

Dear Colleague,

**Changes to Home to School Transport Policy and SEN Post-16 Transport Policy Statement**

I am writing to inform you of some important changes to the Home to School Transport Policy and the SEN Post-16 Transport Policy Statement, which will take effect in September 2025. These changes follow a full consultation held from Monday March 4, 2024, to Friday May 10, 2024. The proposed changes were approved by the Council’s Cabinet in July 2024.

These changes align our policies with those of neighbouring local authorities and encourage active travel and greater independence for students.

Please read the new [Home to School Transport Policy](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/liverpool/fsd/files/home_to_school_transport_policy_2025-2026.pdf) and [SEN Post-16 Transport Policy Statement](https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/liverpool/fsd/files/post_16_transport_statement_2025-26.pdf)

**Key Points of the New Policies:**

* **Current Pupils:** All pupils currently receiving travel assistance will continue to be supported under their current policies while they remain in their current school or college.
* **Low-Income Families:** Families classified as low-income, who make up 40% of all travel pass holders, will not be affected by the new proposals.
* **SEND Pupils:** Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who apply for travel assistance will have their needs assessed on an individual basis. Those impacted by the new policy will be evaluated for any extraordinary circumstances to ensure appropriate support and guidance.

**Home to School Transport Policy Changes:**

* **Discretionary Free Travel:** Discretionary free travel will be removed if parents or carers choose a school that is not the nearest suitable setting. However, they will retain the right to express a preference for a school during the admissions process.
* **Qualifying Distance:** The minimum qualifying distance for free travel will increase from two to three miles for children aged eight and over, in alignment with national guidance.
* **Travel Support for Years 6, 10, and 11:** Pupils in years 6, 10, and 11 who move home and are no longer within the qualifying walking distance will not automatically receive travel support. However, travel support will be maintained for low-income families who meet the statutory criteria. We will work with schools to provide support for pupils who do not meet the criteria.

**Post-16 Transport Policy Statement:**

* **Learner Contribution:** For students aged 16 and over, if the only transport option is a vehicle provided by the Council, a ‘learner contribution’ of £680 per year will be required. This fee will be reduced by 50% for students eligible for free school meals. Students will have the option to pay this contribution in instalments, and bursary funding may be available to cover travel costs.
* **Support and Guidance:** The Council will offer advice on accessing student bursaries and will work with colleges to enhance support for students, including access to public transport through initiatives like the Independent Travel Training Programme.

**Next Steps:**

We kindly ask that you share this information with parents and carers at your earliest convenience. We recommend including it in your next school newsletter, posting it on your website, and distributing it via any other communication channels you use. If possible, we also recommend that you include it in your school prospectus.

If you have any enquires relating to the policies, you can contact [schoolbustravel@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:schoolbustravel@liverpool.gov.uk) or sen.transport@liverpool.gov.uk

We are committed to providing the necessary support and guidance throughout this transition.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring that parents are well-informed about these upcoming changes.

Yours sincerely,

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**Jenny Turnross**

**Corporate Director - Children and Young People’s Services**

**Liverpool City Council**