

Checklist

1 Is the child of compulsory school age? (compulsory school age begins with the start of term following a child's fifth birthday and ends on the last Friday in June in the academic year in which s/he turns 16) – This has not been changed by the raising of the participation age.

If Yes, now consider

2 Does the child have SEN, a disability or mobility problems which affects their ability to walk to school?

If Yes, and the LA has not offered a place at a nearer qualifying school, then the LA must make suitable travel arrangements free of charge if the child's SEN, disability or mobility problem means they cannot reasonably be expected to walk to school.

Note, if the child has a statement or a EHC Plan then it does not matter if there is a nearer suitable school that could be named in the statement/plan so long as naming it is not inefficient to the local authority's resources. If the local authority has written a sentence into the placement part of the statement/plan to relieve themselves of the duty to provide transport on the basis that there is a nearer school on the condition of naming your preferred school you will need to consider appealing to the tribunal to get this sentence removed so your preferred school is named unconditionally for the purpose of receiving transport.

3 Is the route to school unsafe taking into account the child's age, hazards etc?

If Yes, and if the child lives within statutory walking distance of the school and the LA has not made arrangements for the child to attend a nearer qualifying school, the LA must make suitable travel arrangements free of charge.

4 Does the child *not* belong to a low income family, but attends a qualifying school three or more miles away from home (2 miles or more for children under 8)?

If Yes, the LA must either offer a nearer qualifying school or make suitable travel arrangements free of charge because these children live outside statutory walking distance. But if the LA has a school travel scheme then it may charge the families of these children.

5 Is the child of junior age (8–10) and receives free school meals or whose family receives maximum working tax credit?

If Yes, and the child attends the nearest qualifying school which is more than 2 miles from home (measured along the “nearest available route”), the LA must make suitable travel arrangements free of charge.

6 Is the child secondary age and receives free school meals or whose family receives maximum working tax credit?

If Yes, and the child attends one of his or her three nearest qualifying schools, which is more than 2 miles but not more than 6 miles from home, then the LA must make suitable travel arrangements free of charge.

7 Does the child fits (6) above but attends the nearest suitable school preferred on grounds of faith or beliefs?

If Yes, and the school is more than 2 miles but not more than 15 miles from home then the LA must make suitable travel arrangements free of charge.