Choosing a Secondary School?

Taking responsibility for finding whether school transport is available…

When your child moves to Secondary School next year, you may need to consider how he/she will get there. Free school transport is generally only available to the school designated for transport entitlement purposes or the nearest school for your address. Some families may qualify for an extra choice of schools if they are on various lower income levels – please see below.

Please note: **Schools designated to your home address for admissions purposes may differ from transport entitlement.**
If you choose for your child to attend a school which is not designated for transport entitlement to your address it will be your responsibility as a parent to make and pay for any transport arrangements for up to the next five years. This may prove to be too expensive for you to afford as your child progresses through secondary school.

To find out if we can help you, and which school is designated for transport entitlement purposes, you can:

1. Email us at **educationtransport@wiltshire.gov.uk** stating your address (including postcode), your child's name, and the schools(s) you are thinking of applying to. If you want to write to us instead, the address is at the foot of this page. NB: It is important to **tell us** if you are in receipt of either 'free school meals' or maximum working tax credit for your case – you may be able to get extra help with transport.
2. We will reply as soon as possible advising you whether we can help with transport under the current policy. Please be aware though that if you are going to move house in the coming year then our advice would not be valid as transport entitlement is linked to your home address.
3. If we cannot offer you any transport assistance through the council, we will ask the bus network team to see whether there are currently any public transport solutions for you.
4. If there aren't any buses going to your chosen school, you would need to make reliable and sustainable transport arrangements for the next five years on your own. Lift-shares with other parents are a good idea to explore, or walking or cycling – ask the school about their travel plan which may have a lot of useful information on these options. Please remember that just because there is a bus serving the route now, we cannot guarantee it will be there in the future.
5. If you choose a school in the hope that a transport arrangement might be in place by the time your son or daughter starts at the school, please understand that the council will not be able to devise a solution for you if your plans fall through. Whilst we always try to be as helpful as possible, unfortunately we do not have the funding to enable us to help everybody and parental preference usually means that you have to make your own arrangements for transport.

Remember ~ if you don't enquire about transport help now, you could be left with expensive transport costs to fund for the next five years.
Please help us to help you by enquiring now about whether school transport is available.

Email: educationtransport@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council Passenger Transport Unit, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN

Wiltshire Council