

Transport

Local authorities (LAs) have a duty to make necessary travel arrangements for all 'eligible children', and a discretion to make travel arrangements for all other children. There are different duties relating to young people, depending on their age and where they are studying. For some children and young people with SEND, it may not be possible for them to make their own way to school. Either accompanied by a Parent / Carer or independently, because their school is too far away or because they are not able to walk or use public transport in the same way as other children. An assessment must be made on the child's individual needs.

The law also says that even if a child lives within statutory walking distance, they may still be entitled to free transport if they:

- Are from a low-income family
- Have an unsafe route to school
- Have SEND The Home to School Transport Policy for West Northants Council (WNC) can be found [here](#). The Post-16 Transport Policy for WNC can be found [here](#).

Under 5's

Most children now start school in the September after their 4th birthday. There is no duty to provide transport until children reach compulsory school age – the term after they turn 5 – but there is discretion to do so.

Transport for Children with an EHC Plan

This applies to children 16 years old or under with an EHC Plan. If the school named in the EHC Plan is the nearest suitable school - which is decided by the LA – then they must provide free school transport if your child is eligible. Further information about the conditions and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Transport for Children without an EHC Plan

There are 3 other ways your child may be able to get free travel assistance to school, including if: • They are not in walking distance of their nearest school • You are on a low income • They are aged 16 to 24, have a disability and you are on a low income Further information about this and how to apply can be found [here](#).

Transport for Post-16s

Post-16 students in full-time education may be eligible for assistance with transport.

Students may qualify for school travel assistance if they are:

- Aged 16 to 18

- In full time-education (12 hours or more a week)
- Living more than 3 miles away from their nearest school or further education establishment For further information and how to apply for transport can be found [here](#).

Staff Training

Guidance is clear that all staff involved with home to school transport should have up-to-date training, including on:

- Safeguarding.
- Handling emergency situations, including medical emergencies
- Supporting and communicating with children with disabilities.
- Meeting the specific needs of the children travelling.

Transport Appeals

If an application for transport is declined, you may submit an appeal. A decision may be challenged on the following grounds:

- eligibility
- distance measurement
- safety of the route
- transport arrangements offered

There is no moral right to challenge a decision where the entitlement to transport assistance has been removed on the grounds of unacceptable behaviour. Further information about the process and submitting an appeal can be found [here](#)

