

## **West Sussex School Transition Pupils Travel Information 2011 for Parents**

### **Dear Parent**

We know how stressful your child's transition to Secondary school can be, many children will travel independently for the first time, you may decide to let your child travel by bus or cycle or walk to school with friends or you may not yet have decided. This information is to support you and your child in making an informed choice.

### **Ways to reduce the first day travel panic**

Take time during the summer holidays to familiarise you and your child with the route to school, if your child is catching a bus make sure they know where to wait and what to do if something goes wrong. Encouraging you child to carry a change for a public phone with help them be confident they can get in touch with you should the need arise. If your child is walking or cycling to school, do the journey with them and their friends until you and they are confident, explore different routes in case there is a problem. Remind your child to take their Bus Pass.

### **Where can I find more information on routes**

Route information is available online or through the contacts below, it may also be available at the bus stop or train station. The public transport providers have website where you can download timetables and maps, if you are using school transport you will be informed of where you need to be. You may be aware some of the routes are currently under review, so travel costs, routes and timing may be subject to change. If you have a concern about your route please do check with the route provider. Using the traveline website is also a good place to start planning your journey, it will generated suggested routes for you using all modes of travel.

### **Am I entitled to free bus travel**

The school transport team will contact you directly if your child is entitled to free travel. If you have any queries please check the County Council website before contacting the School Transport Co-ordination Group. There maybe additional support with costs or concessionary places available, again please check the County Council website.

### **There is no bus route for my child at school time**

Check the public websites, some timetables change seasonally, check with the school to see if there are before or after school activities or clubs that your child could attend that would make a public service route viable. Check to see if there are other parents who have the same problem, we are happy to work with parents to look at possible routes.

### **I am concerned about my child's route to school**

If you have concerns about the route talk to the school they can advise you on the right person to contact or can help you directly. Practice the route in the holidays and ensure come September your child has suitable footwear and bright waterproof clothing to help make the journey safer and more comfortable for your child.

### **Travel is expensive what can I do**

Look at the route to school, if you do not qualify for free travel to school you could car share, use public transport, cycle or walk to school. If your child has not yet got a 3 in 1 card apply, the card gives discounts on bus routes to the school and will save you money. The 3 in 1 Card lasts 3 years and costs £50 it acts as a proof of age card, a discount card in many local stores and leisure centres and on local public transport buses. The card is free to students from low income families.

### **An example of how the 3 in 1 card can save you money- Travelling between**

Mannings Heath and Horsham Central Area Return Child fare. Weekly £15.00 without a card or £9.75 with a 3 in 1 card saving £5.25 a week (you could save the cost of the card in the first term) Daily £3.10 without a card or £1.50 with a 3 in 1 card saving £1.60 a day There is an exemption of fees for families on low income.

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If you have concerns about the route talk to the school they can advise you on the right person to contact or can help you directly.

### **Useful Contacts**

#### **WSCC School Transport Co-ordination Team**

For pupils eligible for school transport

01243 753530

School.transport@westsussex.g

ov.uk

#### **Your 3 in 1 Team**

Discount and concessionary card for young people in education in West Sussex, Website, advice and information.

01243 777330

[www.your3in1.co.uk](http://www.your3in1.co.uk)

#### **Travelwise and Safer Routes to School Team**

Highways improvements and school and community based education and advice supporting sustainable and safe travel to school

01243 642105

[srts.team@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:srts.team@westsussex.gov.uk)

#### **Online Travel Information**

Easy to use travel timetable website, allowing you to search for routes and timetables by journey areas

[www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk](http://www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk)

#### **Compass Travel**

Local public service bus provider

01903 690025

[www.compass-travel.co.uk](http://www.compass-travel.co.uk)

#### **Metrobus**

Local public service bus provider

01293 449191

[www.metrobus.co.uk](http://www.metrobus.co.uk)

#### **Stagecoach**

Local public service bus provider

0845 1210190

[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

#### **National Rail Enquiries**

Easy to use train timetable website,

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

#### **Sussex Police**

Local Police force with access to local policing teams

0845 60 70 999

[www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk)

#### **Sussex Coaches**

Local public service bus provider

01403 741576

[www.sussex-coaches.co.uk](http://www.sussex-coaches.co.uk)

**Operation Crackdown**

Online reporting facilities for Anti Social Driving

01243 642222

[www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)