

Survey Narrative and Questions

Home to School Transport Policy Consultation

Doncaster Council has entered a period of consultation around proposed changes to our existing 'Home to School Transport' policy and we would now appreciate any feedback you would like to provide on our proposed changes.

In order to make this process as easy as possible we have created the attached survey which covers four of the key proposals and we would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to complete this so that we receive as many responses to our proposals as possible. The Consultation is open until Monday 31st January 2022.

If you would like the opportunity to review our other proposals or comment in more detail on our the ones in this survey then a copy of the full consultation and how to respond can be found on the Council Website at:

www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/schools/education-transport

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Proposal 1

We propose asking parents of pupils and students aged between 16 and 19 who require additional assistance due to their individual needs and receive direct transport to school or college in a taxi or minibus paid for by the council for a contribution towards the cost of this.

We are currently considering the equivalent cost of a single journey bus pass for pupils and students attending provision within Doncaster (or those at Dearne Valley College if this is closer than Doncaster College to their home). This would be around £294 per Academic Year. We are also considering the equivalent cost of a double journey bus pass for those attending provision outside of Doncaster i.e. around £588 per academic year.

We are also looking into the possibility of payments by instalment if this proceeds.

We would be interested to know if families would be willing to make a contribution and any other feedback and comments that they have in response to this proposal.

We are also proposing that consideration is given to low income families' ability to fund a full contribution with a possible reduced contribution

1. *Do you agree with asking for a contribution* Y/N
2. *Do you think the proposed level of contribution is reasonable* Y/N
3. *Do you think a higher cost for a longer journey is reasonable* Y/N
4. *Do you think a reduction for low income families is reasonable* Y/N
5. *What would be a reasonable adjustment*
 - a. 25%
 - b. 50%

- c. 75%
- d. It should be free for low income families

Proposal 2

We currently provide travel assistance under an exception in the policy for some pupils not attending their nearest school or allocated school on the basis that the Council does not incur any additional cost to that which it would have paid if the pupil attended either the nearest or allocated, school as the case may be. This provides additional choice for some families based on where they live

We are suggesting the removal of this exception with effect from September 2023 for all pupils starting a new phase of education. Pupils who receive assistance under this exception prior to September 2023 will continue to receive assistance until they finish their current phase of education (in most cases to the end of year 11)

6. Do you feel that this exception should be removed Y/N

7. If yes why

- e. To make things fair for everyone
- f. To prioritise Council spending
- g. Other

If you have chosen other please tell us why

8. If no, why

- a. This would incur extra cost to families when the cost of living is already high
- b. Pupils should receive free travel to school if they meet the distance criteria
- c. Other

If you have chosen other please tell us why

Proposal 3

We currently provide travel assistance under an exception for pupils who move house during Academic Years 10 and 11 provided that they meet the distance criteria.

We are suggesting the removal of this exception with effect from the publication date of the new Policy in 2022 for all pupils and we would no longer provide a zero fare bus pass after this date. Pupils who receive assistance under this exception prior to that date will continue to receive assistance until they finish their current phase of education (in most cases to the end of year 11)

9. Do you feel that this exception should be removed Y/N

10. If yes why

- a. Because they have chosen to move
- b. To make things fair for everyone
- c. Other

If you have chosen other please tell us why

11. *If no, why*

- a. *They may not have had a choice when moving house*
- b. *It may mean that pupils have to move schools if they cannot afford the bus fare*
- c. *Other*

If you have chosen other please tell us why

Proposal 4

We currently provide travel assistance to pupils attending their catchment school/nearest school. This provides additional choice for some families based on where they live. We are proposing that this will state their nearest available school only, if they meet the distance criteria for eligibility.

In future travel assistance would only be provided to pupils meeting the distance criteria to the nearest school/nearest school within the Doncaster Boundary. Zero Fare bus passes would no longer be provided to the catchment school if this is different to the nearest available school.

We are suggesting the removal of this phrasing with effect from September 2023 for all pupils starting a new phase of education. Zero fare bus passes would no longer be provided. Pupils who receive assistance under this exception prior to September 2023 will continue to receive assistance until they finish their current phase of education (in most cases to the end of year 11)

12. *Do you feel that this exception should be removed Y/N*

13. *If yes why*

- a. *To make things fair for everyone*
- b. *To help prioritise Council spending*
- c. *Other*

If you have chosen other please tell us why

14. *If no, why*

- a. *This would incur extra cost to families when the cost of living is already high*
- b. *Pupils should receive free travel if they meet the distance criteria*
- c. *Other*

If you have chosen other please tell us why