

Current denominational transport policy; background information

Policy

Before September 2007

Primary schools - free transport for pupils living 3-5 miles from school
 - pupils living more than 5 miles from school received a daily allowance of £1.86 towards cost of transport

Secondary schools - free transport for pupils living 3-10 miles from school
 - pupils living more than 10 miles from school received a daily allowance of £2.85 towards cost of transport

From September 2007

- Children already at school - previous policy continues to apply until they change or leave school (so pupils in current years 11, 12 and 13 will continue to receive transport under the old policy until they leave).
 Tighter criteria and procedures introduced for checking that families are regular attenders at church.
- New starters – required to pay a contribution towards the cost of transport. Charges (as at September 2010);

Primary £302 per annum

Secondary £302 - £400 per annum depending on distance

Spare seats sold to non-entitled children (e.g. those not meeting the 'churchgoing' criteria) at a charge of £131 - £267 per 'double term' (i.e. 3 payments in a full year) depending on primary / secondary and distance.

From September 2008

Education & Inspections Act introduced a new entitlement to free transport for children from low income families – where the child receives free school meals, or the parent receives the maximum level of Working Tax Credit for their case – where they are attending their nearest denominational secondary school (for reasons of faith), and the school is at least 2 and no more than 15 miles from home.

Facts and figures

421 students are receiving transport under the policy, plus 27 who are not entitled but purchase spare seats. These attend:

Secondary schools

Trowbridge St Augustines	297 (plus 5 spare seats)
Bath St Gregory's	47 (plus 22 spare seats)
Salisbury St Joseph's	12
Swindon St Joseph's	4
Bath St Marks (C.E.)	2
<i>Total Secondary</i>	389

Primary Schools

Amesbury Christ the King	1
Corsham St Patricks	30
Calne St Edmunds	9
Chippenham St Marys	3
Salisbury St Osmunds	3
Malmesbury St Josephs	3
Wardour nr Tisbury	9
Devizes St Josephs	1
<i>Total Primary</i>	59

Types of transport arrangement used (and numbers of students):

St Augustine's – contracted buses from Melksham area (73) and Warminster area (66). School organised buses from Devizes (150), service bus from Bradford on Avon (15)

St Gregory's – contracted bus from Chippenham, via Corsham (69)

Salisbury St Josephs – service buses from Amesbury (4) and Salisbury (5), rail from Tisbury (2)

Swindon St Josephs – service bus from Calne (1) via Wootton Bassett (3), west Swindon (Wiltshire) (1)

Corsham St Patricks – contracted buses from Melksham area (26)

Other arrangements include taxis and petrol allowances

Costs

Gross annual cost of provision	£349,000
Estimated annual income by 2013/14 (when phased intro of 2007 policy complete)	£166,000
So, estimated net cost of provision by 2013/14	£183,000
Average gross cost per pupil entitled to transport	£781
Average net cost per pupil entitled to transport (from 2013/14)	£409