

## 4.1 Proposed Policy Updates

Throughout the whole document, the term “Free school Transport” has been replaced with “Transport Assistance”. The following table details the sections of the policy which have been updated.

Current Policy		New Policy		Impact
Policy Section	Wording	Policy Section	Additions/Changes	
1.2 – Nearest Suitable School	The Council will seek evidence from the Headteacher of the school to confirm that the pupil was admitted on grounds that meet the denominational requirements of the school’s admissions policy	1.2 – Nearest Suitable School	The Council will seek evidence from the Headteacher of the school to confirm that the pupil was admitted on grounds that meet the denominational requirements of the school’s admissions policy. The Council will also seek evidence from the parent that the child was Baptised within the faith.	Pupils applying for transport who attend a school on the grounds of religion or belief.
1.2 – House Moves	N/A	1.2 – House Moves	Where a family chooses to move address and for the child to remain at the school allocated from the previous address, all transport costs will remain the parental responsibility.	Pupils moving Address but not school.
1.4 – Children unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or Mobility problem.	Blackpool Council will provide free school transport to children who are unable to walk to school by reason of their Special Educational Need and/or disability or mobility problem where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. no suitable arrangements can be made by the Local Authority for the child to become a registered pupil at a qualifying school nearer to the child’s home; and</li> <li>2. the child could not reasonably be expected to walk to school.</li> </ol>	1.4 – Children unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or Mobility problem.	Blackpool Council may provide transport assistance for pupils with statements of SEN in accordance with the criteria outlined in this policy.	All pupils with a statement of Educational Need.

<p>1.4 – Children unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or Mobility problem.</p>	<p>Any pupil with a Special Educational Need, disability or mobility problem, living outside of specified walking distance would be eligible for free school transport on this basis.</p>	<p>1.4 – Children unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or Mobility problem.</p>	<p>If the pupil attends a special school or unit or other placement other than that recommended by Blackpool Council, then the parent will be responsible for arranging and paying for any necessary transport.</p> <p>However where the pupil attends a special school or unit as recommended by Blackpool Council, transport assistance will be given subject to the criteria defined in section 1.2 and 1.3.</p>	<p>All pupils with a statement of Educational Need.</p>
<p>1.4 – Children unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or Mobility problem.</p>	<p>Where a pupil applies for free school transport on the grounds of a Special Educational Need, disability or mobility problem there must be substantive medical evidence to support this. For example a report from a consultant doctor based on an examination of the pupil. Each case will be treated on its own merits and the Local Authority will consult its own medical advisers in deciding whether free school transport will be provided.</p> <p>Where a pupil has a Statement of Special Educational Needs, the Local Authority will decide whether the pupil would be able to walk to school as part of the Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Needs and the need for</p>	<p>1.4 – Children unable to walk to school by reason of their SEN, disability or Mobility problem.</p>	<p>With any application for transport on the grounds of SEN and or disability there must be substantive medical evidence e.g. doctors / consultants reports etc. Blackpool Council will treat each application on its own merits and will consult with its own medical advisers in making a final decision.</p> <p>Applications will be considered by the strategic admissions and resources panel, the outcome of which will be communicated in writing to the parent.</p>	<p>All pupils with a statement of Educational Need.</p>

	<p>transport will be written into the statement.</p> <p>No provision will be made for pupils who can reasonably make their own way without assistance</p>			
1.4 – Review of Transport Arrangements	<p>Transport arrangements for pupils with Special Educational Needs, disabilities or mobility problems will be reviewed annually and for pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs this will be part of the Annual Review of a child's Statement of Special Educational Needs.</p>	1.4 – Review of Transport Arrangements	<p>Transport arrangements for pupils with SEN and or disabilities will be reviewed annually. For pupils who have transport written into their statements this will form part of their annual review. Where new information comes to light then transport arrangements will be reviewed as part of the annual review process.</p> <p>Blackpool Council also reserves the right to review its transport arrangements so as to ensure the efficient use of its resources.</p>	All pupils with a statement of Educational Need.
2.6 – Children Attending Special Educational Resource Facilities.	<p>Free school transport will not automatically be provided to children attending Special Educational Resource Facilities. Each case will be reviewed and assessed on its own merits according to the main eligibility criteria set out in this policy.</p>	1.5 – Children Attending Special Educational Resource Facilities/Pupil Referral Unit	<p>Where Blackpool Council has placed a child within a Special Educational Resource Facility / Pupil Referral Unit transport assistance may be provided subject to the criteria in sections 1.2 and 1.3.</p> <p>Any provision will only be for the time the child spends in the SERF / PRU.</p>	Pupils attending Special Educational Resource Facilities.
2. Discretionary	<p>Severe Social or Domestic Difficulties. Where, in the opinion of the Executive</p>	1.6 – Home to	This has been removed in the updated	Meeting Transport needs on the basis of Severe Social

Transport 2.1 – Home to College and School Sixth Form transport for students aged 16-18 (iii)	Director of Children’s Services, there is a necessity for transport on the grounds of a student’s <u>severe</u> social or domestic difficulties.	College and School Sixth Form transport for students aged 16-18	policy	and Domestic Difficulties, would fall elsewhere within Children’s Services.
2. Discretionary Transport	No Current Reference	1.6 – Home to College and School Sixth Form transport for students aged 16-18	Where the family is in receipt of Income support or Job Seekers Allowance or the Universal Credit equivalent.	Students Aged 16 – 18
2. Discretionary Transport	No Current Reference	1.6 - Conditions	Provision is for one academic year only. A new application for transport assistance must be made for each subsequent year.	Students aged 16 - 18
2. Discretionary Transport  2.1. - Conditions	Attendance must be at the nearest suitable further education college or school sixth form. A student who chooses to attend an alternative to the nearest suitable college or school sixth form will be entitled to assistance with transport expenses equivalent to the cost of transport to the nearest suitable college or sixth form.	1.6.- Conditions	Attendance must be at the nearest suitable further education college or school sixth form within a maximum distance of 20 miles. Any student who chooses to attend an alternative beyond 20 miles will be responsible for their own transport costs.	Students aged 16 – 18
2. Discretionary Transport	If a student’s choice of course cannot be supported, travelling expenses may be paid only to the amount that would be	1.6. – Suitability of Courses	Suitability of courses will be determined by the Director of	Students aged 16 – 18

2.1. Suitability of Courses	payable to the nearest school or college offering the alternative course.		Children's Services taking into consideration evidence provided by the Section 139 Assessor and any other relevant evidence.	
2. Discretionary Transport  2.3 - Children resident in Council's Homeless Hostels	Free school transport may be provided to children resident in the Council's homeless hostels.	2.1 – Children resident in Council's Homeless Hostels	Blackpool Council, at its discretion, may provide temporary transport assistance for children who are resident in the council's homeless hostel or the local women's refuge.  In assessing this, criteria described in 1.2 & 1.3 will be applied, together with any other exceptional circumstances that are relevant.  Any provision will only be for the length of time the child is resident in the hostel / refuge.	Pupils resident in the Council's Homeless Hostels/Women's Refuge
N/A	No Current Reference	6. -Expected Behaviour Standards for Children	A New section has been added to the proposed new policy, regarding Standards of behavior, the full section can be found in section 6.	All Pupils using council funded transport.