



## **School Travel 2024-25 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. Previously permits have been available to purchase from Passenger Transport Services if there were seats on a vehicle hired for children who are entitled to free transport.

Due to the Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations, which came into force from January 2020, it remains uncertain if North Yorkshire County Council Passenger Transport Services will be in a position to continue selling passes on some of their services that have more than 22 seats from September 2021. They are awaiting further information from the Department for Transport and will provide more clarity on their position as soon as they are able to.

**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.** Regardless of whether you are applying for the first time or have had a pass before, do not assume that you will be able to buy a pass from them in the future. An alternative method of transport to get your child to school needs to be put in place in the event that passes are not permitted to be sold on those services that could be affected.

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 532363 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>. 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 travelling 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 submitted via the school's online application process and NOT North Yorkshire County Council.** Applications should be made as soon as possible and preferably no later than 31 July 2024. This is to enable permits to be issued at the start of the new academic year. A dedicated email address has been set up [buses-rch@arete.uk](mailto:buses-rch@arete.uk) to respond to any queries you may have.

The cost of an annual pass for 2024-25 is either £1140 or £1045, depending on the distance being travelled to and from school. Payment is made in full or by monthly direct debit (on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month), with the first payment taken in September and the final payment in July (11 monthly payments of either £103.64 or £95.00). Payment details are requested during the application process and permits only released once this information has been received.

For applications received part way through the academic year, contributions will be charged pro-rata based on the number of days the service is 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 be reduced 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.**

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-rch@arete.uk](mailto:buses-rch@arete.uk)

