



Consultation on Revised Home to School / College Transport Policy

Background

During 2008-09, a review of issues relating to the operation of the Authority's home to school / college transport policy was carried out, as a result of which a number of revisions are proposed. The views of all interested parties are now being sought on the proposed revisions and will be taken into account prior to the Authority's home to school / college transport policy being finalised.

A copy of the draft policy is attached and provided below is some information to give the context and background to the review. The consultation period runs from 8th June to 17th July 2009 and individuals are invited to contribute to the consultation exercise by completing and returning the attached response form.

Why are changes needed?

The proposed changes to current arrangements are being made to:

- Address the requirements contained in Welsh Assembly Government's Learner Wales (Travel) Measure;
- Address equality issues;
- Address the need to ensure value for money, bearing in mind the significant amount of money spent on home to school / college transport.

For the majority of parents and their children, the proposals will not affect current arrangements for travelling to school / college. However, it is important that everyone has an opportunity to contribute their views.

What changes are proposed?

The Authority is proposing to:

- Provide transport to the nearest allocated school to the pupil's home address if the pupil lives more than 2 miles (primary) / 3 miles (secondary) from the school;
- Apply the standard qualifying distances to all pupils, both in mainstream schools and special schools/units;
- Only provide home to school transport for pupils living under the qualifying distances on the grounds of medical need, disability or learning difficulty;
- Only provide escorts where the need has been assessed on the grounds of SEN / ALN;
- Specify normal maximum single journey times for primary / secondary / special schools;
- Specify transport provision available in relation to denominational schools;
- Specify transport provision available in relation to English / Welsh provision;

- Only offer the Vacant Seat Payment Scheme to those parents whose children attend the nearest allocated school;
- Specify transport provision in relation to post-16 education.

Do these proposals meet the minimum requirements set by law?

Powys has always offered more generous provision than the law requires and these proposals would still mean that the minimum requirements are met and even exceeded in some respects.

When would the changes take effect?

September 2010, other than the proposal in relation to transport to denominational schools where the proposed change would be implemented from January 2010.

How can I have my say?

As well as this response form, which you are invited to complete and return to Rosie Davies, Policy Officer, Schools & Inclusion Service, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG, **by 17th July 2009**, a number of consultation meetings are being held around the County. The dates and venues for these are:

- Thursday 25th June 2009 Neuadd Brycheiniog, Brecon
- Wednesday 1st July 2009 Neuadd Maldwyn, Welshpool
- Thursday 2nd July 2009 County Hall, Llandrindod Wells

All meetings will run from 6.30 to 8.00 p.m.

Children and young people are also being consulted through their School Councils.

What happens after the consultation?

A report will be written for consideration by the Council Board during the Autumn Term 2009. This will sum up the findings of the consultation and make recommendations on the way forward. Any new policy will be published on the Council's website and schools will be informed. Parents of children starting or moving school in September 2010 will be sent information on the admissions policy which will include details of travel arrangements.

Guidance and procedural advice, to support and underpin the policy, will be produced, to include:

- Code of Practice on behaviour
- Safe routes criteria
- Monitoring arrangements



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Revised Home to School / College Transport Policy

RESPONSE FORM

1.	<p>The Authority is proposing that transport should be provided to the nearest allocated school to the pupil's home address if the pupil lives more than 2 miles (primary) / 3 miles (secondary) from the school.</p> <p>Do you support this proposal?</p>	Yes / No
Comments		
2.	<p>The Authority is proposing to apply the standard qualifying distances to all pupils, both in mainstream schools and special schools/units.</p> <p>Do you support this proposal?</p>	Yes / No
Comments		
3.	<p>The Authority is proposing that pupils living under the qualifying distances will only be provided with home to school transport on grounds of medical need, disability or learning difficulty and will normally be within a Statement of SEN.</p> <p>Do you support this proposal?</p>	Yes / No
Comments		
4.	<p>The Authority is proposing that escorts will not be provided until the need for escorts has been assessed on the grounds of SEN / ALN.</p> <p>Do you support this proposal?</p>	Yes / No

Comments		
5.	<p>The Authority is proposing normal maximum single journey times of:</p> <p>(a) not more than 45 minutes (primary)</p> <p>(b) not more than 60 minutes (secondary)</p> <p>(c) not more than 1 hour 15 minutes (special schools)</p> <p>Do you support these proposals?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Yes / No</p> <p>Yes / No</p>
Comments		
6.	Do you support the Authority's proposals in relation to transport to denominational schools?	Yes / No
Comments		
7.	Do you support the Authority's proposals in relation to transport for parents requesting Welsh or English-medium provision?	Yes / No
Comments		
8.	Do you support the Authority's proposal that the Vacant Seat Payment Scheme should only be available to those parents whose children attend the nearest allocated school?	Yes /No
Comments		
9.	In your view, does the Authority's proposal around post-16 transport meet the provision required for the extended curriculum?	Yes / No

Comments	
10.	Any other comments on the proposals

Thank you for your response. If you respond with a paper copy, please use additional sheets if this form does not provide enough space.

Name:

I am:

- A school representative**
- A school governor**
- A parent of a pupil currently accessing home to school / college transport**
- A parent of a prospective pupil**
- Other**

Please complete and return the response form in paper form to Rosie Davies, Policy Officer, Schools & Inclusion Service, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG, or by e-mail to rosie.davies@powys.gov.uk

The response form can also be found at www.powys.gov.uk under 'Say It'

The deadline for receipt of responses is 17th July 2009