

Section 508B of the Education Act, 1996:

The criteria for eligible children are outlined below:

- An eligible child is aged between 5 and 16 years old
- Children qualify for free transport no matter what distance they live from the school - if they are unable to walk to school due to Special Educational Needs (SEN), disability, mobility or lack of a safe walking route.
- The allowable statutory walking distance is up to 2 miles for pupils under the age of 8 and up to 3 miles for pupils over 8

(Low Income):

- A 'low income' family is one whose children are entitled to free school meals or whose parents receive the maximum Working Tax Credit.
- Primary school children from low income families qualify for free school transport if they:
 - are aged 8 to 11
 - go to their nearest suitable school
 - and live more than 2 miles away
- Secondary school pupils (11 to 16 years old) from low income families are entitled to free school transport if:
 - they go to a suitable school between 2 and 6 miles away from their home address, as long as there are not 3 or more suitable schools nearer to home
 - the nearest school chosen on the grounds of religion or belief
 - and the school is between 2 and 15 miles away from their home address.

Section 508C of the Education Act, 1996:

Section 508C of the Act provides local authorities with discretionary powers to make arrangements for those children not covered by Section 508B

Section 509AD of the Education Act, 1996:

Section 509AD of the Act places a duty on local authorities in fulfilling their duties and exercising their powers relating to travel, to have regard to, amongst other things, any wish of a parent for their child to be provided with education or training at a particular school or institution on grounds of the parent's religion or belief.

This duty is in addition to the duty on local authorities to make travel arrangements for children of parents on low incomes who attend the nearest suitable school preferred on grounds of religion or belief, where they live more than two miles, but not more than 15 miles from that school considered.