

24 April 2017

Dear Principal

RE: ONLINE APPLICATION FOR HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Education Authority (EA) has introduced a new, online process for parents applying for home to school transport assistance. Applications for transport assistance to all schools, primary and post primary should now be completed online via the EA website at www.eani.org.uk/transportapp

To ensure that all parents are aware of the new online process, I am asking you to direct them to the EA website to apply for transport when you write to confirm their child's place at your school. Primary School applications can be submitted from 2 May 2017 and Post Primary School applications from 1 June 2017.

The new online application process is simple and convenient and it enables the completion of applications for home to school transport assistance anytime, anywhere via a range of devices. On completion of an application, parents will receive instant notification in relation to eligibility for transport assistance. This is a significant improvement.

We have also created the 'Find My Route' app, which parents should find very useful. The app uses innovative technology to provide parents with an interactive view of bus routes and bus stops relating to their child's journey to school.

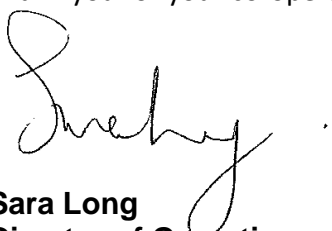
Transport assistance continues to be provided in accordance with the Department of Education's Circular 1996/41 school transport (updated 2009).

Eligibility for transport assistance to mainstream schools is based on the distance from the pupil's home to the school at which they have been offered a place or currently attend. The qualifying distance is three miles for Post Primary and two miles for Primary, measured by the shortest available walking route door to door.

All transport applications **must** be made online through the EA website www.eani.org.uk/transportapp

Parents should be encouraged to **apply before the 19th July 2017** as an offer of transport assistance cannot be guaranteed for the 1st September 2017 if they make application after this date.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Sara Long
Director of Operations and Estates