Special Educational Needs*, the content has been updated in the light of the SEND reforms. (page 9-10)
- In relation to children with a Statement of Special Education Needs/EHC Plan, the content has been updated in the light of the SEND reforms (pages 6, 9-10, 14-15)

Change of Entitlement - 2016/17 Home to School Transport Policy

The 2016/17 policy is the same as the 2015/16 policy except:

Removal of secondary catchment transport provision

The Council proposes to remove the discretionary criteria to provide transport for secondary students to their catchment school but will continue to provide transport to the nearest school to their home address (subject to meeting the relevant criteria).

This change means that, in the future:

- Where the nearest school and the catchment school are the same school, entitlement will not be affected.
- Students could still qualify for free transport to their *nearest* secondary school (e.g. under the distance or low income criteria, if this applied to their circumstances).
- Students wishing to travel to their catchment school, if this is not their nearest school, could apply for a Fare Payer place on the school bus, under the rules of the Fare Payer Scheme – a fee is payable. The bus may be over-subscribed and a place is not guaranteed.

This change would affect about 400 students out of a total secondary school population of 11500.

In line with national guidance, this change is being phased in from September 2016. This will apply to all new transport applications - new students when they start secondary education or existing students if they change their secondary school route. Current secondary students who receive transport will continue to be entitled to free transport on their existing route until the end of Year 11.

Changes to the Farepayer Scheme

The 2016/17 Scheme is the same as the 2015/16 Scheme except:

- Discount for siblings is reduced from 20% to 10%.