



## Bosworth Academy

### Additional Financial Support for Bus Passes 2023-24

#### Context

For several years Bosworth Academy has subsidised bus passes for all students attending the school, not just those who are entitled to free home to school transport from their local authority. The school has had a policy of gradually reducing these subsidies with a view to removing them completely by 2025/2026.

Over the last two years the school has recognised the financial difficulties that many parents have faced since the COVID-19 Pandemic and more recently, the significant cost of living price increases. For these reasons the school decided not to reduce the subsidy in the 2022/23 academic year. Indeed, the school increased its subsidy in 2022/23 to around £139,000. This level of subsidy is unsustainable for the school as school budgets have not increased enough to match the increases in staff costs, energy bills and educational resources.

In the years to come the school will need to consider ways to economise on the cost of home to school transport to keep bus pass prices down for parents. It is working with the bus companies to make routes more cost efficient.

In 2023/24 the cost of bus passes has seen a significant increase for fare paying passengers. This is despite the school's decision to continue to subsidise the bus passes by £100,000. This also includes a significant reduction in the cost of bus passes for pupils eligible to claim a bursary of £205 for pre 16 students and £420 for post 16 students in receipt of Free School Meals.

#### Fast Track Bursary for Children Eligible to Free School Meals

Both pre and post 16 students entitled to Free School Meals will automatically be offered the existing level of financial support to the 2022/23 academic year level without a requirement to complete the attached proforma. This is £205 for pre 16 students and £420 for post 16 students. The school will liaise with the bus company to refund your payments by this amount on confirmation of entitlement to free school meals.



## **Additional Financial Hardship Allowance**

LiFE Multi Academy Trustees recognise that some parents will need additional financial support for the 2023/24 academic year to manage the increase in the cost of bus passes. To this end they have made further funds available to governors at Bosworth Academy to allocate on a means tested basis to support families in addition to the subsidy of £100,000 already in place.

This additional financial hardship allowance will be over and above the existing bursary for parents entitled to claim free school meals. A panel of three governors will consider requests for financial support from families who are struggling to meet the costs of bus passes for their children. The governors will confidentially consider requests for further financial support and be able to draw down the additional funds from the allocated LiFE Trust reserves for the 2023/24 academic year.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

Governors will assess all applications but will use the following guidelines to assist them in making judgements to assess additional financial needs:

1. Eligibility for Free School Meals
2. A household with a gross annual income of £45,000 or less
3. Households in receipt of one or more of the means tested benefits listed in the proforma
4. Households who demonstrate financial need and have two or more pupils required to buy bus passes
5. Households with a gross annual income above £45,000 who face exceptional circumstances and demonstrate financial need.

### **Level of Additional Financial Support**

A parent who has a child eligible for free school meals will get the automatic bursary of £205 (or £420 for a post 16 student) and then be considered for a further financial hardship allowance of up to a maximum of £350 on receipt of the completed proforma attached. Parents whose children are not entitled to free school meals but are struggling financially are encouraged to apply for a bursary from the additional financial hardship allowance. These allowances will be available up to a limit of £350 per child.

An application form is attached to this letter for parents/carers to complete, to request additional financial support from the financial hardship fund described above. Please email the completed form to [schooltransport@bosworthacademy.org.uk](mailto:schooltransport@bosworthacademy.org.uk) and mark it "Confidential; Transport application". Whilst proof may be requested for the accuracy of the information given, the governors panel will judge the

applications 'blind' (by this we mean that the application forms will be anonymised prior to the panel seeing them).

We hope to have taken decisions on the distribution of the additional hardship allowance before the end of the summer term so please return your completed application form by the end of June. The governors panel will meet again at the start of the new academic year to consider late applications, particularly from Sixth Form students who may not have completely decided their next educational steps until they get their GCSE results in August.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Brown', followed by a small horizontal line.

Mr S Brown

Headteacher

## Application for Further Financial Support for Bosworth Academy Bus Pass 2023/24 Academic Year

Parent / Carer Name  <i>Please print</i>	
Name of child you are applying for  <i>Please print</i>	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
Name of child/children travelling to other schools (NOT Bosworth Academy) by bus	Name of child: Name of School: Cost of annual bus pass:
	Name of child: Name of School: Cost of annual bus pass:
Single or double parent family (please circle <b>one</b> )	Single Parent Household  Double Parent Household
Monthly household income	£..... per month
Number of people under the age of 18 in the household dependent on this income	
Total monthly cost for housing (rent/mortgage and council tax)	£..... per month
Average monthly outgoings on credit cards/finance repayment	£..... per month

plans/loans (an average over the last three months)		
Average family residual income per month after all regular outgoings (an average over the last three months)	£.....per month	
Please indicate by circling if your household is eligible for any of these means tested government benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pension Credit</li> <li>- Universal Credit</li> <li>- Income based Jobseekers allowance</li> <li>- Income related Employment &amp; Support Allowance</li> <li>- Income Support</li> <li>- Housing Benefit</li> <li>- Tax Credits (Child or Working Tax Credit)</li> </ul>	<p>YES / NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p> <p>YES / NO</p>
<p>Statement from Parent Carer.</p> <p>Please indicate any further information you would wish to be brought to the panel's attention to support your case for financial support</p>		
I confirm that the information given above is true and correct	<p>Signature .....</p> <p>Date.....</p>	