



FAQ's School Transport – Academic Year 2024-25

1. How do I apply for a place on the school bus for my son or daughter?

On-line applications will be available from Monday 6th May 2024 to all parents of children at Hurworth School in September 2024 that may require home to school transport, the online application form must be completed before 30th June 2024 to enable Hurworth School to deal with all applications.

[Transport at Hurworth School 24-25](#)

2. Will the school bus be 'free'?

Darlington Borough Council has a duty to make the necessary travel arrangements for 'eligible children' under Section 508B of the Education Act 1996.

The Council will provide 'free' transport in the following circumstance:

- To the nearest appropriate and/or suitable school determined by the Local Authority which is more than 3 miles from the parental address using the shortest walking route judged to be safe
- To children in receipt of free school meals or the maximum level of working tax credit to:-
- 1 of their 3 nearest appropriate and/or suitable schools which is more than 2 miles but less than 6 using the shortest walking route judged to be safe and/or
- To the nearest suitable school on grounds of religion or belief which is more than 2 miles but less than 15 using the shortest walking route judges to be safe.

All applications for statutory school transport must be made through the School Transport Team at Darlington Borough Council. We are unable to issue any bus passes until DBC have received and validated an application for statutory transport. For further information on statutory transport or to request an application form please contact the School Transport Team on 01325 406333 or email schooltraveltransport@darlington.gov.uk

3. If I don't qualify for 'free' transport can I still apply for a place?

Hurworth School has agreed to offer a limited number of additional places on existing routes, where there are spaces available. The spaces are limited and there is no guarantee that every child that applies will be allocated a place. It is a parent/carers responsibility to get their child to school and your choice of school should not be affected by the availability of transport.

4. How much will the charge be?

As the contract with our current transport provider ends in August 2024, we are currently out to tender and should know the results of this by the beginning of August. Seats are currently charged at £4.25 per day but we expect that this will increase. If a family has more than one child that obtains a place on a bus, the eldest will be charged the full daily rate then there will be a reduction of 10% for the first sibling.

5. Will there be a reduction for sickness absence, holiday absence, exclusion etc?

No.

6. What do I do if I no longer require the seat on the bus?

If a child no longer requires the seat on the coach the parent must inform Hurworth School of their decision and must return the pass to them in order that a refund can be calculated from the date of receipt of the pass itself.

7. How can payment be made?

Hurworth School will contact you at the beginning of August 2024 to confirm that you have been successful in obtaining a fare-paying place and to advise you of the new cost.

Payments can be made by monthly standing order or on-line via ParentMail. Passes will not be issued until payment has been received.

Payment must be received termly in advance or by monthly standing order. We will advise you of the new monthly standing order amount as soon as it is available.

8. If I am successful in gaining a fare paying place will this be in place for the duration of my child's education?

We will attempt to enable your child to access transport for the full five years of their secondary education. However, this cannot be guaranteed as circumstances may change at any time.

9. Bus Routes

Pupils will be issued one pass for one route; there is not an option for pupils to have multiple passes for different routes. If a pupil wants to change routes a request can be made by parents/carers to the Finance Office, and this will be assessed and accommodated where possible.

We currently provide transport to the following areas:

Parkside, Geneva Rd, Harris Street, Burnside Rd, Bardon Moor Rd, Brankin Rd
Bishopton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Sadberge
Middleton St George and Middleton One Row