

## Transport to and from a primary school 2020

### Concessionary fares on public transport

When travelling on buses and trains within West Yorkshire:

- Children under 5 travel for free when accompanied by a fare-paying passenger on most buses, and all trains displaying the Metro symbol.
- Anyone aged 5 to 10 pays half fare on most buses and all trains displaying the Metro symbol, including school buses. The production of a PhotoCard is not required unless the child looks a lot older.

When they reach the age of 11, children living in Leeds need to show an **Under 16 PhotoCard** to obtain half fare travel during weekends and holidays. However, they no longer need to show a half fare pass if travelling to/from school and wearing school uniform. Visit West Yorkshire Combined Authority for more information.

It is important to remember that bus routes, fares and timetables change over time so you are advised to consider how your child would get to school if an existing bus service is withdrawn or the route is altered. For details of dedicated primary school bus services in Leeds please visit the West Yorkshire Combined Authority website.

### **Is my child entitled to free home to school transport?**

In a small number of cases, primary age children are entitled to free travel assistance. If your child would need to use public transport to get to and from school, you are strongly advised to read the latest version of Leeds Children's Services Transport Policy, which can be found at the [www.Leeds.gov.uk](http://www.Leeds.gov.uk) website.

#### **Please note:**

- Individual primary schools may offer school places using their own admission policies. Some admissions policies may measure distances using straight lines.
- It is a legal requirement, however, that for transport purposes we must measure distances up to three miles according to the shortest available walking route, and we measure distances over three miles using the shortest available driving route – we never use straight-line measurements or catchments in the way that some school admissions policies may do, or might have done in the past.
- This means that your 'nearest' or 'catchment' school for admissions purposes may not be the same as your 'nearest qualifying school' for the purposes of transport.
- You should not assume that any child who starts school in September 2020 will be entitled to travel free of charge, even if an elder sibling, or other children in your neighbourhood have, or previously had, a free bus pass.
- If you think you might be entitled to transport assistance to get your child to school and you need help to work out your 'nearest qualifying school' school before finalising your school choices, or if you have other general school transport questions, it essential that you read the Children's Transport policy.
- School bus fares are reviewed on an annual basis.

We will always provide suitable transport assistance to children who are eligible for free school transport. However, schools currently served by a school bus may not always have a school bus. Demographic change, the opening of new schools and improvements to the public transport network are just a few things that can mean a school bus is withdrawn.

Every school bus service is reviewed every year to assess whether there is a continued need for them. If school buses are withdrawn, there is no guarantee of a public service alternative, or a child's journey on the public network may take longer and/or include a change of buses on the journey.

If your child is not entitled to free school transport you are strongly advised to consider how you will get your to school if an existing school bus service is withdrawn. For more information about how decisions are made on whether to operate school buses, see the West Yorkshire Combined Authority website.

### **How do I apply for support with home to school travel arrangements?**

You need to fill in an application form as soon as you know which school your child will be attending from September 2020. You should apply by 28 June 2020. To download forms and guidance notes, visit: The West Yorkshire Combined Authority website. Decision letters will be mailed from June 2020 onwards.

### **How do I get more information about school transport?**

If you need help to work out your '**nearest qualifying school**' for the purposes of transport before finalising your school choice, or have school transport questions:

**Phone:** 0113 348 1122    **Email:** [freetravel@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:freetravel@westyorks-ca.gov.uk)  
**Write:** Leeds Education Transport Assessment Team, West Yorkshire  
Combined Authority, 40-50 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE

### **School Transport Assistance for Children with SEND**

Additional help with transport is available for some children with special educational needs or disabilities. Eligible children are offered assistance in the least restrictive way meets the individual needs of the child, whilst promoting as much independence as possible. Provision may include one or more of the following options:

- travel training to enable a child to access public transport and travel independently.
- a mileage allowance, or fixed amount of money, payable to a parent or legal guardian if he or she escorts and takes the child to school.
- a taxi, minibus or adapted vehicle.
- a passenger assistant to travel with a child in a taxi or minibus.

The Children's Transport policy, along with details of how to apply and other useful information can be found on the council's website, or by talking to your child's SEN Casework Officer.