

RE: Home to School Transport Policy Review

Dear Headteachers,

We are writing to inform you about the recent changes to the Council's Travel assistance policy for 0-25 year olds in education following the consultation process. We understand that these changes may impact your families, and it's important to us that they are fully aware of the adjustments.

After careful consideration, the Council's Cabinet decided to:

1. Adopt the revised 0-25 Travel Assistance Policy.
2. Implement changes from September 2024.

You can access the policy on the Birmingham City Council website, where there is also information about the key changes:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/download/840/travel_assist_policy_document_s

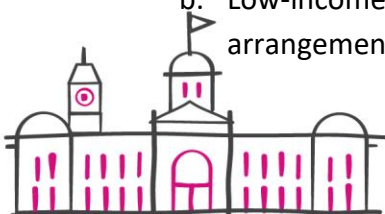
1) Children of compulsory school age (in Reception to Year 11 from September 2024)

The travel assistance policy has not changed for this group of pupils and applications for assistance will continue to be assessed in the same way. Support for this group of pupils will be regularly reviewed, in line with the existing policy, which may lead to some changes in the support provided.

2) Young people who will be of sixth form age (16-18) in September 2024

We are still focused on preparing this group of young people for adulthood. Here's what has changed in the policy:

- a. Taxi and minibus support will not be offered unless there are exceptional circumstances.
Support for eligible young people will be provided through a personal transport budget (PTB), bus pass.
- a. Increases the parental contribution from £780 to £1,028 per academic year, this will be taken from the PTB offer, in addition the PTB does not offer support for the first three miles of a young person's journey, as per eligibility requirements.
- b. Low-income families will still pay a contribution of £390 of a year towards their travel arrangements.



3) Pre-school children aged 0-4

Pre-schoolers do not normally have travel arrangements in place but where they do, it will be a personal transport budget which does not cover the first two miles of travel. Parents will usually need to take their child to nursery and pay the contribution mentioned above.

If a child or young person will be of sixth form age or pre-school in September 2024 and currently receives transport support via a taxi or minibus, this will stop at the end of the academic year in July 2024.

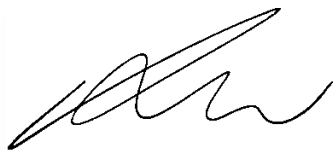
Families of these children and young people must reapply for support for September 2024 by Friday 31st May 2024. You can find the council's travel assistance application forms on the Birmingham City Council website:

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/travelassist>

We acknowledge that these changes will be difficult for some families so have given as much notice as possible of the changes.

We kindly request your support in disseminating this information among parents and carers within your school community. Parents and carers of children and young people affected by these policy changes will need to reapply for travel assistance for the 2024/25 academic year.

If you have any questions about this letter, please don't hesitate to contact the Eligibility and Review Team by contacting us via email on: elig.travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk or 0121 303 4955.



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