



Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Council transportation to Dalkeith School Campus Frequently Asked Questions and safe walking route maps

Regarding the withdrawal of buses currently operating from Easthouses and Eskbank to Dalkeith Schools Campus from 28 June 2019.

Following a decision made at Council on 12 February 2019 and as part of a range of measures to balance our budget Midlothian Council proposed to review our school transport costs, this is due to the authority having 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 their catchment school. 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**.

I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that distances used in calculations have been based on the nearest point of public access from your residential address, via an established safer walking route, to the nearest entrance at the Dalkeith Schools Campus. This distance has been verified by our Roads and Transport teams.

We share your concerns about the detrimental impact this may have on our children and young people in Midlothian, as will other areas of proposed budget cuts in education and beyond however this situation has arisen due to the severe budget constraints facing Midlothian Council.

Council Leader, Councillor Derek Milligan, has outlined the financial issues facing Midlothian over the next few years.

- [More information about the financial issues](#)
- or find out more at www.midlothian.gov.uk/planning-for-change

For Education, this means the following proposals have been accepted in the 2019/20 budget:

- Reduce teachers in Midlothian by 46
- Reduce Youth Work / Adult Education by 50%
- Reduce central management by 35%

There are a range of other reductions proposed which will also impact on our children and young people. These include:

- Reducing school cleaning by 20%
- Removing Active Schools' staff

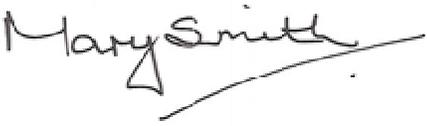
I am sure you will agree that none of the proposals are palatable and certainly none that I thought that as Director of Education, Communities and Economy I would have to put forward, for consideration by elected members at the Council meeting on 12 February 2019, however the significant budget gap will not only impact on 2019/20 budget, but in the years going forward.

Please find attached a frequently asked questions sheet and a map of the identified safer walking routes to school.

Councillor Milligan has requested that people direct their concerns and anger over these cuts to our MSPs for Midlothian in order that the Scottish Government review the funding formula made available to growing local authorities such as Midlothian, which has the fastest growing population in Scotland.

- [You can find details of your MSPs here](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Mary Smith
Director, Education, Communities and Economy
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Enc. Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
Map of identified safe walking routes