

Changes to Council transportation to Dalkeith School Campus

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the legal basis for withdrawal of the school buses from Eskbank and Easthouses?
<p>The authority has a statutory responsibility as defined by the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 to provide and finance the transport of school pupils who live specified distances from school.</p> <p>The statutory qualifying age for pupils of school age under eight years is two miles, and for those eight years and over is three miles.</p> <p>Following a decision made at Council on 12 February 2019 to balance our budget Midlothian Council proposed to review our school transport costs and, where a safer walking route is accessible, only provide free transport to and from school for:</p> <p>Pupils under the age of 8 living more than two miles from their catchment school. Pupils over the age of 8 living more than three miles from their catchment school.</p>
How many pupils are affected?
Approximately 100 pupils.
How much will this save the Council?
£46,000 in this financial year and £76,000 annually thereafter.
Can you provide a copy of the safe routes to school from Eskbank to Dalkeith?
Please see attached map showing the safer routes to school from Eskbank, Easthouses and Mayfield.
We live in Mayfield can you confirm if this will affect my child? In the letter it mentions Easthouses and Eskbank to Dalkeith school campus.
If you live less than 3 miles from your catchment school and there is an identified safer walking route.
Does the Council now expect pupils to walk 3 miles to school (i.e. 6 miles per day, 30 miles per week)?
<p>The attached maps show safer walking routes of less than 3 miles. Public transport is also available from Eskbank, Easthouses and Mayfield.</p> <p>If no direct bus available, pupils can disembark at Woodburn and then walk the short distance to the campus.</p> <p>Adequate cycle racks are available at the campus, with more to be installed over the summer, should pupils choose to make the journey via this method of travel.</p>
What would be the monthly public transport costs to get our children to school and back?
<p>Lothian Buses 4-weekly bus pass costs £29 per month up to age 15. For pupils over 15 the cost for a 4-weekly bus pass costs £57 per month. These passes are available to use 7 days per week, not limited to school journeys. Direct Debit payment is also an option, further reducing the overall annual cost.</p> <p>Alternatively if aged 16, 17 or 18 years you can show your Young Scot Card which entitles the holder to a discounted rate of up to 1/3 off bus travel.</p>

Has the Council discussed this with Lothian buses to ensure they have sufficient capacity on the public buses to/from the campus and that the times are suitable?
We have checked the availability of buses and we are satisfied there will be sufficient capacity.
Was the option to allow ALL parents to pay for the school bus considered as an option?
This was not an option as it would not have met the cost of the contract for a full year. Parents would have needed to pay in the region of £540 per pupil, potentially more if the bus was operating under capacity.
The letter says a safer walking route to the Dalkeith Campus is now fully established since the buses were last reviewed. Can you provide details of these walking routes?
Please see attached map. The identified safer walking routes were established when the campus opened and reviewed and adapted to improve safety.
I have concerns about the 40mph speed limit, narrowness of path, the issues lie at the end near Kippilaw. Walking in the better weather days may be fine but what about in the winter? We could travel by car sometime but then if all the parents do that that is more congestion and pollution for the roads which we are trying to ease are we not? Can you please advise that the safe walking route that my children can walk is it well-lit on dark winter mornings?
The identified safer walking routes have adequate pavements and pedestrian crossings for the road conditions. Perhaps parents might consider car sharing on less clement days to reduce congestion and pollution. All the routes identified have adequate lighting. Also to advise that the whole of Easthouses Road speed limit will be reduced for 40mph to 30mph and this will be in force by First of August.
Will School Crossing Guides form part of the safe walking route and be in place at 8 in the morning when pupils are leaving home and similarly at the end of the day at busy points?
School Crossing Guides are in place for primary school pupils only. Although they will help secondary school pupils, they are there to correspond with primary school times and the service is established for this purpose.