



Important Information Note - School Transport

Bus Éireann which operates the school transport scheme on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills has been requested to remind families of the following important information.

At the beginning of the 2011/12 and 2012/13 school years, changes were made to the Primary and Post Primary School Transport Schemes.

The changes mean that children are eligible for school transport if they reside 3.2 kilometres (primary) or 4.8 kilometres (post primary) from their nearest primary/post primary school having regard to ethos and language.

At the time these changes were introduced the vast majority of children who were eligible for school transport were in fact attending their nearest school and were not affected by the changes.

Children who were eligible for school transport, before the changes were introduced, retain their eligibility until they complete their primary or post primary education cycle. This means that school transport services may be operating from your area to primary / post primary schools that are not the **nearest** to where you reside; in time the route of these services will change and the service may in due course be withdrawn.

It is important for families to be aware that children who have yet to commence their primary or post primary education should enrol in their **nearest** available primary / post primary school if they wish to be eligible for school transport. More details on the eligibility criteria and the terms of the Scheme are available at www.education.gov.ie

Children who are newly applying for school transport will be assessed by reference to the distance they reside from their nearest school regardless of whether they have siblings who may currently be eligible for school transport to a different school.

Children who are not eligible for school transport are not guaranteed a transport service. In many cases they may still avail of transport on a concessionary basis subject to the availability of spare places in a given year and a number of other terms and conditions which are detailed in the schemes.

The purpose of this note is to remind families of the need to check their eligibility status for school transport services before they make choices in relation to school enrolment.

Families should liaise with their local Bus Éireann office (Bus Éireann School Transport Office Capwell Road, Cork Email: schools.cork@buseireann.ie) if they wish to get further clarification or assistance.

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