



# **BYSIAU YSGOL**

# **SCHOOL**

# **TRANSPORT**



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# BYSIAU YSGOL SCHOOL TRANSPORT

## Monmouthshire County Council

## Home to School Transport Policy 2025-2026

### Consultation Document

Date of Issue: 12 July 2024

Consultation Closes: 23 August 2024

Email: [H2Sconsultation@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:H2Sconsultation@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01633 644777

Web: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/cy/ymgyngoriad-cludiant-or-cartref-ir-ysgol/>  
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/home-to-school-transport-consultation-2/>

Hard copies of the survey and supporting documentation can be provided by contacting the Passenger Transport Commissioning Team on the above email address or telephone number.

### Home to School Transport Policy 25-26 Consultation Document

#### Overview

This consultation is being undertaken to invite feedback on the proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy which will impact on current and future users of home to school transport.

#### How to Respond

The consultation will start on the 12 July 2024 and end at 12 noon on the 23 August 2024. You can provide your views in the following ways:

Online: [Home to School Transport Consultation](#)

Email: [H2Sconsultation@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:H2Sconsultation@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Post: Home to School Transport Commission Team, Monmouthshire County Council, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Llanbadoc, Monmouthshire. NP15 1GA



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*Please contact us if you require the information to be provided in an alternative format.*

## Data Protection

Information provided by you when responding to this consultation will be used to inform a future decision by Cabinet on proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy.

The Council will take all reasonable precautions to ensure confidentiality and to comply with data protection legislation. Your information may be shared with relevant service areas for the purposes of future policy development. Your information will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Retention Policy.

You have a number of rights under data protection legislation. You may also withdraw your consent and ask us to delete your personal information at any time by contacting us. Further information about this is available on our website or you may contact the Data Protection Officer.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which we process your personal data, then you have the option to make a complaint to the Data Protection Officer and the Information Commissioner's Office.

You can contact the Council's Data Protection Officer by emailing:  
[dataprotection@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

## Information Commissioner's Office – Wales

2nd Floor, Churchill House

Churchill Way

Cardiff

CF10 2HH

Tel. 0330 414 6421

Email: [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)

## Related Documents

[Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operation Guidance](#) June 2014

[Home to School Transport Policy 2024-25](#)



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## Why are we proposing changes to the home to school transport policy?

Our current home to school transport policy exceeds our statutory obligations. Due to the financial pressures we are facing, we need to consider its affordability while recognising the potential impact of changes on families.

At present, we provide transportation for 2,828 students to 54 educational establishments, with the current cost of equivalent to £2,894 per learner. The council is seeking your feedback on potential changes to our Home to School Transport Policy to establish a more financially sustainable transportation model for the future.

The Learner Travel Measure 2008 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide free home to school transport for eligible learners. Local Authorities can also provide additional transport arrangements, which are known as discretionary. The council now needs to consider whether it can continue to afford providing discretionary transport or whether it provides only what the law requires it to provide.

## What transport are the council legally obliged to provide?

The Learner Travel Measure places a legal duty on Local Authorities to provide free school transport in the following circumstances:

- Learners of compulsory school age (aged 5-11) attending a maintained primary school who live two miles or more from their nearest suitable school.
- Learners of compulsory school age (aged 11 – 16) attending a maintained secondary school who live three miles or more from their nearest suitable school.
- Learners who live closer than the stated eligible distances who do not have an available walking route from their home to their nearest suitable school.
- Assess and meet the needs of “looked after” children in their authority area.
- Promote access to Welsh medium education.
- Promote sustainable modes of travel.



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## What transport does the council currently provide on a discretionary basis?

The 2024-25 Transport Policy provides for the following discretionary transport arrangements:

- Learners of compulsory school age attending a maintained primary school who live 1.5 miles or more from their nearest suitable or catchment school.
- Learners of compulsory school age attending a maintained secondary school who live 2 miles or more from their nearest suitable or catchment school.
- Learners aged 4 attending a maintained primary school who live 1.5 miles or more from their nearest suitable or catchment school.
- Learners attending their nearest or catchment Welsh medium school who meet the distance criteria or 1.5 miles for primary and 2 miles for secondary.
- Learners attending their nearest or catchment faith school who meet the meet the distance criteria of 1.5 miles for primary and 2 miles for secondary.

## Sustainable transport

The council has adopted the Welsh Government's Sustainable Transport Hierarchy, which prioritises walking, cycling and public transport. The council has recently tendered and procured all of its socially necessary public bus services and ensured that public bus timetables are scheduled to enable secondary learners to travel to and from schools on public buses.

The council will continue to prioritise public bus services wherever possible for secondary learners. This reduces the need for dedicated transport, helping us reduce emissions and congestion. The Active Travel Network in Monmouthshire continues to expand and we will continue to work with schools to encourage the use of walking and cycling.

## The consultation process.

Before considering any changes to the policy, it is vital that we gather feedback from community members and stakeholders to provide their comments on the proposals. This document details the proposed changes and explains how you can contribute to the consultation.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period, the feedback will be provided to the council's Cabinet to enable them to make an informed decision on our Transport Policy for 2025-26.

The finalised Transport Policy will come into effect on the 1st September 2025 and all / any changes will impact existing and future users from that date.



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## Who can take part in the consultation?

The consultation is open to anyone who wishes to participate. However, we will contact the parents and guardians of all existing home to school transport users to inform them of the consultation. We will also contact all Monmouthshire schools and the other educational establishments to which we currently provide transport.

## How do I provide my feedback?

[An online survey can be accessed here.](#) Paper copies of the survey and accessible formats can be provided upon request. Please email your requirements to [H2Sconsultation@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:H2Sconsultation@monmouthshire.gov.uk).

## What happens when the consultation period closes?

The survey responses will be compiled into a report, which will be shared with the Cabinet so that they can decide which options, if any, will be included in the Home to School Transport Policy for 2025-26.

The Transport Policy agreed by the Cabinet will be placed on the council's website on or before 1 October 2024 and will come into effect on 1 September 2025.



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## The Options

### Option 1

**The reversion to the statutory distance of 2 miles for statutory aged primary learners attending their nearest suitable or catchment school.**

If this option is agreed, the council will stop providing free home to school transport for learners attending primary school who have an available walking route and live less than 2 miles from their nearest suitable or catchment school. This will apply to those who currently receive free transport and any future applicants.

### Option 2

**The reversion to the statutory distance of 3 miles for statutory aged secondary learners attending their nearest suitable or catchment school.**

If this option is agreed, the council will stop providing free home to school transport for learners aged 11 – 16 who have an available walking route and live less than 3 miles from their nearest suitable or catchment school. This will apply to those who currently receive free transport and any future applicants.

### Option 3

**Where the council are unable to secure an affordable external operator, or if it is the best financial option, parents / guardians will be offered a personal transport budget to transport their children to and from school. This option will apply to all learners, including ALN learners.**

This option will enable the council to provide a personal transport budget instead of dedicated home to school transport where parents or guardians agree to transport their children. The council will continue to consider the individual circumstances of the learner, including any disabilities before implementing a personal transport budget.

It has become increasingly challenging to source vehicles to meet the complex needs of some medical conditions or to provide reasonably priced transport for more rural areas with one or two passengers.

If this option was implemented, parents/guardians would be offered 45p per mile for the journey to and from school. If they transport their own children (rather than pay someone else to transport them) they will also be paid £10/an hour for the return journey as assessed by the Commissioning Team.

Any personal tax implications would be the responsibility of the parents/ guardians.



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## Summary of the Options

The following table outlines the potential impact of the options if approved.

Who will be affected	Current arrangements	Potential arrangement
Learners aged 4-11 (Primary School)	Free home to school transport is available if they attend their nearest suitable or catchment primary school and live 1.5 miles or more from their school or do not have access to an available walking route.	Home to school transport will be provided for learners who live 2 or more miles away from their nearest suitable or catchment school or do not have access to an available walking route.
Learners aged 11 – 16 (Secondary School)	Free home to school transport is available if they attend their nearest suitable or catchment school and live 2 miles or more from their school or do not have access to an available walking route.	Home to school transport will be provided for learners who live 3 or more miles away from their nearest suitable or catchment school or do not have access to an available walking route.
Personal Travel Budgets	These are discretionary arrangements agreed with parents in limited circumstances.	Where it is financially prudent or transport cannot be provided due to specialist vehicle requirements or a lack of tenders, a PTB will be offered to the parents or guardians. Should the parents decline, the council will continue to provide transport.





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## Potential impact of the options on current users of home to school transport

Option	Number of Current Users	Number of existing users affected by the options	Potential financial saving	Increased emissions if all learners losing transport travelled by private car	Increased emissions for journeys between 1.75 and 2 miles for primary and 2.5 and 3 miles for secondary
Reversion to the statutory distance of 2 miles for compulsory aged primary learners	468 Mainstream 294 Faith 116 Welsh Medium	70 Mainstream 53 Faith 10 Welsh	299,000	33.06 tonnes	11.11 tonnes
Reversion to the statutory distance of 3 miles for compulsory secondary aged learners	1,487 Mainstream 112 Faith 161 Welsh Medium	167 Mainstream 0 Faith 0 Welsh Medium	365,000	60.75 tonnes	16.16 tonnes

Note: The table above displays the worst-case scenario for increased carbon emissions. Column 5 has been calculated on the basis that all those losing home to school transport will travel to school by private car. Column 6 assumes that those living less than 1.75 miles from their primary school and less than 2.5 miles from their secondary school will walk.

