

I write to formally present my petition regarding the proposed increases to the Young Persons Travel Pass which ran for a period from 24/01/2016 to 10/03/2016. In this short time I raised support of 3,245 signatures.

I have been pleased to learn that KCC have worked extremely hard to secure savings due by service changes and hope this will ensure no increases to the cost of the pass.

Families, whom care profusely about the standard of their children's education, are being financial crippled. Parents cannot endure more increases. With lack of payment flexibility, plus time constraints, many were left with no alternative last year, but to place the cost onto credit cards which added to their financial hardship.

I previously included the document DoE's 'Home to School travel transport guide' specifically page9 regarding children attending their 'most suitable school'. Many children attend their nearest Grammar School for an education most suitable for them. Others attend the nearest School that offer the Grammar Stream. Many children attend a school further away due to their local school 'failing'. Do you feel these children should not be penalised for wanting a better education?

Parents confirm they have no alternative but to drive their children to school. Traffic to these routes will become more congested, thus resulting in an increase of incidents which will also strain KCC resources.

Parents are dissatisfied with the service they receive from bus companies. Services are often late, cramped, or nonexistent! It is appalling that the cost of a children's ticket is not applicable during peak times.

Parents feel that the third child discount is dormant applying to very few families. If this included the 16+ travel pass or amended to a second child then perhaps this would offer some validity.

I appreciate 'this is already a benefit, subsidised by the council' and whilst I remain empathic regarding budget issues, every child deserves the right to their most suitable education without discrimination.

Fundamentally, every young person deserves an **equal** right to their most suitable education. With the last increase only applicable to the working parent; a child from a working family paying the higher amount should not be denied the opportunity of a placement in comparison to a child from a heavily subsidised family. Current costs are already regrettably implicating parent's school choices.

The children suffering are our future work force and deserve the best possible start in life. Our country claims to offer excellent standards of education but are not delivering their promises with a large proportion of 'failing schools', nor helping working parents in a Government where 'working is supposed to pay'. Many parents elected the current Government due to their shared opinions that those in work should not be penalised in comparison to those who do not.

I implore you to read the comments on the petition to enlighten you.

On behalf of myself and the other 3,244 exasperated parents, I look forward to your comments and a positive outcome for all.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Hibbard