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Introduction, key principles and types of travel assistance

Part 1: Pre-schoolers aged 0-4 (pre-compulsory school age)

Part 2: Children aged 5-16 (compulsory school age)

Part 3: Young persons aged 16-18 (sixth form age)

Part 4: Adults aged 19+

Part 5: How to apply for travel assistance and appeal against decisions

Appendices

Appendix 1: Application forms for travel assistance

Appendix 2: Travel support available from schools and further education

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1. This document sets out the policy of Birmingham City Council (“the Council”) in relation to the provision of travel assistance for 0-25 year olds in education who are resident within the City of Birmingham. It is available on the Council’s website at www.birmingham.gov.uk/travelassist. It is intended to provide clarity for children, young persons, adults, parents and carers facing a wide range of circumstances. We are always looking to improve the information we make available and will use any feedback provided to us to develop this statement. If you wish to provide any feedback on the policy please contact Travel Assist (travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk).
 2. This policy is divided up by the following age groups as the relevant legal provisions in the Education Act 1996 are grouped this way:

_____ Pre-compulsory school age (0-4 year olds) – someone in this category is referred to in this policy as a pre-schooler.

_____ Compulsory school age (5-16 year olds) – someone in this category is referred to in this policy as a child. Children become of compulsory school age at one of three points during the school year in which they turn 5, depending on when exactly their birthday is. Children cease to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they turn 16.

_____ Young persons of sixth form age (16-18 year olds) – someone in this category is referred to in this policy as a young person. The legal definition is a person over compulsory school age but under the age of 19, but this definition also includes a person who began a particular course of education or training at a school or college before turning 19 and continues to attend that course.

passengers on a particular vehicle. Passengers will be picked up

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6. The Council's policy is not to provide travel assistance to pre-schoolers except where the pre-schooler has an EHC plan and the circumstances can be said to be exceptional.

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8. The Education Act 1996 sets out the categories of children and young persons of compulsory school age who are eligible for free travel assistance. The Council's policy is to provide travel assistance to these categories of

13. Below these distances the responsibility for the journey to school rests with the parents or carers. The statutory walking distance is measured along a route that a child might reasonably be expected to walk to school accompanied where necessary by a parent or carer.
14. Where a parent or carer chooses a school for the child but there is a qualifying school nearer to home which he or she could attend then travel assistance is not available under this heading. In the case of children with an EHC plan there may be cases where a school that is not the nearest qualifying school is named on the basis that the parents will be responsible for transporting them. Where this happens the EHC plan will be worded accordingly and make the position clear.

Category 2: Low income families

15. "Low-income family" means one where the child or young person is entitled to free school meals or where one or both parents are in receipt of the maximum level of working tax credit. Children or young people in such families who do not qualify for travel assistance in category 1 (distance) above are nonetheless entitled to travel assistance if they satisfy the following criteria:

Primary Aged Children: Children aged between 8 and 11 years of age from low income families are entitled to free travel assistance where they are attending their nearest qualifying school and that school is more than 2 miles from their home.

Secondary Aged Children and Young People: Children and young people aged 11-16 (in year groups 7 to 11) from low income families are entitled to free travel assistance if they are attending a school more than 2 miles but not more than 6 miles from the home address and it is

carers have selected the nearest qualifying school based

20. This part of the policy includes the Council's Transport Policy Statement which the Education Act 1996 requires it to publish each year, setting out what travel assistance is available, from the Council and other bodies, to facilitate the attendance of young persons of sixth form age receiving education or training at schools, FE colleges/institutions, 16-19 Academies, and certain other institutions maintained or funded by the Council.

21. The vast majority of young people do not receive or require travel support from the Council and, unless the circumstances are exceptional, the only category of young persons of sixth form age the Council will consider providing travel assistance for are those with an Education Health and Care Plan, a disability or learning difficulties. In considering whether to provide travel assistance the Council will have regard to the following:

The needs of those for whom it would not be reasonably practicable to

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refused but is granted on appeal, then the Council may, in its discretion

