



19 April 2018

Dear Parent and Carers,

Thank you to those of you who expressed an interest in exploring whether a school bus can be run from the Parkstone and Alderney areas of Poole. We are meeting with Freedom coaches and expect to have an update you on this early next week. We have also asked the Borough of Poole if there is any assistance they can offer to families affected by the termination of the U9 route and received the following response which you may find helpful.

Assistance with Home to School Transport is assessed on the basis of the needs of individual families and under certain situations the Local Authority does provide assistance. The criteria for pupils who live in Poole is provided in the Borough of Poole Home to School Transport policy. Pupils living outside of the Borough of Poole will need to contact their own Local Authority to find out what the criteria is for their children. The Poole Home to School Transport Policy is available on the Borough of Poole website at <http://archive.poole.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-colleges/home-to-school-transport/>

For Poole residents the normal qualifying criteria for pupils attending secondary school are:

- *the pupil lives 3 miles or more from the nearest suitable school*
- *the pupil, attends one of their three nearest suitable schools, lives between 2 and 6 miles from the school, and comes from a low-income family*

There is an additional qualifying criteria for secondary aged pupils attending a VA denominational school for religious reasons as follows:

- *The pupil lives between 2 and 15 miles from the nearest suitable denominational school and comes from a low-income family.*

Please note that:

1. The 2 and 3 mile distance limits are measured by a Geographical Information System using public roads and footpaths from the gate of the home address to the nearest school gate that is for the use of pupils using the shortest safe walking route available for a child accompanied as necessary.
2. A "Low income family" is defined and includes those eligible for:
 - Free School Meals
 - JSA (income Based)
 - Income Support
 - Child Tax Credit based on an income below £16,190
 - Maximum level of Working Tax Allowance Credit (ie with no reductions due to income)
 - Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit together, but only where the maximum level of Working Tax Credit is awarded, even if the Child Tax Credit is based on an income below £16,190.
 - Universal Credit based on a net income of below £7,400
 - Asylum Support part VI of the immigration & Asylum Act 1999

- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- To confirm whether a child is attending for religious reasons the school application is normally used to confirm this criteria

If any family feels that they qualify or might qualify then they are welcome to contact the Team to check this. The Team can be reached by email schoolmeals.transport@poole.gov.uk or phone 01202 634250.

If a Poole pupil does not meet the criteria above then unless there are any significant learning or physical needs that would impact on a pupil's ability to walk to school, accompanied by an adult as appropriate, assistance with transport would not be provided in any form.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Lane
School Business Manager