

Parent/Carer

**SEND Transport Assessment Team
Children's and Families Services
Civic Hall
Calverley Street
Leeds
LS1 1UR**

**Mileage Allowances: 0113 535 1990
Email: send.transport@leeds.gov.uk**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Spring-Summer 2021 School Transport Assistance

We are writing with information about school transport for children with SEND. Throughout the lockdown we have been in regular contact with head teachers. This has helped us to continue safely transporting a lot of children to school, and is helping us to plan for March, when many children are expected to return to school full time.

School leaders are working to finalise plans, which will involve children again being taught in 'bubbles'. As before, children can mix with others outside their bubble on school transport, in line with government guidance. However, as nearly all children will be returning to school, vehicles will return to running at pre-pandemic occupancy levels. This is because there aren't enough taxis, drivers and passenger assistants available to us to add very much capacity to transport.

The pandemic is a fluid situation, and things beyond our control could change and disrupt your child's transport arrangements. For example children, drivers or passenger assistants could test positive, meaning sudden changes to transport.

For this reason, we are again offering families a mileage allowance of 50p per mile – for two return journeys every day - to make your own transport arrangements, instead of the council transporting their child to school. This means that if you live 5 miles from your child's school you could claim a mileage allowance of £2.50 for four journeys every day - approximately £200 per month. If this is something you could do it would mean that you will always be in control of your child's school transport. This would reduce the number of different 'bubbles' your child is in and mean that there would be much less disruption for you and your child if anything changes. It would also reduce the number of children needing seats on shared minibuses.

If you would like to receive a mileage allowance, please let us know as quickly as possible, using the contact details at the top of this letter. We will then pay you a mileage allowance until the summer holidays. You may then choose to continue taking a mileage allowance in the next school year if you prefer. However, as things return to normal in the next few weeks and months, you may choose for your child to start being transported by the council again before the end of the current school year. It's your choice.

Children who are transported on a 1 to 1 basis may be entitled to a bespoke personal travel allowance. If this might be the right thing for you please contact us at:
personaltravelallowances@leeds.gov.uk or call Stephanie on 07712 215 865

It is entirely your choice whether to accept a mileage allowance. If you prefer, we will continue to transport your child, assuming s/he continues to be eligible for assistance as before. **You do not need to contact us if you would you like us to continue transporting your child.**

If you would like to know more about a mileage allowance please contact us on the number of above **as soon as possible.**

Yours sincerely,

John, Mary, Jake and Rosie

The SEND Travel Assessment Team