



Home to School Transport

A description of Home to School Travel Allowance in the Isles of Scilly

The Duty

“This duty applies to “home to school” travel arrangements at the start of the day, and “school to home” travel arrangements at the end of the day. It does not relate to travel between educational institutions during the school day.”

“Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school regularly. However, section 444 of the Act outlines the situations in which a parent may have a defence in law against a prosecution by a local authority for their child’s non-attendance at school. Section 444 (3B) provides a parent with a defence if he or she proves that:

- ❖ the qualifying school at which the child is a registered pupil is not within “statutory walking distance”*
- ❖ no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority for boarding accommodation at or near the school:*
- ❖ no suitable arrangements have been made by the local authority for enabling the child to become a registered pupil at a qualifying school nearer to his/her address*
- ❖ the local authority has a duty to make travel arrangements in relation to the child under section 508B and has failed to discharge that duty.*

How do I check if my child is eligible for home to school travel allowance?

If you live beyond the statutory walking distance from the Five Islands School by the shortest walking route, your child will be entitled to home to school travel allowance. You can check the distance of your home from the relevant Five Islands School site by telephoning 01720 424046 or by emailing hometoschooltravel@scilly.gov.uk or hometocollegetravel@scilly.gov.uk

Statutory Walking Distance

The “Statutory walking distance” is two miles for children under eight and three miles for children aged over eight. The statutory walking distance is measured by the shortest route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety. As such, the route may include footpaths, bridleways and other pathways, as well as recognised roads.

Are there any exceptions?

Travel costs may be awarded to pupils where there are exceptional circumstances such as medical or social considerations that may require special attention.

Travel costs may be awarded without charge to children who live within the statutory walking distance if a route is considered to be exceptionally hazardous or on medical grounds, including temporary medical grounds such as a broken leg.

How are the distances measured?

Walking distances are measured by the safest, shortest available walking route. This may include recognised footpaths and bridleways. The measurement is made between the nearest entrance to your house (for example: the front gate) and the nearest entrance to the school grounds. Private driveways to homes and within schools are not included in the measurement. Distances are measured using an electronic geographical information system (GIS)

Am I automatically entitled to free transport if I am on a low income?

If you live more than 2 miles away from your primary school or between two and six miles away from your secondary school and you are entitled to free school meals or your family receives the **maximum** level of working tax credit then you will be entitled to the home to school travel allowance.

Proof that you are receiving the maximum level of working families tax credit will need to be produced, you should also be aware that this would be an annually reviewed entitlement.

What if my circumstances change?

This entitlement has to be re-applied for each year so you should not assume that you will continue to have support i.e. if your child is no longer entitled to free school meal or you are no longer entitled to the maximum level of working families tax credit you would need to let the authority know as it may affect your entitlement to home to school travel allowance.

So, what do I do now?

If you believe that you live more than two miles from your Five Islands School site (Carn Gwaval or off island site) or more than three miles from the Five Islands School Carn Thomas site via the shortest walking distance then you should fill in a home to school travel allowance application form and submit to the home to school travel coordinator at the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

If you are eligible for home to school travel allowance you will receive a letter informing you of your entitlement, you will then receive a cheque for the value of your allowance each term. As there are not any Council registered taxis on the Isles of Scilly there is not an option to provide transport and so a travel mileage allowance will be paid to the parent who is driving their eligible child to school. Mileage allowance for this authority is currently 40p per mile.

Do I have to apply for school transport for my child?

Yes – a transport application form must be completed for each child requiring home to school travel allowance

Is transport provided for pupils with special needs?

Home to school travel allowance is not an automatic entitlement for children who are attending the Five Islands School.

The normal entitlement criteria above apply.

Escorts

Escorts may be provided for children who have severe medical or social needs. The need for an escort will be periodically reviewed, any escort being used will have the relevant safeguarding checks in place.

Medical transport

A transport allowance may be provided without charge to children within the statutory walking distance on medical grounds. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian/carer of the child to provide written evidence from a GP or hospital of the need for medical transport. There should be an indication of the length of time the medical transport is likely to be required. The travel allowance will be reviewed regularly.

Are post 16 students eligible for Travel to and from College on the mainland?

Please refer to the "Home to College" web pages for information
www.scilly.gov.uk/hometocollegetransport