

Does my child qualify for free home to school transport for September 2019?

Guidance
notes for
parents



The vast majority of parents and carers remain responsible for the cost of their children's fares between home and school. However, anyone under the age of 16, living in Wakefield and in full-time education need only pay half the adult single or return fare. Pupils aged 11 to 16 need an Under 16 PhotoCard as proof of age and residence. The Under 16 PhotoCard is free of charge and available to West Yorkshire residents aged 11 to 16. If you have an Under 16 PhotoCard you can travel for half fare on bus and train in West Yorkshire at any time of day, including evenings and weekends. Without an Under 16 PhotoCard a young person aged 11 to 16 will have to pay the full adult fare for their journey. You can get more information from Metro Travel Centres and from Metro's website for young people at www.generationm.co.uk

Transport legislation does not recognise catchment areas as part of the assessment criteria for entitlement to free school transport. Only the nearest qualifying school can be considered for transport purposes and this school may not be the catchment area school.

Qualifying schools include community, foundation or voluntary schools, academies and city technology colleges.

Free Home to school transport is available for children:

- Under the age of 8 who live more than 2 miles* from the **nearest** qualifying primary school to their home. Free travel at the 2 mile limit will only apply up to the end of term in which the child becomes 8, after that a 3 mile* limit will apply;
- Aged between 8 and 16 years (or children up to and including Year 11) who travel 3 miles* or more to their **nearest** qualifying school;
- Aged between 8 and 11 who are entitled to receive free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit if they go to the **nearest** qualifying school to their home and live more than 2 miles from that school;
- Aged between 11 and 16 (ie. Years 7 to 11 inclusive) who are entitled to receive free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit if they attend one of their 3 **nearest** qualifying schools which are more than 2 miles but less than 6** miles from home;



- Aged between 11 and 16 (ie. Years 7 to 11 inclusive) who are entitled to receive free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit if they attend the **nearest** qualifying school preferred on the grounds of their parents religion or belief which is more than 2 miles but less than 15** miles from home.

* The 2 or 3 mile distance is measured as the nearest available walking route along which the child, accompanied as necessary, could walk with reasonable safety to school. This route can include footpaths, bridleways and other pathways as well as recognised roads.

** The 6 mile limit to a choice of schools and the 15 mile limit to a school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief are not walking routes. These routes will be measured along road routes.

In addition, we may also be able to help with transport arrangements for:

- Children who are unable to walk to school because of their special educational needs, disability or mobility issue;
- Children who are unable to walk in safety to school (accompanied as necessary) because of the nature of the route; and
- Young children with disabled parents who cannot accompany them on their journeys between home and school.

Where parents feel there are very good reasons why an exception to the home to school transport policy should be made, there is an appeals process.





Where can I get an application form or find out more information?

If you feel that your child qualifies for free home to school transport, you need to fill in an application form. You can download forms and extra information from the Wakefield Council website. Go to www.wakefield.gov.uk and click on 'Schools and children' then choose 'School travel and transport'. You can find our full policy on home to school transport there too.

Where parents feel there are very good reasons why an exception to the home to school transport policy should be made, there is an appeals process.

For further details please contact the Home to School Transport Team on (01924 305643 / 305675 / 306980 / 305481) or email: hst@wakefield.gov.uk

You can also write to us:

Children and Young People
Home to School Transport
Room 42
County Hall
Wakefield
WF1 2QL

Please note that the information given in this leaflet applies only to children who live in the Wakefield district, whether they attend a qualifying school in Wakefield or elsewhere.

