

School Bus Information

2022 – 2023

**Lancashire County Council: Home to School Transport 2022-2023**

**Department of Education: Home to school travel and transport guidance. July 2014**

Under section 508 (B) of the Education Act 1996 we must provide free transport to and from school for your child if they are aged 5 to 16 and they live outside the legal walking distance between your home and the nearest qualifying school. We must provide additional assistance for families who have a low income.

The Department for Education published statutory guidance for local Authorities in July 2014; Home to school travel and transport guidance.

**Information about the Transport Assistance.**

The admission information which is available for all parents from each September (online and paper where requested) provides a summary transport policy. **Parents are advised to check the policy carefully if getting their child from home to school and back is a consideration.** Parents are directed to a full copy of the Home to School Transport Policy on the Lancashire County Council website and to seek advice from the area education office if they have any queries.

Due to the many changes within the policy for school travel in Lancashire we are asked a number of questions about how to apply for school transport passes. We would like to make parents aware of the County Councils School Transport website, which offers useful information and advice of what parents need to do:

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport.aspx>

In addition to the website we would also like to make you aware of the dedicated school transport hotline number 0300 123 6738 and email address schooltransport@lancashire.gov.uk which can be used to answer any queries you may have.

**LCC Fares from September 2022**

Distance Fare

0-3 miles £3.20 rtn (£1.70 sgl)

3-8 miles £4.40 rtn (£2.50 sgl)

8+ miles £5.50 rtn (£3.00 sgl)

**Season Tickets**

Term & Yearly Season tickets can be purchased where space is available on the bus service at a 20% discounted rate off the cost of a daily return fare. Lancashire County Council reserves the right to refuse season ticket applications. You can also spread the cost if you choose to pay by direct debit.

*Nb. Season tickets may be withdrawn and refunded if accommodation is required for Statutory Entitled pupils.*

**Commercial Services**

Routes, fares and weekly ticket price information can be obtained by contacting the commercial operator directly.

**Low income**

If you have a low income and your child is in Year 7 to 11 in secondary school, we may be able to provide free transport if they go to one of their three nearest schools. For your child to receive free transport, the school must be between 2 and 6 miles away from your home.

If your child is entitled to free school meals or you receive the maximum amount of Working Tax Credit, you are defined as being on a low income. We have to provide extra help on top of that set out in sections 4 to low income families.

**Assessments to receive assistance with transport are based solely on the distance between home and school.**

***Please note:***

Transport eligibility assessments are undertaken by the Pupil Access Team. All assessments are undertaken within the framework of the published Home to School Transport Policy. Members of the team do not have any discretion to award assistance outside the policy. The policy is determined by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on an annual basis.

There is no consideration of:

* Bus routes / bus availability.
* Older siblings with entitlement.
* Parental preference for a particular school.
* Grammar school status
* Single sex / mixed cohorts.
* OFSTED findings
* Home to school distances just under three miles.

**Financial Hardship**

Obviously, the cost of this transport, if it does apply to you, may be more than some families can afford. Consequently, we are writing to reassure you that if Burscough Priory Academy is still your first choice, but not your closest school, we are willing to consider subsidising this cost where there is a genuine need. All you would need to do is contact the school and your individual case will be considered confidentially and sympathetically.