

## Learner travel consultation

10 April 2024 to 3 July 2024

### Emerging themes

**Proposal 1 - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils.**

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too long to walk, especially in bad weather.</li> <li>• May effect pupils' ability to learn.</li> </ul>
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too far to walk, especially for younger children.</li> <li>• Public transport options need to improve.</li> <li>• Children are more likely to be late walking long distances.</li> <li>• Public transport times do not line up with school hours and does not stop close enough to the school.</li> </ul>
Responsibility/social impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current policy supports families going to work.</li> </ul>
Safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children will be unsafe.</li> <li>• Walking routes are often not safe.</li> <li>• Roads are busy/unsafe.</li> <li>• Lighting on walking routes in the winter months is poor.</li> <li>• Walking in cold/wet weather could cause physical and mental health issues.</li> <li>• Increased exposure to anti-social behaviour and crime (for example drugs).</li> <li>• Limited options outside schools for parents/carers to safely drop-off children.</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education.</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education.</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families.</li> <li>• Many families do not have access to a private car.</li> <li>• The council should make other internal savings.</li> <li>• Many families are already suffering financial hardship, and this would add to the burden.</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a negative impact on the environment.</li> <li>• Children won't walk that far so the impact will be on more travel and an increased environmental</li> </ul>

	impact. Net zero carbon targets will unlikely be met.
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) should be supported with transport.</li> </ul>
Attendance/attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted.</li> </ul>

### Proposal 2 - Removal of legacy 'sibling' protection for pupils.

Aspect	Issues raised
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too far for many younger pupils to walk to school while their older sibling is on the school bus.</li> <li>• The distance thresholds should be dropped for all pupils</li> </ul>
Responsibility/social impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siblings should have the same entitlement and travel together.</li> <li>• I work and won't be able to get my children to school.</li> <li>• Having an older sibling alongside supports the transition of younger pupils.</li> <li>• This will complicate life for families.</li> <li>• Difficult for parents to take children to different schools for the same start time</li> </ul>
Safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young pupils should be permitted to travel with older siblings to support their anxiety.</li> <li>• Far more vehicles at drop-off and pick up time outside schools.</li> <li>• Safety and welfare are paramount. This is unfair.</li> <li>• Children's mental health is deteriorating.</li> <li>• Safety should be prioritised over money.</li> <li>• Road safety concerns.</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any saving should be found elsewhere.</li> <li>• Some families a suffering financial hardship already.</li> <li>• This would mean I would have to give up work.</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be more cars on the roads.</li> <li>• Increase in congestion and traffic will affect the whole borough.</li> </ul>
Attendance/attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This may prevent siblings attending the same school.</li> <li>• This would create barriers for children's learning.</li> <li>• This would drive down attendance</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This should never have happened.</li> <li>• Both siblings should have transport</li> <li>• The older distances were fairer.</li> <li>• Families should have transitional protection to this proposal.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unfair that something previously provided is taken away</li> </ul>
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**Proposal 3 – Removal of all transport for nursery pupils (excluding pupils attending their nearest suitable Welsh-medium or faith school).**

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small children walking to school in bad weather.</li> </ul>
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little children cannot be expected to walk such a distance.</li> </ul>
Responsibility/social impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This should be removed for all.</li> <li>• This should be means tested.</li> <li>• Makes it difficult for parents to work.</li> <li>• Targets and impacts the most vulnerable children</li> </ul>
Safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety is paramount.</li> <li>• Pupils this age should not be going on a bus alone.</li> <li>• Nursery age children are too young.</li> <li>• There are no safe walking routes.</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education.</li> <li>• This is discriminatory to the English language.</li> <li>• It should be all pupils or none.</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education.</li> <li>• This is discriminatory to the English language.</li> <li>• It should be all pupils or none.</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop this and put the money into other transport for pupils.</li> <li>• This supports working families.</li> <li>• They are not of statutory school age.</li> <li>• This does not need to be funded</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be more cars on the roads with more pollution and congestion around schools.</li> <li>• No parking and safe drop off areas</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be special dispensation/eligibility for pupils with ALN and looked after children.</li> </ul>
Attendance/attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this support the 'National Mission'?</li> <li>• It will reduce attendance; parents will take children out of nursery.</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will present barriers for parents.</li> <li>• Nursery is voluntary.</li> <li>• Nursery pupils require transport.</li> <li>• It should be needs assessed.</li> </ul>

**Proposal 4 – Removal of all Post-16 transport (excluding pupils attending the following schools:**

- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd;
- Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School; and
- The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School.

Aspect	Issues raised
Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most Post-16 journeys are longer.</li> <li>• Pupils at the top of the valleys will suffer more.</li> <li>• It's too far especially in the winter months.</li> <li>• It would be too far to college from many learners (Porthcawl for example)</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be a barrier to young people's education.</li> <li>• More sixth-formers will drop-out of school.</li> </ul>
Safety and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety and weather will be an issue.</li> <li>• There should be encouragement for Post-16 pupils to learn.</li> <li>• Not enough safe routes to school/college</li> </ul>
Faith-based education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment for faith-based education.</li> <li>• It should be all schools or none.</li> <li>• Some pupils of alternative faiths to Christianity do not have the same option of a faith-based education</li> </ul>
Welsh-medium education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should not be preferential treatment for Welsh-medium education.</li> <li>• It should be all schools or none.</li> </ul>
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be a financial burden on families.</li> <li>• Children are leaving education to work because of the cost of living.</li> <li>• Cost for public transport will result in young people missing out on further education.</li> <li>• Low-income families need to be prioritised.</li> <li>• Not all families have access to a private car</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will mean more cars on our roads and outside schools.</li> <li>• No parking at schools for pupils</li> </ul>
Additional learning needs (ALN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALN should be supported as travel for many of them is harder.</li> <li>• The most vulnerable pupils will be the hardest hit</li> </ul>
Attendance/attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people will be deprived of their education.</li> <li>• Not all schools have the same subject offer.</li> <li>• Attendance will suffer in general.</li> <li>• Pupils eligible for free school meals will suffer more and may not pursue Post-16 education.</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This should be based on needs.</li> <li>• There aren't many other options for pupils.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some pupils may hold back progressing their education.</li> <li>• We should support further and higher education and encourage it.</li> <li>• Maybe if public transport was more reliable</li> </ul>
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**Proposal 5 – The offer to parents/carers of pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) the option of a ‘transport budget’ providing a mileage allowance of £45p per mile**

Aspect	Issues raised
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents do not have access to a car.</li> <li>• 45p/mile would not cover costs (including public transport/taxis)</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will likely increase the number of cars on our roads and at and outside schools.</li> <li>• Would not help congestion.</li> <li>• Need safe drop off areas at schools</li> </ul>
Expectation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is unlikely to be feasible for working families.</li> <li>• It would restrict families with their ability to work.</li> <li>• It would be good to have flexibility but there are risks.</li> </ul>
Responsibility / Social impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families with multiple children to get to school would struggle with this.</li> </ul>