22 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

**Alternative Transport Costs for Standlake School Year 6 Parents**

Five years ago in 2014 Andrew Hamilton (former EPA CEO) consulted the parents of Standlake School regarding transport costs for students travelling to and from Bartholomew School. This followed the decision by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to enforce the ‘nearest school’ regulations rigidly in relation to transportation of children across Oxfordshire.

It was agreed after that consultation that Year 7 students joining us in September 2015 would be entitled to subsidised transport for at least three years. After that point a longer term solution would be sought with Bartholomew School working with OCC.

As we are still in the process of negotiations regarding the longer term solution for transportation from Standlake, we would like to extend the terms of this initial offer to current **Year 6 Standlake students when they start at Bartholomew in September 2020.**

Within this framework, the solution for all the students in the current Year 6 at Standlake School is as follows:

* We will utilise the concessionary seats from OCC to provide transport for them to Bartholomew
* We will subsidise the cost of such transport according to ability to pay without undue bureaucracy and/or means testing
* The subsidy will be maintained at the same level until the end of their Year 9. The decision on their Year 10-11 subsidy to be dependent on the nature of our longer term solution
* The subsidy level for each student to be decided by an ‘honesty’ means testing enacted by parents choosing the level of subsidy that should apply to them in conjunction with the School
* The subsidy choice to be based on the current cost of £3.65 per day and will operate as follows:

Parents will pay what they can afford and then ask for reimbursement by sending the Bartholomew Finance Manager a copy of the OCC invoice or, for students in category D, you will need to send Bartholomew the OCC bus invoice to pay the whole amount on your behalf.

* No consideration in the first year for siblings except if they are both new to the school and so eligible to pay. In future years, consideration will be made for having more than one child in the school with details agreed as part of the longer term solution

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | B | C | D |
| Completely able to pay in full | Largely very able to pay | Likely to find some difficulty in paying | Completely unable to pay |
| £0 subsidy per day | £1.50 subsidy per day  | £2.50 subsidy per day | £3.65 subsidy per day |

Please indicate which of the above categories you consider yourself to be in by emailing FinanceManager@epa-mat.org by Tuesday 5 November 2019. We will then be in contact with you to arrange the next steps.

Yours sincerely



Craig Thomas

Headteacher – Bartholomew School