

COUNTY DONEGAL POST PRIMARY TRANSPORT IOMPAR IARBHUNOIDEACHAIS DHUN NA nGALL

Donegal V.E.C Offices, Ard O'Donnell, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
T: 074 9161600 F: 074 9161546 E: ceo@donegalvec.ie www.donegalvec.ie

Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Dhun na nGall, Ard Ui Dhomhnaill, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Dhun na nGall
G: 074 9161600 F: 074 9161546 R: ceo@donegalvec.ie www.donegalvec.ie

CEO/JG

30^h November 2011

By Email & Post

TO THE PRINCIPAL OF EACH POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL NAMED IN THE ADDRESS

RE: SCHOOL TRANSPORT SCHEME

Dear Principal

I write to advise that following on from the budgetary announcements in December 2010 and in line with the recommendations of the Value for Money Review of the School Transport Scheme, the Department of Education and Skills have confirmed by way of letter dated 3rd November 2011 that the role of the Transport Liaison Officer will cease with effect from the 31st December 2011.

As a consequence all school transport applications and matters associated therewith will now be made directly to the Bus Eireann Office in Stranorlar.

The key changes as outlined in the Budget 2010 for that of School Transport at second level are as follows :

1. With effect from 2012/2013 school year the use of the catchment boundary system to establish school transport eligibility for all pupils newly entering a post primary school will cease.
2. School transport eligibility for all pupils newly entering a post primary school will be determined by reference to the distance they reside from their nearest Post Primary Education Center having regard to ethos and language.
3. Existing eligible pupils will continue to be eligible for transport to their current school of attendance for the duration of their post primary education provided their existing circumstances do not change.

Arising from the changes outlined above, the revised Post Primary School Transport Scheme and Application Form are being finalised and will some of which is available on the Bus Eireann and Department of Education and Skills websites, respectively.

As Principal, I would request that you make these changes known to staff and pupils within your school as well as bringing this matter in particular the revised eligibility criteria to the attention of parents on enrolment days as the availability of school transport can play a vital part for some parents in deciding on the school of choice for their children.

Finally, I would like to thank you and your staff who over the years have dealt directly through the office of the Transport Liaison Officer and for the ongoing co-operation and organisation provided by your school in forming part of a successful school transport system for County Donegal. I am sure that your continued support and co-operation will be much appreciated by Bus Eireann on their uptake of the administration and liaison function as carried out by the office of the TLO since the establishment of school transport scheme in 1967.

Buíochas agus Is Mise le Meas,



MaryAnn Kane

Transport Liaison Officer