

16th July 2019

RE: BCPS & WCPS Bus Service 2019-20

Dear Parent,

Thank you to those of you who completed the online form informing us which bus routes you'd like to book for your child for the 2019-20 academic year and for your feedback and questions regarding the bus service from September that I have received via email. Unfortunately, we do not yet have a commitment to the bus service from sufficient numbers of parents to make the bus service viable from September. It would be a shame to lose this service and I wonder if many of you have overlooked the completion of the online form or are waiting until September when your child has settled in. **However, if we do not get sufficient uptake now before the summer holidays I will need to stop the bus service at the end of this term.**

To endeavour to keep the bus service running from September we'd now like everyone to complete a new online form to help us to see if we can make changes to the bus service that will mean more people will choose to use the service and make it work. Please click [here](#) to answer these questions **by Friday 19th July.**

The questions parents have been asking are around the childcare costs of the earlier bus routes, whether the bus service is an affordable rate and not wishing to book bus routes now as they are unsure of the after school activities on offer from September. Please find attached a list of Frequently Asked Questions to help answer the questions for you all.

I would like to reiterate that the bus service is not only unique but offered at a subsidised rate to reduce the number of cars on the road, support childcare arrangements when parents have to get to work early and to minimise the congestion around school at drop off and pick up times. The bus service benefits everyone, not just users of the service, and is not intended to be a competitor to the public bus service. In light of the ongoing congestion at BCPS, and potential congestion at WCPS, I am urging all parents to give feedback about the bus service.

I hope that you will be able to support the bus service from September, for the benefit of everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Bishop
Executive Headteacher

Bus Service

Frequently Asked Questions

How much will the bus service cost me?

We are asking for a 75p contribution per journey per child. This contribution will need to be upfront and is non-refundable. Please see this as a commitment to the bus service rather than buying a bus ticket. This, we believe, is good value.

If my child uses a bus that arrives at school before 8.30am will I have to pay a £1 charge for the Breakfast Club each day?

Yes, if your child uses a bus that arrives at school before 8.30am you will need to pay a £1 charge for the Breakfast Club, in addition to the 75p contribution per bus journey. This is because we pay for staff to care for your child and, compared to the Breakfast Club charge of £4, is good value.

If my child uses a bus that leaves BCPS or WCPS after 4pm, will I have to pay a £1 charge for the After School Club each day?

Yes, if your child uses a bus that leaves the school after 4pm, you will need to pay a £1 charge for the After School Club, in addition to the 75p contribution per bus journey. This is because we pay for staff to care for your child and, compared to the After School Club charge of £4.50 per hour, is good value.

Will I receive a refund if I cancel my booking, for example, where my child would like to take part in an after school activity?

Unfortunately, we can't give refunds for any reason, including where your child has chosen to attend an after school activities club. This is because of the real time costs of someone processing refunds making it not necessarily viable. We need to have a full year's commitment.

Will existing users of the bus service have priority?

Yes, existing users of the bus service will have priority for over-subscribed routes.

Will siblings have priority for the bus service?

Yes, siblings will have priority for over-subscribed routes.

If my child takes part in a school trip, will they return to school in time to use the bus?

Not all school trips will finish in time for children to catch the school bus home. We will let you know the details of each trip in advance so that you can make alternative arrangements at the end of the school day.

Will there be a Breakfast and After School Club at the new Westclyst Primary School building from September?

Yes, we aim to have a Breakfast and After School Club at the new Westclyst Primary School building from September. This, like the service at Broadclyst Primary School, depends on sufficient uptake. Please see the separate letter re: Breakfast and After School Club.

Will there be parking, or a drive through, at Westclyst Primary School as at Broadclyst?

Currently, although there are plans for a 'park and charge', there will be limited parking on the road through the estate and no drive through similar to that at Broadclyst. Unfortunately, this is out of our control in the design and build of Westclyst Primary School.

