

LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Local Authority Transport Service provides transport for those pupils that fit their criteria. This leaflet will explain that criteria for you and what you can do to appeal if your child is not given transport but you feel that they need it.

The Criteria

A child will receive home to school transport on one of two grounds:

- a) The child's disability or special educational need is such that they need special transport arrangements.
- b) If they do not need special transport arrangements on the basis of their Special Needs alone, then:
 - i. If they are under 8 years of age - if they are over 2 miles from the nearest suitable school
 - ii. If they are aged 8 or over – if they are over 3 miles from the nearest Suitable school

What if my child does not meet the criteria?

- If your child does not meet the criteria or you feel that the decision made by the Transport Service based on the criteria was unreasonable, you can ask for a review of the decision.
- You can also ask for a review if you feel the type of transport provided is unreasonable.
- You should send a request for a review to the Principal Officer, Fleet and Transport Services.
- In your request include as much information and evidence as you can about your child's needs and why they would need transport or a particular form of transport.
- Each request is looked at individually by the Transport Service based on the facts of that case.

Lewisham Parent Partnership Service
The Kabin, Forster Park School, Boundfield Road, SE6 1PQ
Tel: 020 8695 5955 Email: lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk
Website: www.lewishamparentpartnership.org.uk

How does the Transport Service make its decisions?

- They base their decisions on information on your child's special educational needs. This information will come from the most recent reviews and assessments.
- They expect that older pupils with moderate disabilities will be encouraged to develop their independence skills by using public transport.
- They work in co-operation with parents to decide the most efficient and safest home to school transport arrangements. They do this to promote inclusion and maintain equality of access to the broader curriculum.

How many journeys are covered each day?

- This is limited to one home to school journey and one school to home journey each day within Lewisham. Other journeys for curricular activities and medical appointments are also supported.
- Any journeys imposed by the school or irregular journeys must be funded by the school e.g. school sending child home.

What if my child attends a school outside Lewisham?

- The Transport Service will only provide home to school transport to out of borough schools where:
 - I. The Local Authority have decided that school is the most appropriate for your child or
 - II. Where the Local Authority has decided there are no suitable places in a Lewisham school.

What if I am willing to take my child myself?

- Where your child is eligible for transport and you are willing to transport him or her yourself, the LA may pay you a mileage allowance.

How long will my child receive the transport for?

- The need for your child to have transport is reviewed at regular intervals. This is to make sure that the inclusion and independence of all pupils with transport is maximised.

What if my child has a serious illness or injury?

- In some exceptional cases provision will be made on a short term basis for children recovering from serious illness or injury.

How quickly are requests looked at?

- All requests for transport are considered within one working week by the Transport Service once they receive the request.
- Where an educational placement is joint-funded by two or more agencies the Local Authority will only meet their part of the transport provision. The other agency involved will usually pay the rest.

Further Contacts and Information

Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance – www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

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Tel: 0845 60 222 60

Independent Panel for Special Education Advice – www.ipsea.org.uk/transport-england – Transport and pupils with special educational needs.

Lewisham Council - www.lewisham.gov.uk

ACE – 0808 800 5793 www.ace-ed.org.uk

Parent Partnership Service: Independent information, advice and support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs. Contact details below

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