



Home to School Transport Langwathby Primary School

Consultation Proposal – Removal of Passenger Assistants

What is the consultation about?

Westmorland and Furness Council currently provide a passenger assistant on each of the home to school transport routes T1252 and T1255 which serve Langwathby C of E Primary School. This is a historical arrangement and is the only such arrangement for mainstream pupils that the council have in place. This consultation is regarding the Council's proposal to remove the passenger assistants from the Langwathby home to school transport routes from the start of the 2026/27 academic year.



The Proposal

The proposal is to remove the passenger assistants from these routes from 1st September 2026.

Who is this consultation for?

This document is aimed at parents/carers, staff and governors of Langwathby C of E Primary School and anyone else with an interest, or stake in, home to school transport arrangements serving the school.

Background and rationale for proposal

The provision of passenger assistants on Langwathby primary transport is a long-standing historical arrangement, dating back to the early 1970's resulting from the merger of some Eden schools.

We acknowledge that the former Cumbria County Council started engagement to remove the passenger assistants a number of years ago, however this process was halted pending policy review. It is also noted that at the time that the council had not followed a formal consultation process.

The creation of Westmorland & Furness Council has provided an opportunity to review policy and process across a number of service areas. In addition, the publication of the statutory guidance for local authorities "Travel to school for children of compulsory school age" in June 2023 with a further update in January 2024 has provided the Council with a further opportunity to review home to school transport policy and tidy up any elements of our provision which are not in line with the new statutory guidance.

There are two routes which the council contracts to serve Langwathby C of E Primary School

- **T1252 serving: Gamblesby, Melmerby and Ousby**
- **T1255 serving: Glassonby, Hunsonby, Little Salkeld and Winskill**

There is no statutory requirement to provide passenger assistants on home to school transport. The statutory guidance for local authorities references the use of passenger assistants in discretionary circumstances with parental consent, or to support children who may need particular arrangements to be made to meet their needs.

All pupils who have an eligibility to home to school transport, regardless of their age are expected to be able to board and alight the vehicle, secure their seatbelt, do as the driver asks them and to behave in an orderly manner. Parents/carers are expected to support their child in preparation, prior to them being allocated a seat and travelling on the school bus, and the council works closely with operators and schools in ensuring that everyone can travel safely to school.

Apart from the Langwathby routes T1252 and T1255 there are no passenger assistants employed on any home to school transport routes contracted by the Council provided for mainstream pupils. Passenger assistants are however used on SEND routes across the council area to support children with SEND needs where the pupil's individual transport risk assessment deems this necessary.

Westmorland and Furness Council is a largely rural authority and we contract mainstream and SEND home to school transport for eligible pupils across the area. In the case of primary school transport, there are a number of schools which are in a similarly rural location to Langwathby where transport is provided to nearest or catchment primary school, without a passenger assistant being present on the vehicle for example Great Salkeld to Lazonby School, Sedgwick to Crosscrake Primary, Underbarrow to Crossthwaite Primary and Gawthrop to Dent Primary.

The historical anomaly presented by the passenger assistants on the Langwathby routes is considered to be an unequal provision and the Council would like to seek the views of all stakeholders on the withdrawal of the passenger assistants from the 1st September 2026 – the start of the new 2026/27 academic year.

As a public body we have a responsibility to make best use of public funds and act reasonably in the performance of our functions. In line with other Local Authorities across the country, our Home to School transport budget is under considerable pressure, and we have a duty to spend our limited resources responsibly, particularly when discharging our statutory duties.

We have checked across other Local Authorities and it is extremely unusual for passenger assistants to be provided on mainstream routes unless these are specifically to meet the needs of SEND pupils travelling on mainstream routes.

Have your say

As well as being able to complete this and sending it back to the Council by post or email, you can also use the on-line link to the form. You can also attend a meeting to be held at the school to ask any questions you may have on Thursday 16 October at 6pm, at Langwathby C of E Primary School. There will be separate meetings for the governors and parents/stakeholders as detailed below.

- Governors - Tuesday 7 October at 6pm
- Parents and other stakeholders - Thursday 16 October at 6pm

What happens next?

Once the consultation period has closed, responses will be reviewed by the Corporate Director of Children's Services in conjunction with the Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Skills and a decision will be made whether to proceed with the removal of the passenger assistants from the routes or not, and the timeframe for this, should the withdrawal be agreed. A final decision will be reached by the end of November 2025.

All stakeholders to the consultation - parents/carers, staff and governors of Langwathby C of E Primary School and respondents to the consultation will be advised of the final decision by mid-December 2025.

It is important that we hear your views.

Timeline

Consultation period	29 September 2025 to 28 October 2025
Consultation Meeting	
Governors	7 October 2025
Parent & Stakeholders	16 October 2025 6pm
Decision made by Corporate Director Children's Services & Cabinet member for Children's Services, Education and Skills	End of November 2025
Outcome of consultation shared with all stakeholders	Mid-December 2025
Implementation of proposal if agreed	1st September 2026

This consultation runs until 28 October 2025, and you can complete the online questionnaire here.

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/Langwathby-school-transport>

Please note that it is not possible to enter into individual correspondence.

If you would prefer, you can complete and return a hard copy of the questionnaire which is attached overleaf.

Link to document

www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-to-school-travel-and-transport-guidance

[Travel to school for children of compulsory school age](#)

What happens next?

1. Please indicate your interest *(tick all boxes that apply)*

I am a:

Parent/carer of a child at Langwathby C of E Primary

Member of staff at Langwathby C of E Primary

Governor at Langwathby C of E Primary

Other

If other has been selected, please specify

2 Please use the space below to share your comments on the proposals:

Name (please print)

Address (incl. postcode)

The closing date for this consultation is **28 October 2025**

Please return by email to school.transport@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk and postal copies should be handed in at school or returned by post to Integrated Home to School Transport Team, Langwathby Consultation, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4DQ