

### **Summary of North East Lincolnshire Home to School Transport eligibility for parents/carers and those involved in decision making around school placements.**

North East Lincolnshire Council provides free home to school transport for children of compulsory school age who meet certain eligibility criteria. Parents remain responsible for ensuring their child attends school and it's important that consideration is given in relation to how your child is going to get to and from school/education setting.

The Council has a duty to provide transport support for eligible pupils only.

A child may be eligible if:

- They attend their **nearest suitable or catchment school** and live beyond the statutory walking distance:
  - More than **2 miles** for children under 8 years old.
  - More than **3 miles** for children aged 8 to 16.
- The walking route to school is considered **unsafe**, even when accompanied by a responsible adult. (see policy (link below) for more information)
- They are from a **low-income family** and meet the extended rights criteria, including attending one of the nearest suitable schools within specified distance limits.
- They have **Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)** or an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** and cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school, even with support from a responsible adult. Eligibility is assessed on an individual basis.

Eligibility is determined using the child's home address, the nearest suitable school, and the individual circumstances of the child. Applications are assessed against the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

### **Parental Preference and Home to School Transport**

Parents have the right to express a preference for the school they would like their child to attend. However, where a parent chooses a school that is **not the nearest suitable school** to the child's home address, responsibility for travel arrangements normally rests with the parent.

In these circumstances, home to school transport assistance would not usually be awarded because the additional travel requirement arises from parental choice rather than the Council's statutory duty. If a place could have been offered at a nearer suitable school that would have met the child's educational needs, the Council is not required to provide free transport to the preferred school.

For more information and how to apply please visit <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-families-and-schools/schools-and-education/school-transport/>