

Message to parents re school transport to PWS from September 2024

Following public consultation earlier in the year, the Local Authority have confirmed that from September 2024 they will be operating in line with the minimum government requirement to provide free school transport for qualifying pupils only to the nearest suitable school which has places.

A child's nearest school is determined by taking the shortest (not quickest!) distance from their exact home address to the school's exact address. Parents/carers can use google maps to help them establish which their nearest school is.

Although Thrapston primary is listed as one of Prince William School's linked, 'feeder' schools, the Local Authority is no longer guaranteeing free transport from Thrapston to Prince William School (PWS) for pupils who join PWS from September 2024. They are only guaranteeing free transport where PWS is the pupil's nearest school.

Pupils currently receiving free transport to PWS from Thrapston will continue to benefit from free transport until they reach the end of year 11, or until their circumstances change, for example they change address.

Students who will be new to the school from September 2024 may not be entitled to free transport unless it is their nearest school and may be charged for transport if it is not. The cost will be of £760 per pupil per academic year. People will be able to pay in instalments and there will be discounts available for families facing financial difficulties.

If parent/carers nominate their nearest school on the school admission form but they are given a place at a different school because their nearest school is full, they may qualify for free transport if they meet the other eligibility criteria, such as distance between home and school. Please see the policy at

[Free school travel assistance \(4 to 16 year olds\) | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/free-school-travel-assistance-4-to-16-year-olds)

However, the Local Authority would like to reassure parents/carers that there will be transport available to PWS from Thrapston, regardless of the number of pupils wanting to travel from Thrapston to PWS, but they may have to pay for the service, as set out above.