

**SOLIHULL M B C**  
**EDUCATION & CHILDRENS SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

**HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY FOR**  
**PUPILS AGED FROM 11 TO 16 YEARS OLD**

If you are a pupil who has an appropriate statement of SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS you will be advised separately whether or not you qualify for assistance with travel based upon your physical and/or cognitive difficulty. Students aged over 16 should refer to the Post 16 Transport Partnership policy. In all other cases, in order to qualify for free transport or assistance with travel, pupils must comply with all the relevant criteria listed below.

1) You must be ordinarily resident within the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, i.e. habitually or normally resident and not temporary or occasional or boarding.

2) You must be attending the nearest qualifying school, which means the nearest Maintained Community, Foundation, Voluntary, Special School, non-maintained Special School, Pupil Referral Unit, or Academy that provides education appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of the child.

3) Aged at least **eleven** and up to **sixteen** years old then three alternatives may be applicable:-

A) WHERE A PUPIL IS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR PARENTS/CARERS ARE IN RECEIPT OF MAXIMUM WORKING TAX CREDIT – you must live more than **two miles** but less than **six miles** (measured by the shortest available walking route) from **one of the three nearest** qualifying Secondary schools. This is any type of secondary school listed at 2 above, except for Voluntary Maintained Schools, at normal admission time or one of the three nearest such schools with places available at other times. Transport assistance will be withdrawn should the benefit cease and in all cases a fresh application will be required annually.

B) WHERE A PUPIL WISHES TO ATTEND A VOLUNTARY SECONDARY SCHOOL AND ALSO QUALIFIES FINANCIALLY AS AT A) ABOVE – you must live more than **two miles** (measured by the shortest available walking route) but less than **fifteen miles** (measured by straight line distance) from the **single nearest** qualifying Secondary school. This is your nearest Voluntary Maintained secondary of your religion or belief at normal admission time or nearest such school with places available at other times. In these cases evidence of religion or belief of the child may be needed and will be checked against the Admission records or if not available, evidence of faith of the parent/carer will be required with the travel application.

C) IN ALL OTHER CASES - you must live more than **three miles** (measured by the shortest available walking route) from the **single nearest** qualifying Secondary school. This is your catchment area secondary at normal admission time or nearest such school with places available at other times.

4) The distance between home and school will be measured to the nearest recognised entrance or entrances of the school without crossing another school's campus, unless there are no alternative routes onto the destination campus and is by the shortest available walking route measured, and can generally include footpaths, public parks and open spaces except under B) above. Parents/carers are responsible for their children's safety and it is assumed that children will be accompanied as appropriate.

5) No payment to pupils, parents or carers, in whole or part will be made for any travel expenses outside this policy.

*SOLIHULL MBC WILL CONSIDER ALL APPLICATIONS AGAINST THE ABOVE CRITERIA AND WHERE APPLICABLE WILL ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FOLLOWING MATTERS.*

6) Consideration to the individual circumstances of each pupil will be given including safety and distance of the route, age of the child, duration, difficulty and cost of the journey together with any other relevant factors which may affect the home to school journey.

7) On the advice of the Chief Education Welfare Officer, consideration will be given to certain pupils regardless of distance, to facilitate attendance at school taking into account temporary severe medical conditions, social deprivation or history of non-attendance. Such assistance will usually be on a short term basis only.

8) Pupils who cease to be eligible to receive assistance through leaving Solihull, moving house, changing/leaving schools, changing religion or belief; or whose family benefits have changed will not be required to pay for any unexpired portion of a bus pass but must inform the Transport Officer from the date eligibility ceases.

9) Pupils who do not qualify for transport assistance but feel they have a special case, or those who feel their circumstances have been incorrectly applied, may appeal in confidence to a Transport Officer Review Panel and ultimately to the Appeals Panel, an independent panel of Elected Members of the Council.

Further information and assistance will be provided by the Transport Officer, School Asset Support Team, Education & Children's Services, PO Box 20, Council House, Solihull B91 9QU.  
Telephone numbers - 0121 704 6698/6610

No escorts are provided on any vehicles except for appropriate Special Needs vehicles under contract to Solihull.

This policy incorporates, forms part of and should be read in conjunction with the Home to School Sustainable Travel and Transport Strategy found at [Solihull.gov.uk](http://Solihull.gov.uk).