

17 July 2020



West Kirby Grammar School

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Dear Parent/Carer

SCHOOL OPERATED HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

We recognise that using school transport during the pandemic might cause some anxiety for parents and children and we would like to provide you with some reassurance about the school operated bus services.

The school has a long standing partnership for bus travel with West Kirby Grammar School to enable boys and girls from Wallasey, North Wales and Chester to attend the two grammar schools in West Kirby.

We have a long standing relationship with two local bus and coach operators, Als Coaches and Carvers, to provide a safe, well managed and affordable service that gets your child to school on time each day.

The majority of buses and coaches used have CCTV and all have seat belts fitted, parents/carers are asked to remind their child of the need to use these on every journey. All of the drivers of these vehicles are professionally trained and DBS checked so you have our assurance that they will be in safe hands for their journey to school and the return to home.

The school operated buses from Wallasey, Chester, Ellesmere Port and North Wales will run from 3 September.

How they will operate -

1. Enhanced hygiene measures will be in place, i.e. sanitising before boarding and on alighting, face coverings will be mandatory (we will be asking the bus companies to assist with the enforcement of these measures).
2. In the case of a positive test for COVID-19 from someone on a bus from either school, all users of that bus would have to isolate along with the year group bubble of the student in that school.
3. The Bus Pass terms and conditions will be updated to inform parents/carers that if in the future further government advice means it is unsafe for people to travel on public transport we will endeavour to provide refunds to parents after all financial obligations to transport operators have been satisfied
4. The Behaviour policy will be updated to reflect points 1 and 2 above. Also adding that 'unsafe behaviour', relating to the pandemic that puts people at risk, could potentially result in the removal of the pass.
5. We have been unable to provide transport options that separate students into specific school bubbles. The majority of services in 2020/21 will be mixed between Calday Grange Grammar School and West Kirby Grammar School students. We have considered the risks associated with this and believe that they are mitigated by the additional hygiene measures. We also wanted to seek to avoid separating siblings who travel together and avoid significant price increases for parents/carers.
6. Coaches will be mixed apart from W4 and W5 which have always been designated to the separate schools
7. Now that we have had the chance to examine all costs we propose that the cost of the C pass rises from £510 to £520. The cost of the W passes will remain at £1020 (North Wales) and £920 (Chester and North Wales), this is despite requiring an extra bus this year.
8. **Bus passes will be released for sale to parents/caers during w/c 3 August and payments will again be made by paperless Direct Debit through our secure payment system called GoCardless**

We will contact you w/c 3 August with information on how to set up your payment for the annual pass. You will need to apply as soon as possible as we have a very short time to administer the passes and get them sent to you before the term starts.

You will be given the option to pay in full or, if you sign up to the monthly Direct Debit payment option, the cost of your child's bus pass can be spread into eight monthly payments.

The annual price of a bus pass for Ellesmere Port/Chester and the North Wales (buses to St Asaph & Caerwys) pass has not increased this year and remains at £920 (8 x £115) and £1020 (8 x 127.50) respectively. The price for a Wallasey bus pass has been subject to a 2% increase and is £520 (or 8 x £65)

If you have any queries in connection with this information please email gocardless@calday.co.uk. We will be away until Wednesday 29 July and will respond to any queries that week.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Clarke', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

S Clarke (Mr)
Deputy Headteacher