

Will my child get free school transport?

You can request a place at any school for your child, but they may not necessarily be entitled to free school transport. It is very important that you check whether your child will be entitled to transport. If they are not entitled, you will need to think carefully about how your child is going to get to the school you prefer for the whole time they will be there.

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

If you apply for a place at the school designated for your home address and you live more than 3 miles away by the shortest walking route, you will be entitled to free transport. You can find out which school serves your home address by phoning **0345 155 1019**. You will be entitled to free transport to the school nearest your home in Devon or a neighbouring county if it is closer than the designated school, as long as it is still more than 3 miles away from your home by the shortest walking route.

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.

What if my address changes?

Please advise the Transport Co-ordination Service on **0345 155 1019** so that they can check your child is still entitled to education transport. You must allow at least three week's notice for transport to be changed.

What if I am on a low income?

The statutory right to free transport for secondary school pupils from low income families provides a choice to one of the 3 nearest schools to the home address. However, transport will only be provided if the school is between 2 and 6 miles of the home address. If your child is entitled to free school meals or your family gets the maximum level of Working Tax Credit then your family is considered to be on a low income. You will need to give us proof that you receive the maximum level of Working Tax Credit. Distances up to 2 miles are measured using the shortest available walking route and distances over 2 miles and up to 6 miles are measured by road.

What if my circumstances change?

Benefit evidence will be reassessed every year so if your circumstances change and your child stops getting free school meals, or you are no longer getting the maximum level of Working Tax Credit, then your child may not continue to have free school transport. You should think carefully about how you would get your child to the school of your choice if your circumstances change and free transport is no longer provided.

Is transport provided to grammar schools?

Transport will only be provided to grammar schools if the school is the nearest to the home address and you live more than three miles from the school, or you are on a low income (please see section on low income).

What if I have chosen my child's school because of religion or belief?

Transport will not be provided on faith grounds unless the school is the nearest to the home address and you live more than three miles from the school.

However, if your child gets free school meals, or you get the maximum level of Working Tax Credit your child will be entitled to transport to the nearest faith school to your address provided the school is over 2 miles and up to a maximum of 15 miles from your home. Distances of up to 2 miles are measured using the shortest available walking route and distances over 2 miles and up to 15 miles are measured by road. This entitlement also has to be applied for every year. Your child will also need to meet the school's admission criteria on faith grounds.

Whose responsibility is it to get a child to school?

It is the parents' or carers' responsibility to get their child to school for the whole time that they are there. You should think about how practical it is to send your child to a school which is not within walking distance, unless it is the designated or nearest school.

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

If your child is starting school at the designated or nearest school to your home address in September and you live more than three miles from the school, the Transport Co-ordination Service will endeavour to contact you by email or letter, during April/May to let you know if your child is entitled to free school transport.

If you have not been contacted by the end of June and, after reading this leaflet, you think your child should get free school transport please call **0345 155 1019**.

If your child is starting school at any other time please call **0345 155 1019** for an application form.

If you think your child might qualify for free school transport on low income or faith grounds please ring **0345 155 1019** for an application form and return it with a copy of your current benefit evidence.

If your child attends a mainstream school and does not have a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN) or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), but has special needs or medical needs which may affect their ability to get to school or to use the transport provided; please contact us on **0345 155 1019**.

If your child has a Statement of SEN or an EHCP please ring **0345 155 1019** for leaflet **SENTRAN1**.

What happens when my child reaches 16 years of age?

There is no automatic entitlement to free education transport if your child is over 16 at the beginning of the academic year (1 September). Transport is provided in certain circumstances where there is a barrier to accessing education. Where help is given, you will be asked to make a contribution. The level of contribution is set by us and reviewed annually. For further information visit: devon.cc/post-16transport

Code of Conduct

We want all passengers to enjoy a pleasant journey. All pupils must abide by the Transport Code of Conduct which encourages them to behave appropriately on school transport.

Photographs on Passes

Travel passes for secondary pupils cannot be produced until a photograph is provided. All pupils **MUST** carry a pass to be allowed to travel. By accepting the provision of school transport and by providing a photograph for the pass, parents and pupils are automatically agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Is there an appeal process?

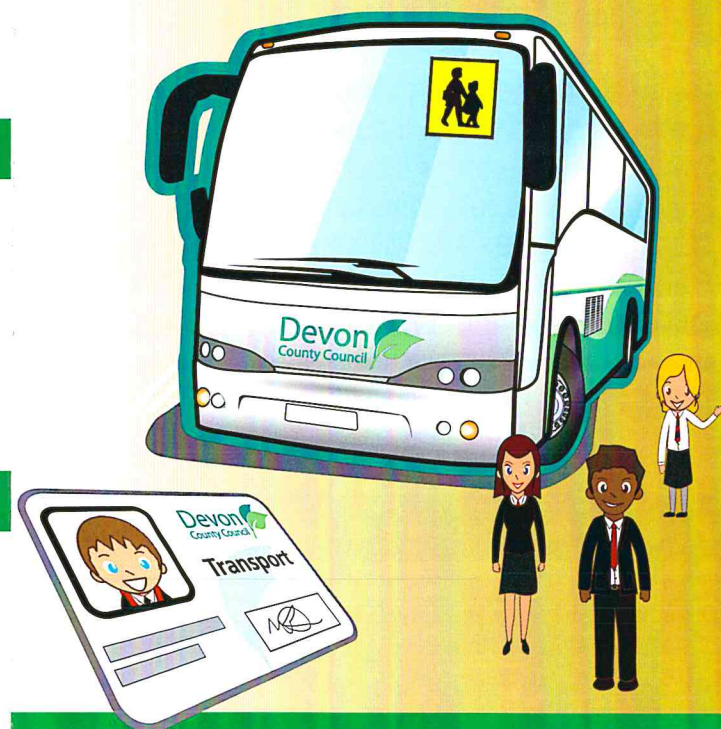
Yes. If you are unhappy with the decision about eligibility for education transport or the withdrawal of transport, please contact the Transport Co-ordination Service on **0345 155 1019** and explain the problem fully. They will advise you on the next step.

For more information

Please contact **0345 155 1019** or visit www.devon.gov.uk/school_transport

Transport for secondary school pupils

what you need to know



Information correct
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Devon
County Council