

To all Parents/Carers
of Primary and Secondary Pupils

Education and Children's Services

Shelagh McLean, Head of Education
and Children's Services

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Our Ref: SMcL/

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Dear Parent/Carer

Walked Routes to Schools - Assessment Policy

On 6 November 2018, the Education & Children's Services Committee of Fife Council approved the contents of a Walked Routes to Schools - Assessment Policy for use in assessing the availability of walk routes and agreed to apply the policy to any new walk route assessments from the date of the Committee. The Committee also authorised both consultation on the terms of the policy generally and specifically in relation to the future application of the policy to existing school transport provision for pupils who do not meet the distance criteria, but in respect of whom there has been a previous decision that there is no available walk route. A copy of the Committee papers in respect of this decision can be found at www.fifedirect.org.uk/committees and search for the Education & Children's Services Committee of 6 November 2018.

This policy outlines the process that the Council will undertake to assess whether a walked route to school is available and the methodology that would be adopted in carrying out the assessment. The aim of the policy is to ensure that robust and clear criteria is applied to the assessment of school walking routes throughout Fife and therefore, for all pupils, on a transparent and equitable basis.

The consequence of applying the policy to existing school transport provision to pupils who do not meet the distance criteria but in respect of whom there has been a previous decision that there is no available walk route will be that some pupils will no longer be entitled to free school transport. The proposed date of application of the policy to existing transport provision is August 2019.

For pupils who do not receive free transport, there is unlikely to be any impact however you may still wish to comment on the policy. A full copy of the policy can be found at www.fifedirect.org.uk, search for "Sustainable School Estate" and search for the heading "Walked Routes to Schools – Assessment Policy". However, included on this

website page, under the Publications heading, is a list of those current schools where exemptions have been provided and transport has been given due to historic reasons. This shows the routes to school likely to be affected if the policy is agreed. A printed copy of the policy and/or copies in other languages and formats are available on request by contacting Avril Graham on 03451 555555 ext. 444204.

Consultation on the policy and its application to existing transport provision will take place between Tuesday 13 November 2018 and Friday 14 December 2018. Parents/carers are asked to submit their views by the end of the day on Friday 14 December 2018 by email to sustainableschoolestate.enquiries@fife.gov.uk or in writing to:

Walked Routes to School Engagement
Education Service
4th Floor
Rothesay House
Glenrothes
Fife KY7 5PQ

There will also be an opportunity to hear about the contents of the policy and provide feedback at an engagement session. Four engagement sessions have been arranged as follows:-

Levenmouth Academy from 5.30-6.30 pm on Tuesday 20 November 2018
Auchmuty High School from 5.30-6.30 pm on Thursday 22 November 2018
Lochgelly High School from 5.30-6.30 pm on Thursday 29 November 2018
Dunfermline High School from 5.30-6.30 pm on Tuesday 4 December 2018

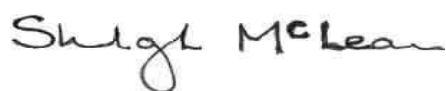
Parents/carers and pupils can attend whichever venue is most convenient for them.

The views of a proportion of pupils from Fife schools will also be sought during the consultation period.

A report on the outcome of consultation on the policy and its proposed application will be submitted to the Education and Children's Services Committee for consideration at their meeting on Tuesday 22 January 2019.

I look forward to seeing you at the engagement sessions.

Yours sincerely,



Shelagh McLean
Head of Education and Children's Services