

Parent/Carer of Pupil who
Qualifies for Free Travel
In West Yorkshire

23/06/26

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to tell you about a change in the way free travel for school pupils will be provided from September 2026.

Currently, pupils who qualify for free travel are issued one of the following passes or combination of passes:

- Pupils using the public bus network - Zero fare School Pass
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service operated commercially – Zero fare School Pass
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service funded by the Local Council – Zero fare Boarding Pass
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service funded by the Combined Authority - Zero fare School Pass (+ Priority PhotoCard where there is a need to control the number of students using the service).

From September 2026, there will be change to the system, which will standardise arrangements across all five West Yorkshire Local Council areas. The arrangements will be as follows:

- Pupils using the public bus network - Zero fare School Pass [Unchanged]
- Pupils using a dedicated school bus service operated commercially – Zero fare School Pass [Unchanged]
- Pupils using any dedicated school bus service that is funded by the Combined Authority or Local Council – Zero fare Boarding Pass [Change].

What this means for pupils:

- Pupils issued with a Zero fare School Pass will only be able use the public transport network or dedicated school bus services that are operated commercially (A list of dedicated school bus services operated on a commercial basis is provided on the Combined Authority's School web page (wymetro.com/schools)).
- Pupils issued with a Zero fare Boarding Pass will only be able to use the service shown on their Pass.
- Pupils issued with a Zero fare Boarding Pass will have to pay to travel on the public bus network (including when they participate in after school activities).

- Pupils without a Zero fare Boarding Pass will have to pay a fare to use any school bus service that is funded by the Combined Authority or Local Council (single fare or prepaid MCard ticket – details on **wymetro.com/schools**).

The reason for making these changes is to ensure that the cost to Local Councils for funding free travel is proportional to the number of students who qualify for it and that all students who receive free travel are treated the same across West Yorkshire.

If you have any questions about this, please telephone or email the Combined Authority's Education Transport team on (0113) 348 1122 or at educationcustomerservices@westyorks-ca.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Education Transport Team