

SOLIHULL M B C
EDUCATION & CHILDRENS SERVICES DIRECTORATE

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY FOR
PUPILS AGED FROM 4 TO 11 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. Pupils attending a nursery school are not eligible for assistance.

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, or Pupil Referral Unit that provides education appropriate to the age, ability and aptitude of the child. Evidence of religion or belief of the child 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.

- 3) If aged at least **four** and up to **eleven** years old you must live **two miles** or more (measured by the shortest available walking route) from the nearest appropriate Primary school.

- 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. 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, 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 free travel may be able to pay to travel on certain primary school coaches under contract to Solihull, details are available from the Transport Officer.

13) Pupils who do not qualify for transport assistance but feel they have an extraordinary special case, or those who feel their circumstances have been incorrectly applied, may appeal in confidence to a Transport Officer Review Panel and ultimately 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 certain primary school coaches and 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.