



**Please find below our response to the consultation.**

About your family

**This section has been left blank as this response is on behalf of an organisation**

\* 1. Do you have children in your household that travel to school or college? *Please select all that apply*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - by bus           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - by car   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - by walking       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - by train | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - by cycling       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - by taxi  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Not Applicable

2. Which age group(s) are your children in? *Please select all that apply*

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 - 4   | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 - 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - 10  | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 - 25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 16 |                                  |

3. Do your children receive free home to school transport?

- No
- Yes - over statutory walking distance
- Yes - unsafe route to school
- Yes - low income
- Yes - special educational needs or disability or mobility problems

4. Which of the following descriptions apply to your child? *Please select all that apply.*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific learning difficulty            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing impairment          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate learning difficulty            | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe learning difficulty              | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-sensory impairment    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Profound & multiple learning difficulty | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical disability         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social, emotional & mental health       | <input type="checkbox"/> Autistic spectrum disorder  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speech, language & communication needs  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other difficulty/disability |

5. What is your full postcode please?

## Proposal 1: Changing how we provide school transport

6. We are proposing to move some school bus routes to public bus routes. Do you have any concerns about your child travelling to school on a public bus route?

- Yes  
 No

Please give details

**Some children with SEN may be able to use a school bus but would not be able to use a public service. Reasons for this could include:**

- **The unpredictability of the public bus service (drivers, other passengers, equipment)**
- **Deliberate (or accidental) non-disembarkation at school**
- **Accidental (or deliberate) non-disembarkation at home**

**This change could therefore trigger the need for additional travel training or use of a taxi, offsetting some of the savings.**

7. Most school buses provide a single pick up and drop off service each weekday. Would your child benefit from moving to a more flexible public bus route? For example, if they take part in after-school clubs or activities.

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

Comments

**Children with SEN are often unintentionally excluded from before- and after-school activities by the inflexibility of their home-to-school transport. Subject to the provisos in the answer to question 6 the timetabling of suitable public transport options at more flexible times could help reduce this.**

8. If you currently pay for school transport, would you consider moving to a public bus service if it meant that you saved money?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure  
 I don't pay

Comments

**Currently very few children with SEN pay to use school transport.**

## Proposal 2: Providing statutory free home to school transport to the nearest eligible school

**Any children with SEN impacted by these changes would be impacted in the same way as other children so this section has been left blank.**

9. This will withdraw the historic, non-statutory transport arrangements in Ivinghoe and Evreham (Iver).

We have offered free transport in these areas that allowed pupils to attend a school that was not their nearest. Withdrawing these historic arrangements will bring Ivinghoe and Evreham (Iver) in line with the rest of the county and eligibility for free school transport would be consistently applied across the county.

Do you agree with this proposal?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

10. Should students in Ivinghoe and Evreham (Iver) who already receive free school transport to a school that is not their nearest suitable school have to start paying from September 2020?

- Yes
- No
- I don't mind

## Proposal 3: Introducing transport charges for students with SEND aged 16+

11. We currently offer free school transport to students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 16+. We are proposing that parents make a contribution to the cost of transport.

There are fewer Special Schools than other schools in the county, and typically students with SEND have to travel further to attend. Therefore the contribution will reflect the average cost of all 16+ students.

There are two charging options (1) the flat fee would be £660 per year. (2) If charges were made based on distance between home and school, the fee per year would be banded: Under 4 miles = £660, 4-4.99 miles = £772, 5-6.99 miles = £884, 7-9.99 miles = £998, 10 or more miles £1,111.

Do you support this proposal?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

Comments

**The feedback from our members and other families with SEN is that any additional charges on families of children with special needs would have a harsh impact. Many of these families are under financial stress as a result of increasing costs of living, stagnant wages and benefits, and cuts to other services such as short breaks, children's centres, libraries etc.**

**As an organisation FACT Bucks recognises that the proposal has been designed to minimise the impact on families. In particular the fee levels have set at levels to maintain equity with other children in this age bracket and as a result the county would continue to fund the majority of the cost of home to school transport without any statutory obligation to do so.**

**It should have been made clear in this consultation that different statutory arrangements exist for young people aged 19 and over who attend educational settings.**

12. Which of the two charging options do you prefer?

- Flat fee per year  
 Fee per year based on distance between home and school  
 I don't mind

13. Should SEND students aged 16+ who already receive free school transport start paying from September 2020?

- Yes  
 No  
 I don't mind