

Bridgend County Borough Council

No Pass No Travel pilot scheme

Free home-to-school transport is provided by Bridgend County Borough Council to pupils based on eligibility criteria.

A 'No Pass, No Travel' scheme is being piloted in Brynteg School for the summer term commencing April 16, 2018.

The local authority provides home-to-school transport to several thousand eligible pupils each day. However, transport contractors have reported, on numerous occasions, that the numbers of pupils boarding their coaches are exceeding the number of eligible pupils. This has resulted in:

- entitled pupils being left behind at bus stops;
- drivers dangerously overloading their vehicles;
- additional behavioural issues;
- pupils making the decision to go home and therefore miss lessons; or
- pupils making the decision to walk to school, sometimes on dangerous routes, rather than contact the emergency number on the rear of their bus pass.

Enforcement has not previously been part of the local authority's operational arrangements. However, with ongoing concerns related to pupil safety the local authority is proposing the implementation of a 'no pass, no travel' approach on our school bus contracts.

I would therefore welcome your support in respect of this arrangement.

As of this date, only eligible pupils in possession of a local authority home-to-school bus pass will be allowed to travel. The bus pass must have a valid expiry date and the route number must match that of the bus they are catching.

If any pupil attempts to board a school bus without a valid pass from this date, regardless of their eligibility, they will be refused transport.

If an eligible child does not currently have a valid pass, then parents should contact the School Transport Team on 01656 642654 or email schooltransport@bridgend.gov.uk

Please find included with this letter further details of this pilot scheme and frequently asked questions.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child/ren be allowed to board the bus without a valid bus pass?

- No. Only students who show a valid travel pass to the driver on every journey will be allowed to travel.

If my child/ren are regular users of the school transport, will the driver allow them to travel without a bus pass?

- No. Drivers are not allowed to carry passengers who cannot show a valid pass, even if they know the pupil is a regular user of the transport. Pupils must present a valid pass to travel on any home-to school bus service.

If my child/ren cannot produce a valid bus pass and are refused travel, how do they get to school?

- Please ensure that your child has their travel pass before they leave home. Parents should decide if their child(ren) should be accompanied to and from the bus.
- However, it is essential that your child knows what to do in the event they have forgotten or lost their pass and are refused travel. This could be returning home, telephoning you as the parent/carer or going to a relative's home.

If my child/ren have lost their bus pass, what do they need to do?

- If your child loses their pass during the day they should go to the school office to ask for a 10 day temporary pass. The school will send your child's details to the Council's School Transport Team and a new bus pass will be issued and sent to the school. The temporary pass will allow them to use the school transport.

Is there a cost for a replacement bus pass?

- The first replacement is free. Any further passes issued will incur a £5 charge.

If my child/ren wishes to visit a friend in the evening or has stayed overnight with a friend, can they use a different school bus?

- No, pupils must only travel on the vehicle indicated on their pass.

How will this be monitored?

- BCBC staff will carry out regular pass checks throughout the year.