

Education Travel

Academic Year 2012/13 Policy Changes

Following significant consultation with partners and stakeholders members agreed in the meeting of the 26th May to reduce the amount of transport assistance Worcestershire County Council provides to the minimum statutory requirements of its duty as an Authority.

The majority of the 10,000 plus pupils & students the Authority transports will remain unaffected by these changes.

Denominational Transport

Denominational Transport assistance has been removed from the policy, other than those provided free under the extended entitlement criteria for low income families. The Authority has committed to ensure continuing reasonable access to a denominational school and therefore this change should have a limited effect on parent preference. The arrangements for transport from Bromsgrove to Redditch are still to be finalised and will be announced as soon as possible into the autumn term 2011.

Transport assistance for currently entitled riders will continue at the same subsidy rates until they complete year 11, unless their circumstances change such as moving house when the situation will be reassessed.

Post 16

Due to the increase in course specialism and increasing cost, the Authority will only recognise the nearest local establishment and/or the previous catchment school with a sixth form offering the level or course suitable to the student's abilities for consideration of transport assistance.

Pre-school children with SEN

For pre-school children with SEN free transport assistance will ONLY continue for pupils from a low income family. Transport options may be available under the Vacant Seat Payment Scheme.

Joint Catchment Area

Pupils residing in a joint catchment area will only be considered for transport assistance to the nearest school to the home address, unless they are eligible under the extended entitlement criteria for low income families.

The Authority is endeavouring to maintain accessibility and in most cases public transport routes will be available. The Authority can provide travel through the purchase of a Seve7n Card Service ticket. The price of which has been fixed at a contribution rate of £547.00 per annum until the end of the academic year 2012/13. Payment can be made by 9 monthly instalments of £64.00.

For more information about these changes please contact the Worcestershire Hub where a Customer Services Officer will be happy to assist you.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Worcestershire Hub - 01905 765765

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooltransport