

11 December 2015

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are aware St. Aidan's and St. John Fisher have been involved with a number of bus companies to look at the issue of School Transport to our schools as from September 2016. Following several meetings I can now inform you that those companies have agreed to run buses for the majority of routes that have been in operation for many years.

The proposed routes can be accessed by clicking the following link: <u>Proposed Bus Routes - September 2016</u>

The proposed routes and times are as agreed at this time, BUT must stress that they are based on the number of students travelling remaining the same as at present. They have told us that the cost to parents using this service will be £760 per year if paid in its entirety before August 31st 2016 or £800 if parents wish to take up the option of two payments during the year (one in by August 31st 2016 and the other by January 1st 2017). This cost is virtually in line with figures for Leeds parents.

Parents would have to contract in to this service for one year in the first instance and only these contractors would be allowed on to our school sites during that year. The actual cost indicated will be for all routes into the school and represents a cost of £4 per head for each day. There will be no concessions for more than one child and if numbers of students using the service does not match the present numbers then the cost will have to be revised in the light of those numbers. We are fully aware that this is a significant increase to the costs to parents. This is because the Local Authority no longer make a contribution.

In order to gauge your interest on the proposed routes please let us know your preference by January 4th 2016 using the following link:

Survey - Proposed Bus Routes September 2016

Alternatively, you can send an email (quoting the route number from the above list) to Mandie Lumley, Facilities Manager at St. Aidan's (m.lumley@staidans.co.uk). We will then go back to the companies with the actual figures and arrange for them to draw up the contracts with parents. I would point out that the contract will be between parents and the bus company providing the service and will not involve St. Aidan's or St. John Fisher in any way.

Yours faithfully

John Wood Headteacher

PS Transdev services that are already in operation will not be affected by the proposed changes and will continue to run their normal timetable.