Dear Parents/Kinship Carers of Current Year 5 pupils

Before the summer holidays begin, we wanted to get in touch with you about next term's prospective secondary school application, and how important it is to consider home to transport prior to making your final decision.

You must consider carefully how your child will get to and from your preferred secondary schools before submitting your application for a school place.

Pupils will only be eligible for free travel if they have an entitlement under the County Council’s [Home to School Transport Policy.](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/children-education-and-families/school-transport/) It is important, when selecting your preferences for a school place, that you have read and understood the information available on the [website](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/free-travel-to-and-from-school/) regarding [school admissions](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/) and [travel assistance](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/free-travel-to-and-from-school/).

It is essential to remember - for transport purposes - the 'nearest suitable school' is the nearest school to the family home – and - in some cases, the nearest school will be located within another local authority area.

If you choose to send your child to a school that Lancashire County Council does not consider to be the nearest suitable school, there is no duty to provide free transport. You will need to make your own transport arrangements.

Assistance with home to school travel will not be needed for most children as they will attend their local school which will be within a reasonable walking distance when accompanied by a parent/carer as necessary.

However, if transport costs are a concern to you, please contact your Area Education Office before submitting your application:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| NORTH AREA | SOUTH AREA | EAST AREA |
| Lancaster, Morecambe,Wyre and Fylde | Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley | Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale |
|  |  |  |
| (01524) 581148 | (01772) 532109 | (01254) 220747 |

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.

The County Council will not provide extra services for non-statutory pupils and you will need to [plan how your child will get to school](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/school-transport-information/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lancashire.gov.uk%2Fchildren-education-families%2Fschools%2Fschool-transport%2Fschool-transport-information%2F&data=05%7C01%7CRachel.Kinsey%40lancashire.gov.uk%7C06ef113e796741869d1f08dbdb83f5d0%7C9f683e26d8b946099ec4e1a36e4bb4d2%7C0%7C0%7C638345132046949092%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TJOZEM%2F6tCFQdcttAm7WPArhNCV1%2FejE9FOBeV1y5UQ%3D&reserved=0) if space on the bus is not available.

Please call 0300-123-6738 or visit [School bus season tickets - Lancashire County Council](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/school-bus-season-tickets/) to make an application.

It is important to plan ahead. Please make sure that appropriate transport is available, should a place be allocated at your preferred school.

With kind regards,

Pupil Access and Integrated Transport Teams – July 2025