

School Transport Policy

Harbour Vale School is required by the local authority to ensure that suitable travel arrangements for 'eligible children' are put into place. Transport entitlement is provided to the end of the respective educational year in the following cases, the distance is based on the shortest walking route:

- Year 7 to Year 11 (aged 11-16) and live **three** miles from the school.

If you're a low income family and are entitled to Free School Meals, the following applies:

- for children in year 7 to year 11 (aged 11 -16) where the distance between home and the school is more than 2 miles (shortest available walking route) and less than 6 miles (shortest available driven route)

Taxi's

Taxi transport can be arranged for students that live more than 3 miles away from Harbour Vale School (2 miles if in receipt of Free School Meals). If your child has taxis set up, we ask they abide by the following:

1. All pupils must be ready when school transport cars arrive to collect them as cars will only be allowed to wait for a maximum of 5 minutes.
2. Drivers are not required to knock on the door or beep. Pupils need to be watching for their arrival because if the transport is missed a second car will not be sent again on the same day and you will be marked down as unauthorised absence.
3. During public examination periods, parents, carers and pupils must be particularly aware of transport collection times, as they may be different from usual, since they will be arranged in accordance with examination timetables.
4. If for any reason the pupil is not well or not attending their session, please call the school, as soon as possible, so that transport may be cancelled. If the decision that the pupil is not able to attend is made on the morning of expected attendance telephone the school as early as possible. There is an answer phone for messages to be left if necessary.

5. When school transport is turned away or a pupil refuses to get into it on two occasions, transport may be suspended, and it will be your responsibility to transport your son/daughter to their educational provision. This will then be reviewed at a meeting after one month of full attendance. The meeting will discuss the possible loss of school transport or reinstatement of school transport; other support agencies may become involved.
6. The transport provider has an obligation to log all incidents of:
 - verbal, racial or physical abuse that is directed at the driver, other pupils or members of the public
 - refusal by pupils to comply with simple instructions from the driver (e.g. wearing a seatbelt)
7. Please be aware that unacceptable behaviour could result in the transport company refusing to transport your son/daughter.

We are asking for your support in ensuring these guidelines are adhered to so that our pupils continue to access their education fully.