

Extract from:

**2011/12 City of York Council
Home to School Transport Policy**

Home to School Transport on the
Grounds of Religion or Belief

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1 Statement of Intent

The purpose of this policy is to support the attendance at qualifying schools of eligible children where the parents have expressed a preference on the grounds of religion or belief (definition: religion means any religion and belief means any religious or philosophical belief. References to religion or belief include references to lack of religion or belief.)

2 Meanings

2.1 Qualifying schools are:

- (i) community, foundation or voluntary schools;
- (ii) community or foundation special schools;
- (iii) non-maintained special schools;
- (iv) short stay schools previously known as pupil referral units;

A qualifying school also includes places other than a school at which a pupil might receive education under section 19(1) of the Education Act 1996.

2.2 Eligible children:

- (a)
 - (i) children who are entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of their maximum level of Working Tax Credit; and
 - (ii) are aged 11 to 16; who have been allocated a place at a nearest suitable school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where their ordinary place of residence is more than 2 miles, but not more than 15 miles from that school;
- (b)
 - (i) children who are entitled to free school meals; and
 - (ii) are aged 5 to 11; and are attending their nearest suitable school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where their ordinary place of residence is more than 2 miles from that school.
- (c) Children not entitled to free school meals and whose parents are not on the maximum level of Working Tax Credit but are attending their

nearest suitable school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief where their ordinary place of residence is:

- i. over 2 miles but not more than 15 miles for primary school pupils; or
- ii. over 3 miles but not more than 15 miles for secondary school pupils;

from that school.

2.3 Ordinary place of residence

- (a) The child's place of residence will be deemed to be the residence at which the child resides the majority of the time (51% or more) during the normal school week at the closing date for receiving applications for admission to school during the normal admission round.
- (b) Where a child subsequently moves address, the eligibility for free home to school transport will be re-determined.

2.4 Distance

Distance is measured by:

- (a) for children set out in paragraph 2.2 (a) and (b) on roads suitable for a motor vehicle;
- (b) for children set out in paragraph 2.2 (c) suitable walking route.

3 Travel arrangements

- 3.1 Travel arrangements are those provisions made by the Local Authority for children to receive free home to school transport.
- 3.2 The duty to provide free home to school transport will be for the journey at the:
 - (a) start of the school day; and
 - (b) end of the school day.
- 3.3 The school day is deemed to be the session times as approved by the governing body of the qualifying school.
- 3.4 Nothing in the travel arrangements made for any child shall be for any travel between education institutions during the school day. Where a child moves from one establishment to another, in order to receive education, that cost will fall to the school to pay.
- 3.5 For arrangements to be free of charge, every feature of the arrangements will be free, except the provision of photographs, which cost shall fall to the parent to pay.

- 3.6 Travel arrangements will be:
- (a) normally a travel pass unless not suitable for the child's needs; or
 - (b) refunded travelling expenses according to the cheapest available public transport route; or
 - (c) mileage expenses in accordance with the Council's current rate for pupils requiring special arrangements; or
 - (d) the provision of a cycling allowance.
 - (e) a place on a vehicle contracted by the authority to provide home to school transport;
 - (f) employ a walking escort or chaperone.

4 Provision of free travel

- 4.1 Free home to school travel will be provided for eligible children where it can be demonstrated that attendance at a qualifying school is on the grounds of religion or belief.
- 4.2 Evidence to support the following will be provided by the parent:
- (i) where the preference to attend a school is based on the parent's religion or belief;
 - (ii) where the parent does not wish the child to attend a school which is any of three schools nearest their home and within 2 miles based on the parent's religion or belief.

5 Eligibility

- 5.1 In each subsequent year the child's eligibility will be re-assessed on 1 July.

