



Draft Education Transport Policy

Cyngor Gwynedd is engaging with the public on the Draft Education Transport Policy

Background

The Education Transport Policy, which is currently active dates back to 2009, and although there is no change to the statutory requirements associated with providing transport for learners, the policy needs to be reviewed in order to:

Ensure we are meeting the Welsh Government's statutory requirements and guidelines:

The need to consult at least 12 months before introducing a change to some or all the discretionary elements of the policy.

Ensure clarity on the discretionary elements for fairness for children, young people and their families:

There is inconsistency in the content of the current policy across all areas.

Ensure that the policy is fit for purpose and clear and easy to implement within the resources available:

The policy is outdated which means that elements of it can no longer be implemented due to the Welsh Government's statutory requirements and guidelines. The policy is also vague, which makes it difficult for the Authority to make clear and balanced decisions about education transport.

The main changes proposed to the Draft Education Transport Policy are in the following areas:

- Empty Seats Scheme
- Faith Schools
- Dual Residency
- Post-16 Transport

Relevant Documents

- Draft Education Transport Policy
- Impact assessment

Privacy notice

We will only use any personal information provided in responding for the purpose of analysing the questionnaire. The responses will be kept for 5 years after the questionnaire's closing date.

This is done in order to comply with Article 6(e) of the UK GDPR, as we are asking for your opinion about a statutory service.

Closing date: 20 March, 2026

Section A:

A1.

I'm completing this questionnaire as:

Parent / guardian

Governor

Member of school staff

Learner under 16

Post-16 learner

Member of the public

Elected member

Other

Other

Section B: Empty Seats Scheme

What's in the current policy?

If there is an empty seat for learners on a school bus or taxi, learners can apply to purchase the seat each term. The following criteria must be met:

1. There are empty seats available;
2. There is no need for the vehicle to change the route from its usual journey;
3. There will be no additional costs for Cyngor Gwynedd;
4. Pay the current fee for an empty seat.

These learners will receive first refusal:

- Learners with an Individual Development Plan (IDP);
- Learners who live farthest from the school or school site.

What's different in the new policy?

The Empty Seats Scheme will not exist in the new Education Transport Policy.

B1. What is your opinion on not including the empty seats scheme to ensure that there are enough seats available for children to travel free to school?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

B2. Comments

Section C: Faith Schools

What's in the current policy?

There is no reference to faith schools in the current policy, but this is the situation:

Gwynedd has two faith schools; Our Lady's School and St Helen's School. The schools themselves are the admissions authorities rather than the Council, and therefore they do not have specific catchment boundaries, although the areas they serve are likely based on areas of the historic church parishes. At present, transport is provided for learners on the basis of these areas.

What's different in the new policy?

Cyngor Gwynedd will provide free transport for school-aged learners:

- who attend the nearest faith school of the parents' / guardians choice;
- if they live at least 2 miles but no more than 5 miles from the nearest suitable faith school;
- where their parents/guardians provide evidence of proof of faith

C1.

What is your opinion on providing free school transport to learners in faith school catchment areas that live at least 2 miles but no further than 5 miles from the nearest suitable faith school?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

C2. Comments

Section D: Dual Residency

What's in the current policy?

Where parents share responsibility for a child and the child resides in two households, which are the homes of both separate parents, the Authority will provide transport from the main address, which is the address at which the learner usually resides, with at least one of those residences being in Gwynedd. This is on the condition that the school the learner attends is the nearest suitable school from the main residence, or it is agreed that it is the most suitable considering the locations of the two residences.

What's different in the new policy?

The Local Authority will provide transport for learners who may reside in more than one home due to their family circumstances, but only from the main address, with at least one of those homes being in Gwynedd. Transport will not be provided from either residence if it is more than 5 miles from the nearest suitable school.

D1. What is your opinion on only providing free transport from the main address?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

D2. What is your opinion on not providing free transport if both homes are further than 5 miles from the closest appropriate school?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

D3. Comments

Section E: Post-16 Transportation

What's in the current policy?

The Council provides transport for full-time post-16 learners to the following educational institutions:

- Secondary schools catering for Years 12 & 13.
- Special schools catering for years 12 & 13 & 14.
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai - Dolgellau, Pwllheli, Glynllifon, Menai Site Parc Menai - Bangor, Llangefni and Caernarfon

What's different in the new policy?

The Local Authority provides discretionary transport beyond statutory school age where eligible learners living in Gwynedd who:

- live 3 miles or more from the nearest suitable school or post-16 college that provides the course
- are studying full-time and are younger than 19 years of age on 1 September in the academic year in which the course is taken

Transport will be provided to the catchment area / nearest suitable secondary school designated by the Authority to serve the learners' home address only, or in the case of Grŵp Llandrillo Menai full-time courses, to the nearest college site providing the course.

E1.

What is your opinion on continuing to provide free transport to post-16 learners?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Neither agree nor disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Strongly disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| No opinion | <input type="checkbox"/> |

E2.

What is your opinion on providing free transport only to the catchment / nearest suitable school that offers the course?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

E3.

What is your opinion on only providing free transport to the nearest college offering the course?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

E4. Comments

Section F: Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and Medical Conditions

What's in the current policy?

We will provide free transport to learners who have an Individual Development Plan, and sometimes learners who have a medical condition or disability.

What's different in the new policy?

We will continue to provide free transport to learners with an Individual Development Plan, and sometimes learners who have a medical condition or disability, but will:

- review ALN requests each year and explore the possibility of travelling independently as they grow and develop
- promote and work towards independent travel among all ALN learners

F1.

What is your opinion on reviewing ALN applications each year to see if the learners can travel independently as they grow and develop?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

F2.

What is your opinion on promoting and working towards independent travel among all learners?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

No opinion

F3. Comments

Section G: Sustainable Travel Modes

What's in the current policy?

There is no reference to sustainable travel modes in the current policy.

What's in the new policy?

The council will promote active travel to school and college, by walking and cycling and other sustainable ways. This will improve health and fitness and reduce damage to the environment and is a green way to travel.

G1.

What is your opinion on promoting and working towards green and healthy travel practices among all learners?

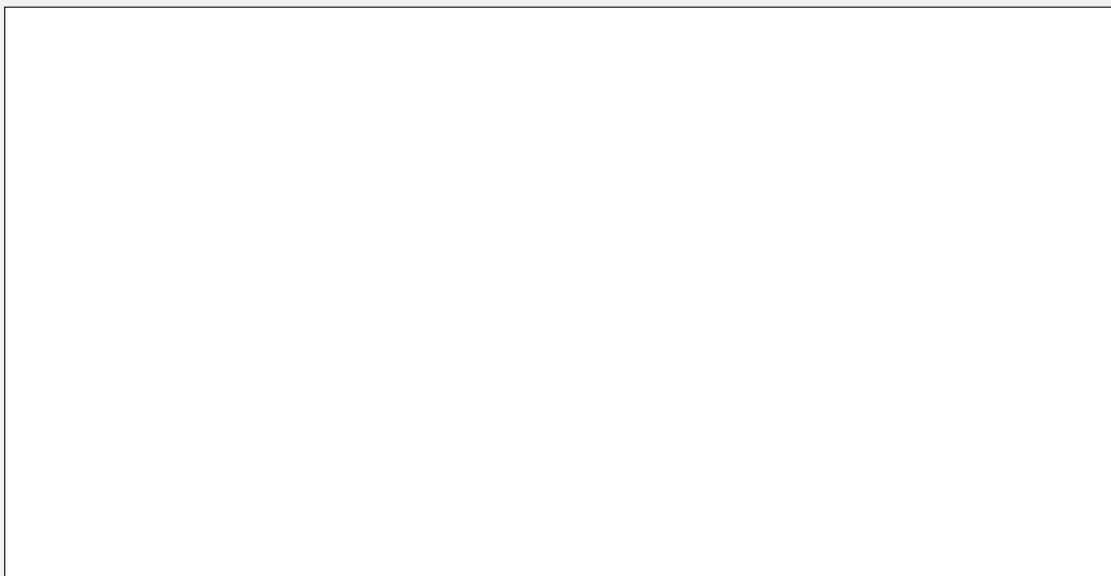
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

G2. Comments

Section H: Further comments

H1.

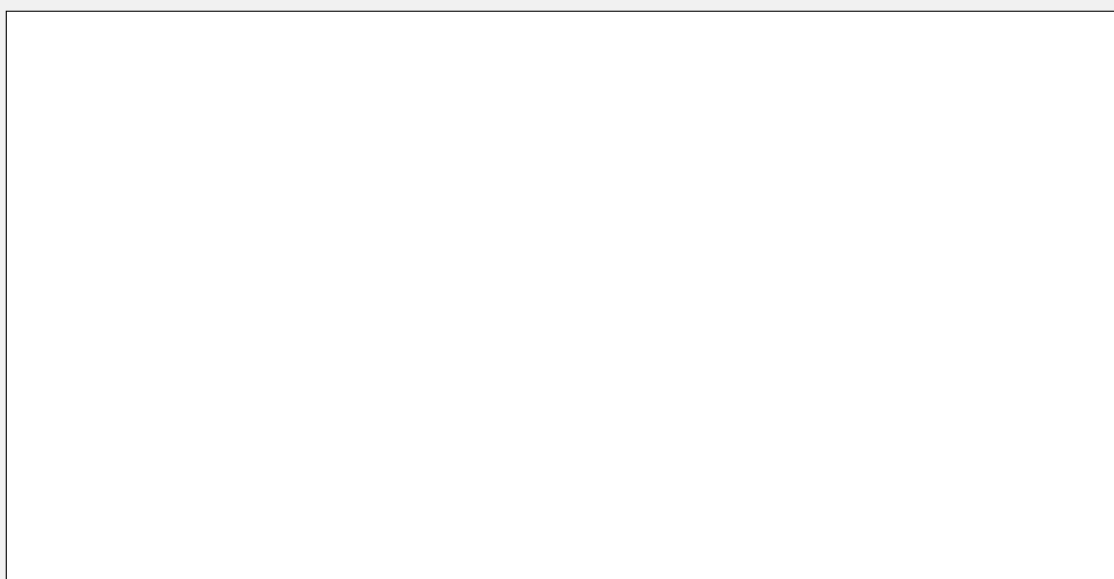
Do you have any comments on the changes to Cyngor Gwynedd's Education Transport Policy?



Section I: Effect on the Welsh Language

In line with the Welsh Language Standards, the Authority is required to consider the effects of policy decisions on the Welsh language.

I1. In your opinion, what effects would this policy have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?



I2. In your opinion, how could the policy be created or adapted to ensure that it has positive effects, or more positive effects, on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on ensuring that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English?

I3. In your opinion, would it be possible to formulate or modify the policy to ensure that it does not have adverse effects, or has less adverse effects on opportunities for people to use Welsh, and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?

Section J: The effect on people facing socio-economic disadvantage

J1.

What effect would this policy have on people facing socio-economic disadvantage?

Socio-economic disadvantage means poverty of any kind - financial poverty, digital poverty, living far from services and so on.

Section K: About you

Answering the following questions will help us ensure we have collected the views of a variety of people and given everyone from all backgrounds a chance to take part. You do not have to answer them.

Any information you provide is strictly confidential. We will not be able to identify you.

The information will only be used for statistical analysis.

If you do not wish to answer the following questions, this is the end of the questionnaire.

K1.

Sex

Man / Male

Woman / Female

I identify in a different way

I prefer not to say

K2.

Note your age group

15 years old or younger

16 - 24 years old

25 - 34 years old

35 - 44 years old

45 - 54 years old

55 - 64 years old

65 - 74 years old

75 - 84 years old

85 + years old

I prefer not to say

K3.

How would you describe your skills in Welsh?

Speak, read and write fluently

Speak, read and write, but not very confidently

Speak, read and write – I'm learning

Speak, but can't read or write

Can't speak or understand Welsh

I prefer not to say

Other

Other

K4.

Nationality or national identity?

Welsh

English

Scottish

Northern Irish

British

I prefer not to say

Other

Other

K5.

What is your race?

- White
- Black / African / Caribbean
- Asian
- Gypsy / Irish Traveller
- Mixed / several ethnic groups
- I prefer not to say
- Other

Other

K6.

What is your religion?

- No religion
- Christian
- Muslim
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Sikh
- I prefer not to say
- Other

Other

K7.

Which of these best describes you?

(You do not need to answer this question if you are under 16)

Heterosexual / Straight

Gay man

Gay woman / lesbian

Bisexual

I prefer not to say

Other

Other

K8.

Has your gender identification changed from that assigned to you at birth? (for example are you trans or transgender etc)

(You do not need to answer this question if you are under 16 years old)

Yes

No

I prefer not to say

K9.

Section 6 (1) of the Equality Act 2010 states that a person is disabled if:

a. The person has a physical or mental impairment,

b. and the impairment has a substantial and long-term effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Using this definition, do you consider yourself a disabled person?

Yes

No

I prefer not to say

Thank you for your response