



Date: June 2016
My Ref: JAC/GS
Please Ask For: Transport Team
Direct Dial: 01254 585003

Dear Head Teacher

Flat Fares on Subsidised School Buses

The Council is facing a situation where a further £3.5 million of savings in the financial year 2016/17 have to be made. You may also be aware that in 2015 the Council took a decision from its consultation process that pupils travelling on subsidised school buses, and where a school has contributed, the lower fare will apply for **all** journey lengths resulting in no increase.

As a result of the above I am now writing to inform you that for some pupils the flat fare will be increasing with effect from the start of the autumn term 1st September 2016.

- Fares for contracted services will be £1.25 single/£2.50 return for journeys up to 3 miles.
- Fares for contracted services will be £1.75 single/£3.50 return for journeys over 3 miles.
- Where a school has contributed to subsidy costs, the lower fare of £1.25 single/£2.50 will apply for the whole journey irrespective of mileage travelled.

Please could you inform your parents of the new fare through your internal communication systems, be that either email/website/newsletter. You may also feel that it would be appropriate to mention this in school assembly. (If you have any problems with these methods of communication please advise us and we will be happy to assist in whichever way you feel is appropriate.)

This does not affect children who hold a free bus pass issued by the Council.

There are a number of options open to parents in respect of payment of bus fares. Children can pay a return fare of £2.50/£3.50 on boarding their bus in the morning. This will ease problems of boarding in the afternoon and also means that both pupils and drivers are carrying less cash on their persons during the school day.

Season tickets are available for purchase from the Council at a reduced rate, which sees a discount of 10%. If parents wish to purchase a season ticket please direct them to the School Transport Team on (01254) 585003.

Many thanks for your help and support in relating this matter to your pupils.

Yours faithfully

Linda Clegg
Director of Children's Services.

For information please see schools listed below that have contributed:

St Bede's RC High School

St Wilfrid's CE Academy

Darwen Academy

Our Lady and St John RC Catholic College

School Transport Team, Town Hall, Blackburn, BB1 7DY