

**MIDDLESBROUGH**  
**CHILDREN, FAMILIES &**  
**LEARNING**

**HOME TO SCHOOL /**  
**COLLEGE**  
**TRANSPORT POLICY**  
**2008 - 2009**

## **HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY 2008 - 2009**

1. This Home to School Transport Policy relates to the Education Act 1996 and additional duties imposed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The aim of this policy is that school travel and transport arrangements support choice and flexibility of educational provision for families.
2. **This policy also supports the Council's commitment to the achievement of the outcomes framework of Every Child Matters:**
  - Achieve Economic Well-being
  - Be Healthy
  - Stay Safe
  - Enjoy and Achieve
  - Make a positive Contribution

### **PUPILS IN PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

3. For the purpose of this policy, home to school transport means a journey to and from school which corresponds with the start and end of the school day.
4. **All schools in Middlesbrough have catchment areas and parents in the Borough will live within a catchment area, which determines which is their local primary or secondary school.**
5. Parents who want their children to attend their catchment area school will be provided with free transport between home and school where:
  - a primary school age pupil attends the nearest suitable school and that school is over 2 miles from the home address where the distance is determined by the Council and uses the shortest walking distance along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety;
  - a secondary age pupil attends the nearest suitable school and that school is over 3 miles from the home address where the distance is determined by the Council and uses the shortest walking distance along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety;
  - a primary aged pupil attends a catchment area faith school for reasons of religion or belief (evidence may be required to support this) and that school is over 2 miles from the home address where the distance is determined by the Council and uses the shortest walking distance along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety;

- a secondary aged pupil attends a catchment area faith school for reasons of religion or belief (evidence may be required to support this) and that school is over 3 miles from the home address where the distance is determined by the Council and uses the shortest walking distance along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety;
  - a secondary aged pupil is from a low income family and attends:
    - (a) any one of their three nearest suitable schools and the school is between two and six miles away from their home address,
    - or
    - (b) the nearest school preferred by their parents on the grounds of religion or belief and the school is between two and fifteen miles away from their home address
  - need for transport is determined and included in a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs.
6. Assistance with transport may also be considered for a child with a disability or temporary medical condition (if not included in a Statement of Special Educational Needs). Medical evidence will be needed to support this.
  7. A low income household is defined as one where the pupil is eligible for Free School Meals or whose parents are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit.
  8. **A suitable school is one that offers a full-time programme of education suited to the age, ability and aptitude of the pupil and may include a mainstream school, special school or special resource base or unit, alternative education provision or Pupil Referral Unit.**
  9. In all cases the Council will determine the most appropriate way of making transport provision.

### **Parental Preference**

10. Parents have a right to express a preference for a school that is not in their catchment area. Where the child attends a school that is not the catchment school and is over the statutory distance the parents will not be assisted with transport, whether or not the actual catchment area school is over the statutory distance, unless they meet the low income criteria.

### **Other circumstances in which transport may be considered:**

11. Where Middlesbrough Council believes that a route is not safe for a child to walk, accompanied as necessary, assistance with transport may be provided where the route is below the minimum distance detailed above.

12. A key stage 4 pupil moves home, within the Middlesbrough Council boundary, and resides over the statutory distance from their original school and it is important and practicable to continue their education at their original school, assistance with travelling expenses will be considered on an individual case.
13. For children who are cared for by Middlesbrough Council who reside over the statutory distance and may not be attending their catchment area school.

#### **STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR A MEDICAL CONDITION ATTENDING COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION**

14. Students up to the age of nineteen years who are attending the appropriate college of further education for their course will be provided with free home to college transport if transport was identified as a non-educational need within the last statement of special educational needs or the student has a special medical condition that warrants transport. This will be subject to termly or annual review depending upon individual circumstances.

#### **APPEALS AGAINST A DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORT**

15. Appeals against a decision not to provide free home to School transport will be considered by the Council's Complaint and Appeals Committee. Appeals forms are available from Children, Families and Learning, Transport Section, M.T.L.C., Tranmere Avenue, Town Farm, Middlesbrough, TS3 8PB.

#### **HALF FARE PERMIT SCHEME (16 - 19 YEARS OF AGE)**

16. Students resident within Middlesbrough aged 16-19 who continue to attend full-time courses at a sixth form college or college of further education, are entitled to a permit allowing them to make one journey per college day in each direction between home and college at half the normal adult fare. The permit is issued by Middlesbrough Council and operators are reimbursed with the half of the fare not paid by the student.

The permit is valid for journeys commencing before 6:30pm and is valid for journeys within Middlesbrough, Stockton on Tees, Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool. Students who attend college outside of this area should consult the Student services Officer at their college.

Application forms are available from Children, Families and Learning, Transport Section, M.T.L.C., Tranmere Avenue, Town Farm, Middlesbrough, TS3 8PB.