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17 July 2026

Dear parent/carer,

We are writing to update you following Nottinghamshire County Council's Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2026 where a report was considered about the future of the discretionary faith school transport scheme.

The Cabinet has taken the decision to withdraw the discretionary faith-based home to school travel arrangements from September 2027.

This means that all elements of the current scheme will be withdrawn from September 2027, including the following bus services to faith schools:

- St Edmund Campion, West Bridgford - 448
- Christ the King School, Arnold - 910
- The McAuley Catholic High School, Doncaster – 688, 689
- St John Houghton, Ilkeston – 415, 416
- The Trinity Catholic School, Aspley – 218, 650
- English Martyrs School, Long Eaton - 517
- The Becket School, West Bridgford – 441, 442, 447, 448, 449, 681
- All Saints Catholic Academy, Mansfield – 213, 214, 215, 217, 219, 221, 224
- Good Shepherd Primary Catholic Academy, Woodthorpe - 652
- St Philip Neri, Mansfield – 215, 219, 224
- The Emmanuel School, West Bridgford - 681
- Bluecoat Academy Aspley and Bluecoat Academy, Wollaton – 218, 652
- National CofE Academy, Hucknall – 413, 414/417
- Burntstump Seely, Arnold – 710

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who took the time to participate in the consultation and share their views. We received a significant number of responses from parents, carers, pupils, schools, trusts, diocesan partners and other interested parties. The level of engagement demonstrated just how important this issue is to families across Nottinghamshire.

We understand that this decision will be difficult news for families who use the service and want to be clear that it was not taken lightly. Councillors considered the consultation responses, the impact on families, alternative travel options, the Equality Impact Assessment and the significant financial pressures facing the council before reaching their decision.

The current discretionary arrangements will continue throughout the 2026/27 academic year, with the change not taking effect until September 2027. This is intended to provide families with time to consider future travel arrangements and access the support available.

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Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

As part of the decision, a package of support was approved to help families prepare for and adjust to the change. This support will include:

- A dedicated travel and journey planning service available throughout the 2026/27 academic year, providing personalised advice to families on alternative travel arrangements. From **27 July 2026**, families will be able to contact a specialist travel planning team by telephone on 07436 176 952 or via email: travelinfo@aeecom.com. You will receive tailored advice on alternative travel options, including public transport routes, ticketing, journey planning, active travel opportunities and shared travel arrangements.
- Access to information and support on our website: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/faithschooltransport which will contain guidance, frequently asked questions, travel information and updates throughout the transition period.
- An ongoing annual grant to support travel for eligible low-income primary-aged pupils attending faith schools who would otherwise lose travel assistance. Eligibility will be based on those receiving extended rights free school meals.
- A grant for one academic year to support pupils who start Year 6 and Year 11 in September 2027, helping to reduce disruption for those approaching important transition or examination years.
- Ongoing engagement with schools, diocesan partners and transport providers to support families and monitor impacts during the transition period.

We would like to reassure you that these changes relate only to our discretionary faith transport arrangements. Statutory home to school transport entitlements, including extended rights for eligible low-income families, remain unchanged.

Our Home to School Travel Assistance Policy will now be updated to reflect the decision taken by councillors. The updated policy will be available to view from 1 August 2026 on the our website at: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/travel-to-schools/under-16-mainstream-travel-assistance>.

As previously mentioned, if you would like advice about future travel options, you can contact the specialist travel planning team from 27 July 2026 by email at: travelinfo@aeecom.com or by telephone on 07436 176 952.

We know that this decision will cause worry and uncertainty for affected families. It is never easy to withdraw a service that people value and rely upon, and we fully recognise that, for some households, the change will require careful planning and adjustment. We will continue to work closely with families, schools, diocesan partners and transport providers to share clear information, answer questions and help families plan ahead for September 2027.

Thank you once again for taking the time to share your views and experiences throughout the review process.

Yours faithfully,



Elliot Mizen
Head of Transport
Nottinghamshire County Council