

Transport to school

The County Council is committed to reducing the number of car journeys that pupils take travelling to and from school and has developed a sustainable school travel strategy.

Getting to school

The County Council's strategy encourages schools to develop a travel plan which helps to reduce congestion around schools, increase the safety of children on the school journey and promote the use of sustainable travel modes. Sustainable travel means walking, cycling, car-sharing and the use of public transport.

Many schools have initiatives in place to help keep congestion to a minimum. Check with the school whether there is a car-sharing scheme, 'walking bus', 'park and stride' or other initiative to help with the school journey.

Home to school transport

Many parents want their child to go to a local school which is within reasonable walking distance. It is your responsibility to accompany your child on the school journey if you deem it necessary. However, in cases where the catchment school is beyond the statutory walking distance the County Council may provide travel assistance. The law states that the statutory walking distances are:

- up to 2 miles* (3.2km), for children aged under 8 years of age
- up to 3 miles* (4.8km), for children aged 8 years old and over.

* this measurement is calculated by using the shortest available walking route.

If your child is attending full time, statutory education at the catchment or nearest available school and you live over the statutory walking distance, your child may be eligible for free home to school transport or travel assistance.

Before applying for a place at a school, it is your responsibility to check which school is your catchment school and whether any travel assistance is available. If you apply for a place at a school which is not your catchment school (commonly known as a preferred school) this will affect your child's eligibility for travel assistance.

For full details about eligibility for travel assistance, see the Home to School Transport Policy Statement at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooltravel/

An under-16 travel scheme application form is available on our website, from school or by contacting us on 0300 500 80 80. If your child is eligible for free travel assistance they will be provided with a travel pass for either a school bus service or public transport. If neither of these is available we may provide a grant for you to make your own travel arrangements.

If your child is not eligible for free travel assistance but you would like your child to travel to school by bus, you may be able to buy a season travel pass from us. For more information please call 0300 500 80 80.

Check your catchment area school at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/findmynearest



Apply online at:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

Travelling to a preferred school

Parents have the right to express a preference for any school. Children attending a preferred school will not usually be eligible for free transport unless the school is nearer to their home than the catchment school and is over the statutory walking distance.

A discretionary travel scheme for secondary age pupils attending a preferred school was in operation from September 2011 until August 2014. The roll-out of the scheme has now ceased. Qualifying children and young people who were accessing the scheme will continue to benefit from free travel until they reach the end of year 11.

For more information about the eligibility criteria for the scheme visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooltravel

Special transport needs

Some pupils with SEN and disabilities may be entitled to special transport arrangements. Wherever possible and appropriate, pupils with SEN and disabilities should be treated in the same way as those without - that is, in general, they should walk to school, travel on public transport or be taken by their parents/carers.

A special transport need may arise where your child:

- lives within the walking distance but can not walk/travel safely to school even if accompanied by a parent/carer
- is unable to use public transport when accompanied by a parent/carer.

If your child has a special transport need, the County Council will provide transport or a paid mileage allowance to get your child to the catchment area school or the County Council's designated school, at the beginning and end of the normal school day.

Where parents/carers choose to send their children to a preferred school, no travel assistance will be given.

If you think your child has a special transport need, please go to www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schooltravel/ and follow the link to the special transport needs page.

Changes to school travel entitlement - September 2018

From September 2018 Nottinghamshire County Council will only provide home to school transport to those pupils who have a statutory entitlement to assistance. This change will apply to all pupils including those applying for a school place from September 2017, who may be eligible for assistance with transport in 2017/18, before this change comes into effect.

Pupils identified as not having a statutory entitlement will not be able to travel on County Council school travel services. The Council will also no longer provide any discounted season passes for commercial travel services: all tickets will need to be purchased directly from the commercial operator.