

Dear Schools/Parents/Carers

September 2022

## **Home to School Transport Policy: Distance Measuring Software (Qpaths)**

I wish to advise you that Leicestershire County Council has implemented new measuring software effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. This industry standard software will enable the Transport Assessment team to measure more accurately the distance from home address to the nearest school gate in accordance with the Home to School Policy.

The measuring software uses up to date Ordnance Survey maps, which will include footways, rights of way, bridleways etc to make the distance calculation for eligibility purposes. This may result in changes to a child's eligibility to school transport compared to calculations made in previous years.

If, when submitting your school admissions application, transport is an important factor in your school choice, **please do not assume** that transport will be provided. The Transport Assessment team can check your nearest schools for transport eligibility purposes before you submit your school admissions application.

I have included below the information that is provided to all families of Year 6 pupils with their school admissions letter for reference.

You can find a frequently asked questions section in Appendix 4 of our policy that will answer many of your questions and the full home to school transport policy can be located at our website:-

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport/mainstream-school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds>

If you have any further queries please contact us, preferably by email (but note that this is not a secure method of communication), to:

**Email:** [TransportAssessments@leics.gov.uk](mailto:TransportAssessments@leics.gov.uk)

**Post:** Assessments Team  
Highways and Transport Services  
Department of Environment and Transport  
Leicestershire County Council  
County Hall  
Glenfield, LEICESTER  
LE3 8RJ

**Phone:** 0116 305 0002

Yours sincerely,

Transport Assessment Team  
Passenger Transport Services

Environment and Transport Department  
Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield. Leicestershire LE3 8RJ  
Telephone: 0116 305 0001 Minicom: 0116 305 0007  
Email: [etd@leics.gov.uk](mailto:etd@leics.gov.uk)

Ann Carruthers, Director

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk)

## Important Notice – Home to School Transport Entitlement

Free secondary school transport is only provided to the 'nearest' or 'nearest Leicestershire' school so **free transport is no longer provided to the admissions catchment area school\***. Feeder school arrangements also have no bearing on entitlement to school transport.

(\* except for 3 secondary schools that remain 'frozen' in Melton District: Long Field Academy, John Ferneley College and Belvoir Priory Academy - see below and Appendix 4 FAQs of our policy for the most up-to-date list).

Leicestershire County Council implemented its Home to School Transport policy in September 2015. The full policy, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and other details can be found on our website at:

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport/mainstream-school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport/mainstream-school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds)

- **The council will be using an industry standard mapping tool, QPaths, with effect from 1 September 2022 to identify your nearest qualifying school and the distance to it.** Other mapping tools, e.g. Google Maps™ are not approved for assessing entitlement.
- Please **do not assume** that because free transport may have previously been provided from your area to the school you wish your child to attend, that this will still be the case, as it may not.
- Parents with older children who currently receive free transport need to be aware that any younger children **may not qualify** for free transport to the same school under the current policy.
- If transport is a consideration for you when choosing your child's school, you must apply to your nearest schools in distance order to be eligible for free school transport. If you are not allocated your first preference school, transport will only be provided to the second nearest school where you have listed this as your second preference in your school place application (and so on for third preference). All scenarios are subject to the distance criteria outlined below. For the purpose of considering eligibility to free transport, in the normal admissions round, it will be presumed that your nearest school/s will have space available, even if your nearest school has been over-subscribed in previous years.
- We recommend that you contact the Transport Assessments Team (contact details below) for an accurate indication of the nearest school and eligibility to school transport before making your application for secondary school places.

Please also note that if **any** Leicestershire school with available space is within walking distance via an available route (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.**

Schools' Admissions Policies for allocating places and School Transport Policy for transport eligibility assessments have very different criteria. In brief, free home to school transport will be provided as follows:

- For pupils aged between 4 and 16 years - where walking distance is over the statutory minimum, (2 miles for primary age and 3 miles for secondary age children). Distance is measured 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. This now only applies to the Melton area schools, noted above.

There are exceptions to the above and therefore you are strongly advised to read the Council's Home to School Transport policy before submitting your application for school places.

**Please check our FAQs at:**

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport/mainstream-school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/school-transport/mainstream-school-transport-for-5-to-16-year-olds)  
(Appendix 4 of the policy document)

**Email:** [TransportAssessments@leics.gov.uk](mailto:TransportAssessments@leics.gov.uk) (sending personal information via this method is at your own risk)

**Phone:** 0116 305 0002

**Post:** Transport Assessments Team, Passenger Transport Services,  
Department of Environment & Transport, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, LE3 8RA