

16th May 2023



Re: Bus Passes 2023/24 Academic year

Dear parents and carers

As you will be only too aware, everyday costs continue to rise. This is reflected in the costs we have been quoted from Roberts Travel Group for next academic year, that include both inflation and their increased operational costs of wages, fuel and bus maintenance.

You will know that Roberts Travel Group provides us with safe, well-maintained vehicles that comply with all the appropriate health and safety regulations. Their services are generally reliable and their school app, vehicle tracking and text messaging service are very useful in keeping you informed of any delays and responding to enquiries. We have examined their costs carefully and looked at the offer of other school transport providers but have concluded that Roberts Travel Group still offers the best value service for parents, passengers and the school.

For many years now, Bosworth Academy has subsidised the costs of bus passes for those students who do not qualify for 'free' bus passes provided by the Local Authority. Costs to the school have been rising year on year and we have done all we can to absorb these price rises. This academic year the school, from income generated from letting its facilities to local organisations and community groups, is subsidising the bus passes by £139,000. To avoid any price increases for families next year, Bosworth would have needed to provide a subsidy of £200,000. This is more than our school budget can afford and to match this would negatively impact on school staffing and our curriculum.

School budgets have not been rising to match our increased costs of teacher and educational resources as well as significant increases to energy and other costs. Similarly, our profit from lettings has decreased. We have therefore had to make the extremely difficult decision to cap our subsidy this year at £100,000.

Our continued subsidy will still maintain our prices below those of other local schools, all of which we believe offer no subsidy to the commercial rates offered by Roberts Travel Group. Taking figures from the Roberts Travel Group website, Market Bosworth bus passes start at £681 rising to £750 for staged payments, Ashby School start at £684 rising to £750 for staged payments and Castle Rock and Newbridge start at £665 rising to £740 for staged payments.

The costs of bus passes to Bosworth Academy (with our £100,000 subsidy) for the 2023/24 academic year will be:



Students	1 single payment	Cost per journey	3 termly payments of	8 staged payments of	10 staged payments of
In Catchment	£615	£1.62	£211.66	£81.87	£67.50
Out of Catchment	£680	£1.79	£233.33	£90	£74
Post 16	£720	£1.89	£246.66	£95	£78
Please note: the free school meal bursary will remain at the 2022/23 level of £420 for post 16 students and £205 for pre 16 students. Inform Roberts Travel at sign-up that you are entitled to a FSM bursary. Further support can be applied for from the hardship fund.					

Governors at Bosworth Academy and Trustees at LiFE Multi Academy Trust recognise that large increases in fares this year may well be unaffordable for some parents. The trustees therefore, have allocated an additional hardship fund of up to £50,000 to be managed by the governors to help parents who are struggling in these difficult times. This £50,000 will be over and above the subsidy from the Academy. Details of this confidential, means-tested fund will be provided to all parents before any payments for bus passes become due.

We know these are difficult times for all families; but we believe we need to do whatever we can to financially support and protect those families that need it most by providing a larger subsidy to those eligible for free school meals and the hardship fund.

The details of the prices and how to apply for a school bus pass for next academic year will be accessible on the Roberts Travel website at: <https://www.passengertravelsolutions.co.uk/home-to-school> soon after you receive this letter. We will also put details of how to apply for support from the additional hardship fund on the school website after the May half term holiday.

Yours faithfully,



Mr S Brown
Headteacher

Mrs E Hollis
Chair of Governors