

7 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In the Sixth Form your son/daughter/student may travel to school by bus to St Aidan's in September and we would like to clarify a few aspects of this travel with you.

In 2016 the local authority decided that it would no longer provide school bus services to denominational schools, including St Aidan's and St John Fisher. As a result, local bus companies began to offer routes to service many of the geographical areas that were previously covered by traditional school buses. Many of our parents/carers choose to use these services and in doing so enter into a private contract between themselves and the chosen bus operator.

As a school we allow many of these buses onto our site to drop off and pick up our students for logistical purposes. However, St Aidan's does not have any accountability for any of the buses that bring students to our school in terms of the company, the route, the levels of service or the associated costs.

We appreciate that you will be starting to research bus options over the next few weeks. In doing so we recommend that you contact the bus operator directly to check their routes, timetables and pricing for September. Please also take the time to read any associated contracts/terms and conditions of service as they will likely contain important detail such as notice periods for changing routes and who to contact with any queries or feedback. Some of the bus operators have started to take bookings for places in September and so we advise to make contact at your earliest opportunity.

In addition to the services that drop off and pick up on our site there are public bus routes that stop at Harrogate Bus Station and locally to school (Leeds Road, Wetherby Road, Woodland's corner). Many of our students use these buses and walk the remainder of the distance to/from school. Students also use the train – Hornbeam Park being the closest station to school. Again, whilst we have no influence over these alternative options and appreciate that they may not be right for your son/daughter/student, we wanted to make you aware of them for information.

Please find attached information from North Yorkshire Council and specific information from Transdev.

Kind regards



Kim Orton
Deputy Director of Sixth Form