

Home to School Transport Entitlement

Update from September 2021 and new intake applications for 2022

The county council has determined that with effect from **September 2022** the current 'frozen area' transport status given to Ivanhoe College will be removed. In effect this means that any child starting at Ivanhoe College **from September 2022** will only be assessed for transport on a 'nearest school' basis i.e. just because you are in our school admissions catchment area does **not** mean that you will automatically get free transport from the Council. Please see the letter below from Leicestershire County Council.

I am writing to you to confirm the impact on home to school transport following the recent decision of your school to become part of a Multi Academy Trust and having consequent changes to age ranges affecting catchment areas.

You should already be aware that the Council's home to school transport policy is no longer linked to schools' admission's policies and arrangements. Following two consultations in early 2014 the Cabinet, in July 2014, changed the way in which transport eligibility is provided and the revised policy was published in September 2014 to take effect from September 2015. The consideration of the issues regarding loss of 'catchment transport' and the Cabinet decision from 14th July 2014 is still available via the council's website at:

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=3992&Ver=4>

Schools were all informed of this directly at that time, but I felt it pertinent to remind you of the current situation. In agreeing this policy change Cabinet recognised that there were some schools who had not changed their admission arrangements or age ranges but the impact of doing so was understood by members in that those frozen arrangements would be changed should schools change those arrangements; including other schools impacted by such changes.

The situation we have from September 2022 with secondary schools in the Ashby area is such a circumstance as detailed above. The age range changes and consequent catchment changes taking place at the Ashby area schools in September 2022 means that Ivanhoe will lose its frozen area status (Ivanhoe is the only current school in the area remaining with frozen status). Therefore, the frozen transport arrangements to your school will revert to the standard position of 'nearest or nearest Leicestershire School only'. Meaning from September 2022 any new students starting an Ashby area school will only be eligible for free home to school transport if they are attending their nearest/nearest Leicestershire school. Existing students at Ivanhoe or Ashby School currently eligible for free home to school transport will retain their eligibility until they leave your school or their circumstances change e.g. they move address.

In summary: Traditional '**admissions catchment areas**' for entitlement to secondary school transport **are no longer recognised** (except for 3 secondary schools in 2022 that remain 'frozen', all in Melton District: Long Field Academy, John Ferneley College and Belvoir Priory Academy). **Feeder school arrangements** also have **no**

bearing on entitlement to school transport. In brief, free home to school transport will be provided as follows:

- for pupils aged between 4 and 16 - the legal minimum of free transport for pupils over the statutory walking distances, 2 miles for primary age and 3 miles for secondary age from home to the nearest school (or educational placement) with places available (note: for addresses around the borders of Leicestershire the nearest school may be in another local authority area). **and** in addition to provide one of the following, **either**:
- free transport over the statutory distances (listed above) to the nearest Leicestershire school, **or**
- where there have been no changes to catchment areas or age ranges since May 2012 ('frozen' area schools) to continue to provide free transport **only** to the admission catchment school in those areas (no longer applicable to your school)

The Council measures distances with a professional computer mapping tool (MapInfo) that is not available on the internet for free. Parents who want to assess which school might be their nearest and/or if they are over the statutory walking distance are advised to contact the Transport Assessments Team (contact details are below) for an accurate indication of the nearest school and eligibility to school transport. Please note that using other mapping tools e.g. Google Maps™, will **not** give an accurate measurement to assess a child's transport eligibility.

Please also note that if **any** Leicestershire school with available space is within walking distance (2 miles for primary aged children and 3 miles for secondary aged children) transport will **not** be provided **irrespective of the school to be attended**.

In order to confirm if an individual child will be eligible for transport in the future we would have to perform an eligibility check from their specific home address to the school. If parents wish my team to perform this they can do so by calling us on 0116 3052055 or making general enquiries by email to

TransportAssessments@leics.gov.uk (but please note that this is not a secure method and they are advised not send any personal or sensitive information by email).

Please check our policy and FAQs first at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds (Appendix 4 of the policy document)