

Important Information for Families with Year 6 Pupils Living in the Otley Area Applying for a secondary school place

We would like to highlight to you that children living in the Otley area may not be eligible for Suffolk County Council (SCC) funded school travel to Farlingaye High School, the catchment area school. If you are planning for your child to travel on SCC funded school travel, we strongly recommend that you consider the advice below to check if they would be eligible.

Applying for a school place

We have already made information available for parents of Year 6 pupils because it is the time of year to apply for a secondary school place for your child. However, we want to make sure that you understand how your school preferences and the order you put them could affect your child's eligibility for SCC funded school travel.

If you have not yet made an application, it is important that you do this by the closing date of **Saturday 31 October 2020**. You are able to make or change an online application at any time up to the closing date. You cannot apply online after the closing date. If you apply on a paper CAF1 application form, we must receive this by the closing date. If you have already applied using the paper application form (CAF1) you can change your school preferences at any time up until the closing date by submitting another paper application form. We will process the application received before and closest to the closing date.

You can apply for up to three school preferences and the order you put them in on your admissions application could affect your child's eligibility for SCC funded school travel. Our school travel scenarios (see below) may help you work out when your child might be eligible for SCC funded school travel to their school when the age and distance criteria are met.

Please note that all children starting at a new school will be assessed for SCC funded school travel. If an older sibling is currently receiving funded school travel this does not guarantee that a younger child will be eligible as the older child's eligibility may have been considered under the previous school travel policy.

You must consider how your child will travel to and from school **before** you apply for a school place. This is because school admissions policies and the School Travel Policy are separate.

Further information on how to apply for a school place can be found on the Apply for a Secondary School place 2021/2022 page at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.

No matter which secondary school your child is allocated, your child will be able to be part of the transition experience for that secondary even if they are out of the catchment area or do not attend one of the feeder schools.

Eligibility for SCC funded school travel

Full details about SCC funded school travel, including the School Travel Policy, additional arrangements for low income families and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can be found at www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Please be aware: You must consider how your child will travel to and from school **before** you apply for a secondary school place. The following information is very important.

1. We will provide SCC funded school travel to the **Nearest Suitable School** that would have had a place available for a child who lives at least three miles from the school. This would be whether or not an application was made for a place at that school. The nearest school might not be the catchment area school.
2. We **strongly recommend** that you check which school is your nearest suitable school on our **Nearest School Checker** because this might not be your catchment area school. You can find out which are your three nearest Suffolk schools (based on the statutory walking distance including Public Rights of Way) by putting your postcode into our **Nearest School Checker**. The Checker can be found at <http://nearestschool.suffolk.gov.uk> . We update this each year to include new roads and developments.
3. We would only provide SCC funded school travel to your **Catchment Area School** if it is the nearest school to your home that would have had a place available for your child.
4. Your School Preferences and the order you put them on your admissions application could affect your child's eligibility for SCC funded school travel. Our **School Travel Scenarios** (see below) can help you work out when your child might be eligible for SCC funded school travel to their school when the age and distance criteria are met. These can be found in Step 4 of the relevant 'Apply for a school place' page online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.
5. More school travel information is available in the Admissions to Schools in Suffolk 2021/2022 guide, page 43, online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions.
6. Full details about SCC funded school travel, including the School Travel Policy, additional arrangements for low income families and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can be found at www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

The only way to **guarantee** that your child will receive SCC funded school travel is if your three school preferences on your admission application are ordered as:

First preference: 1st nearest suitable school (as shown on the Nearest School Checker when this is more than three miles from your child's home)

Second preference: 2nd nearest suitable school as shown on the nearest school checker

Third preference: 3rd nearest suitable school as shown on the nearest school checker

The catchment area school may not be your nearest school

The School Travel Policy means that children attending their nearest school that had a place available at the time of application and who meet the relevant distance criteria, will be eligible for funded school travel. Depending on where you live in the school catchment area, the nearest school may not be the catchment area school.

The Passenger Transport Team calculate walking routes using a network comprised of the Ordnance Survey Mastermap Highways Network, which includes urban paths and Public Rights of Way as shown on the Definitive Map. This means that this measurement is much more accurate than Google or any other software available on the internet.

When consulting on the 2020/2021 School Admissions Policy, the public were asked whether catchment schools should remain as part of the oversubscription criteria. The overwhelming response (73%) was that catchment areas should remain. However, if your child is allocated a place at their catchment area school, this does not mean they are eligible to SCC funded school travel, even if they meet the distance criteria. There may be a nearer school within walking distance.

How do I know which school is the nearest?

If SCC funded school travel is an important factor for you, we strongly recommend that you check which school is your nearest suitable school on our **Nearest School Checker** at <http://nearestschool.suffolk.gov.uk> - this may not be your catchment area school. Simply enter your postcode into the checker and it will identify the three nearest Suffolk schools based on the statutory walking distance, including Public Rights of Way. It is updated annually so that changes to the network or new roads are added to make the results accurate.

Here are some scenarios that show how eligibility for school travel is assessed:

For illustrative purposes:

- **School A** is the nearest suitable Suffolk school – 2.5 miles from child's address
- **School B** is the second nearest suitable Suffolk school – 3.3 miles from child's address
- **School C** is the third nearest suitable Suffolk school – 7.2 miles from child's address

Katie will be starting secondary school in September 2021. Her parent applied for School C only, which is 7.2 miles from home and the third nearest school to her home address.

- A place is offered at School C.
- SCC funded school travel would not be available as School B had a place available and transport would have been available to that nearer school had Katie's parent applied for it.

Johnny is due to transfer to high school in September 2021. His parent applied for School B, which is his catchment area school, as first preference.

- A place is offered at School B which is 3.3 miles from home.
- SCC funded school travel will not be provided to School B as had the parent applied for School A, the nearest suitable school, a place would have been available.

Note: We recognise that the parent would not know whether School A would have places available on National Offer Day. The relevant Directory of Schools in Suffolk online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions and the list of school details in Suffolk provide admissions data for the previous school year to give parents an indication of the school's popularity and the cut off distance for the last place offered in 2020. This can only be an indication as both the popularity of schools and the size of the year group can fluctuate from year to year.

Amy is due to go to secondary school in September 2021. Her parent applied for School A which is 2.5 miles from home as first preference. This is Amy's catchment area school.

- A place is offered at School A.
- SCC funded school travel would not be available because the distance from home to school is 2.5 miles and does not meet the statutory walking distance criteria.

Note: If Amy's parents are on low income, the extended rights eligibility applies (to attend one of the three nearest secondary schools as long as they are between 2 and 6 miles from the home address) and so SCC funded school travel will be available.

Alfie will start secondary school in September 2021. His parents are on low income. An application was made for a place at School B which is 3.3 miles from home.

- A place is offered at School B.
- Had the parent applied for School A which is 2.5 miles from home and the nearest suitable school, a place would have been available.
- As Alfie's parents are on low income, the extended rights eligibility applies (to attend one of the three nearest secondary schools as long as they are between 2 and 6 miles from the home address) and so SCC funded school travel will be available.

Freda will start secondary school in September 2021. Her parents are on low income. Her parents applied for a place at a church school that is 9 miles away as first preference.

- A place is offered at the first preference school.
- As Freda's parents are on low income, the extended rights eligibility applies (to attend the nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief between 2 and 15 miles from the home address) and so SCC funded school travel will be available.

You can contact the School Admissions Team on:

- webchat from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm
- email at admissions@suffolk.gov.uk
- or by phone please call 0345 600 0981.

You can contact the Passenger Transport Team on:

- email Passenger.Transport@suffolk.gov.uk
- phone 0345 606 6173

Please note that these teams cannot advise you which school you should apply for but can explain which school is closest to your home address and describe the application process should this be helpful to you.