FAQ's School Transport – Academic Year 2026-27

1. **How do I apply for a place on the school bus for my son or daughter?**

   On-line applications are available to all parents of children who will attend Hurworth School in September 2026 that may require home to school transport, the online application form must be completed before **30th June 2026** to enable us to process applications.

   School Transport Application 26-27

   Applications after this date should be sent to transport@hurworth.nalp.org.uk

2. **Will the school bus be 'free'?**

   Darlington Borough Council has a duty to make the necessary travel arrangements for 'eligible children' under Section 508B of the Education Act 1996.

   The Council will provide 'free' transport in the following circumstances:

- To the nearest suitable school as determined by the Local Authority which is more than 3 miles from the parent's address using the shortest walking route judged to be safe.
- Children who are in receipt of free school meals or whose parent(s) receive the maximum level of working tax credit, and they attend one of their 3 nearest suitable schools which is more than 2 miles but less than 6 from the parent's address using the shortest walking route judged to be safe.
- A child cannot access their nearest suitable school using an identified 'safe walking route to school'.

   Queries relating to statutory (free) transport should be directed to the Transport Team at Darlington Borough Council using the contact details below:

   (01325) 405905 or (01325) 405904 or schooltraveltransport@darlington.gov.uk

3. **If I don't qualify for 'free' transport can I still apply for a place?**

   Parents/carers who are not entitled to 'free' transport can apply for a fare paying place on an existing school coach, however there is no guarantee that every child that applies will be allocated a place. It is a parent/carers responsibility to get their child to school and your choice of school should not be affected by the availability of transport.

4. **How much will the charge be?**

   Seats are currently charged at £4.75 per day. If a family has more than one child that obtains a place on a bus, the eldest will be charged the full daily rate then any siblings will be charged £4.28 per day.

5. **Will there be a reduction for sickness absence, holiday absence, exclusion etc?**

   No.

6. **What do I do if I no longer require the seat on the bus?**

   If your child no longer requires the seat on the bus you must inform us as soon as possible. Once your child's pass has been returned to school, we will be able to calculate any final balance owing or refund that may be due to you.

7. **How can payment be made?**

   Hurworth School will contact you by the beginning of August 2026 to confirm if you have been successful in obtaining a fare-paying place.

   Payments can be made by monthly standing order or on-line via ParentMail. Passes will not be issued until payment has been received.

   Payment must be received half termly in advance or by monthly standing order. If you would like to pay by monthly standing order the amounts are:

   £75.20 per child or £67.77 per sibling for 12 months starting 1st August 2026.

   Payable to:

   Hurworth School
   Acc. 20986560
   Sort Code 30- 84-43.

   Please use your child's name as the reference. **Payments must be kept up to date.**

8. **If I am successful in gaining a fare paying place will this be in place for the duration of my child's education?**

   Whilst we will attempt to enable your child to access transport for the full five years of their secondary education, this cannot be guaranteed as circumstances may change at any time.

9. **Bus Routes**

   Pupils will be issued one pass for one route; there is not an option for pupils to have multiple passes for different routes. If a pupil wants to change routes a request can be made by parents/carers to the Finance Office, and this will be assessed and accommodated where possible.

   We currently provide transport to the following areas:

   Parkside, Geneva Rd, Harris Street, Burnside Rd, Bardon Moor Rd, Brankin Rd
   Bishopton, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Sadberge
   Middleton St George and Middleton One Row