

Dear parent/carer,

Changes to home to school transport

The County Council recently held a public consultation on proposed changes to the Home to School Transport services we provide. We have reviewed our current policies as we must change the way we deliver school transport services so that we use our limited resources to support those children who need it most.

The County Council aims to promote independence to our young people, encourage the use of sustainable travel and provide the most cost effective travel assistance as part of the transport transformation programme, to improve quality and support to the travel needs of our users and residents.

Today, Monday 4 March 2019 the County Council's Cabinet has discussed and considered the Home to School Transport report, which includes the findings of the recent public consultation. We would like to make you aware of the recommendations that were made and agreed today. You can find the Cabinet report and supporting appendices at www.buckscc.gov.uk/schooltransportsurvey.

A summary of the decisions made today are as follows:

Transport changes for children with special educational needs or disabilities

- A contribution to the cost of home to school transport for children with SEND who are older than 16, will be introduced from September 2019. This will replace the free transport offer currently in place. Costs for SEND transport have increased by over £3m in the last five years.
- Eligible children aged between 14 and 19 years old will be offered an increase in provision of independent travel training, which we expect will enable us to reduce transport costs.

Mainstream transport changes

- Mainstream school bus routes are being reviewed where there is a viable alternative public bus route, and where there is overlap some will be changed to use the public buses. This rationalisation of bus routes and bus sizes is taking place to reduce duplication and create greater efficiency. Changes will be phased in from September 2019.
- School children living in the Iver and Wexham areas (attending the Chalfont Community College) and Ivinghoe (attending the Cottesloe and Tring Schools), who are currently travelling free of charge, will be required to contribute to the cost of transport if they choose not to attend their nearest school. This will bring these arrangements in line with the rest of the County – see Appendix 1 Home to School Transport policy. This will begin from September 2020, enabling families to plan ahead and make decisions about their child's education in good time.

We will be in touch again when we have more details about the implementation of changes to school transport.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Callaghan

Service Director for Education

Buckinghamshire County Council