



# Richmond School & Sixth Form College

Being the best we can be

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## School Travel 2020-21 Information Sheet

### School Travel Support/ Paid Travel Permits

Pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to free school transport if they live beyond the statutory walking distance, which is 3 miles for students in years 7 to 11. It is North Yorkshire County Council's responsibility to make arrangements for all eligible children to travel to school in safety and comfort, but it is the responsibility of the parent or carer to ensure that children attend school.

If children attend a school that is not the nearest or normal school (ie the school the Local Authority has decided will serve your home address), parents are usually responsible for all travel arrangements and costs. Currently permits are available to purchase from Passenger Transport Services if there are seats on a vehicle hired for children who are entitled to free transport.

**The Council advises that decisions about your preferences of school should not be based on current availability of transport, as places are reviewed on an annual basis and may not be available every year.**

You do not need to apply for free home-to-school transport if your child is transferring from primary to secondary school in September. North Yorkshire County Council will automatically assess your child's eligibility and send you a pass if eligible. If nothing has been received by mid-August it would be advisable to check on progress with Passenger Transport Services.

If you have any questions regarding North Yorkshire County Council's school transport provision please contact the School Transport Team on 01609 533693 or email [schooltransport@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:schooltransport@northyorks.gov.uk).

Alternatively, please follow this link which will take you to the Council's School and College Transport page: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-and-college-transport>. You will find detailed information about the Local Authority school transport policy including how to apply for a bus pass or a Paid Travel Permit, and links to school bus routes and timetables.

### Replacement Bus Services

Richmond School runs three additional replacement bus services to serve those areas not covered by statutory transport provision put in place by the Local Authority.

The **RS1 Bedale Bus** provides transport for students traveling from Masham and Bedale, as well as picking up students from Catterick Garrison.

The **RS2 Northallerton and Catterick Bus** provides transport for those students travelling from Northallerton, Catterick Village and the Garrison.

The **RS3 Wensleydale Bus** provides transport for students travelling from Middleham and Leyburn, as well as picking up students from Catterick Garrison.

**All bus pass applications for the above three services must be returned to Richmond School and NOT North Yorkshire County Council.** Application forms (including direct debit instructions) and timetables are all available to download from the school website, and a dedicated email address has been set up [buses@richmondschool.net](mailto:buses@richmondschool.net) to receive applications and deal with any queries you may have.

The subsidised cost of an annual pass for 2020-21 is either £760 or £665, depending on the distance being travelled to and from school. Payment is made by monthly direct debit, with the first payment taken in October and the final payment in July (ie 10 monthly payments of either £76.00 or £66.50). Payment details are requested during the application process and permits can only be released once this information has been received.

For applications received part way through the academic year, the contributions will be charged pro-rata based on the number of days the service will be used. Likewise, should you wish to cancel a bus permit this needs to be confirmed in writing/email and include the proposed date of cancellation. Any additional payment required or refund due will be calculated from this date and paid once the issued permit has been returned to the school.

### **Public Transport**

The main public transport provider between Richmond School and Colburn/Catterick Garrison is the X26/X27 service run by Arriva. This service is extremely busy and, to date, no commitment has been made by Arriva to increase the size and number of buses operating on this route.

### **Future Provision**

Ongoing commitment to the use of the RS1, RS2 and RS3 bus services will be essential for them to be able to continue, and if numbers start to drop then the services may need to be withdrawn.

Unfortunately, it is likely that home-to-school transport provision will continue to reduce in future years. **Whilst the school will do all that it can to help, it should be remembered that parents of students attending Richmond School from out of catchment are ultimately responsible for all transport arrangements and costs.**

The ongoing provision of subsidised home-to-school transport by Richmond School is currently under review due to pending changes in legislation expected to come into force on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020. As a result the charging arrangements for school transport may change next term. The school will contact parents at the earliest opportunity should existing charging arrangements need to be revised.

If you have any further queries regarding the replacement bus services being provided by Richmond School please do not hesitate to get in touch via [buses@richmondschool.net](mailto:buses@richmondschool.net)