

What this leaflet is about

This leaflet explains when and how the Council helps children aged 5 to 16 (Reception to Year 11) get to school.

Travel assistance is not available for children who attend nursery school.

It covers who can get free or supported travel assistance, how to apply, and what to expect. It is a summary to help you understand more about Home to School Transport and what is offered.

This summary is intended as a guide only. More detailed information, including application forms and our full policy, is available on our web pages here:

www.northnorthants.gov.uk/schooltravel

What kind of travel help may be offered?

If your child is eligible for travel assistance, the Council may provide:

- A free bus pass for use on public transport.
- A place on a school bus or shared taxi.
- A mileage allowance (if parents drive and are able to take the children to and from school).
- Support for walking or cycling, if appropriate.

Pick-up and drop-off points for buses and taxis may be a short walk from your home.

Home to school travel assistance

Helping to get young people to school



Who can get help with travel?

You may get help with travel to school if you live in North Northamptonshire and:

- Your child is 5 to 8 years old and lives more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school.
- Your child is 8 to 16 years old and lives more than 3 miles from their nearest suitable school.
- The walking route to school is unsafe, even if it's within the walking distance limits.
- Your child has special educational needs or disability (SEND) that makes walking difficult
- You are on a low income (e.g. receive free school meals or receive Universal Credit).

Children With SEND may get travel help if:

- They attend the nearest suitable school, and it is named in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- They can't walk to school safely, even if accompanied by an adult.

How to apply

Apply online as soon as your child's school place is confirmed. Application forms can be found here: **www.northnorthants.gov.uk/schooltravel**

You should apply before 31 May if possible.

You only need to reapply for school transport:

- When your child moves from year 6 to year 7 (even if it is with the same school)
- When they turn 8 years old
- If you move address
- If the child moves to another school

At present there are different forms for under 16's, over 16's and those not entitled to free travel.

Please make sure you use the correct form for your child.

What happens next?

Once we have confirmed that your child is attending their nearest suitable school we will check:

- The walking distance from home to school (along the shortest walking route)
- Is the walking route safe to walk (with an adult if necessary)
- Does the child have a SEND need which makes walking to school unreasonable
- Do other exceptional circumstances apply (known as Extended Rights)

Children up to the age of 7 are expected to be able to walk up to 2 miles each way to school.

Children 8 and over are expected to be able to walk up to 3 miles each way.

These distances were not set by the Council but are set out in various laws relating to a child's education.

Extended Rights may reduce some of these distances for children over the age of 8. It is therefore important that you inform us if you are in receipt of free school meals or other benefits. It is very important that we have all of the information we need in order to assess the application fairly and in a timely manner.

Please make sure the application is completed in full and that you send us any documents that you are asked for.

Missing information or documents will delay your application being assessed and may mean that transport is not in place for the start of school in September.

If you're not eligible for free transport

If your child is not attending their nearest suitable school or you live too close to the school you can pay for a seat on a school bus if one is available.

- These are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and can be withdrawn with notice if the seat is needed for a child eligible for free travel.
- If a paid for seat has to be withdrawn, you will receive a refund for the unused time.
- Paid for transport must be applied for each year.

Contact us

You can contact the Home to School Transport team by phoning **0300 126 3000** (options 5,4,1) or by emailing us:

Special educational needs travel assistance
sentransport.nnc@northnorthants.gov.uk

All other school travel assistance – including Paid for, Post 16 and free transport, safer routes and passes, please email:
schooltransport.nnc@northnorthants.gov.uk

