

Dear Schools,

Please can you distribute this message to all parents via parent mail, your own school website and any social media (if available). A Welsh translation is currently being processed and will follow in due course. However, due to time constraints, please can you send out this letter in English as soon as possible.

Mainstream School Transport Arrangements for 2020-21

Please note:

We are currently still waiting on guidance from Welsh Government with regard to the provision of 'home to school' transport. Therefore the Passenger Transport team is working on the basis that it will be a "normal" September and will align transport provision with the guidance once received. Parents/carers will receive letters, as normal over the summer, informing them of the service their child(ren) will be allocated to, with a caveat that they should refer to the school transport webpage for updates

- https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/transportation/school_transport/School-Transport.aspx

In the meantime we continue to work based on normal provision from September 2020 as detailed below.

Entitled Pupils:

Pupils from Reception to Year 11 are automatically assessed for free mainstream school transport. Pupils of primary school age qualify for free school transport if they live over 2 miles from their catchment area school, next nearest if catchment is full. Pupils of secondary school age qualify for free school transport if they live over 3 miles from their catchment school, next nearest if catchment is full.

No forms are required to be completed and signed and letters/passes/timetables will be sent directly to home addresses no later than Friday 21 August 2020.

Only pupils who were late enrolments, have recently moved address or will be entering Post 16 in September (Year 12) will need to contact the school transport team (email: schooltransport@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

New Intake - Reception & Year 7

All the Reception and Year 7 pupils have been assessed and the entitled children will be sent a letter/bus pass to their home address by Friday 21 August 2020 so if there are any problems we have plenty of time to make adjustments over the summer holidays. If you have not received your bus pass or letter by Friday 21 August 2020 please contact the school transport team (email: schooltransport@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

Year 1 to Year 11

All existing pupils that have had free school transport this year will automatically receive a letter/bus pass which will be sent to the parent/guardian home address (please contact us if you have moved recently) along with the policy summary, travel behaviour code and route timetable. If you have not received your bus pass/letter by

Friday 21 August 2020 please contact the school transport team (email: schooltransport@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

Post 16 Pupils (Year 12-Year 13)

Pupils who are entering Year 12 wishing to continue their studies from September 2020 (attending their catchment school or St David's College) will need to inform the school transport team no later than Friday 21 August 2020 in order to receive their pass for the beginning of September.

Please email schooltransport@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk at your earliest convenience with the following information:-

- Name of child:
- DOB:
- Address:
- Contact number:
- School:
- Route number: (if known)

Please note:

Those pupils who qualify for free school transport agree to adhere to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools transport policy and Welsh Government travel behaviour code.

Non-Entitled Pupils:

Purchase a bus pass on a contracted school service

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the sale of purchase passes is currently suspended until further notice. This is because any spare capacity is likely to be required to enable onboard social distancing measures as and when schools open again. This is in addition to new 'Passenger Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations' that also now need to be considered when selling spare capacity onboard school transport services.

Fare Paying Services

As stated in our letter to parents/carers, school transport has given you advanced notice that the following 'fare paying' school transport services **will be withdrawn or revised as detailed below from 1st September 2020**. Parents and guardians of pupils who are not entitled to free home to school transport will therefore need to make their own alternative arrangements to get to school. Please note that the agreed Report has no implications with regard to the provision of free home to school transport for entitled children that will continue to be maintained.

The fare paying element of the following services will no longer be running from September 2020, these include routes: **351, P97, P122, P125, P132, P133, P135, P138, P139, S40, S51,**

The following services are going to continue are **S2, S10, S14 (Whitmore, Pencoedre & Ysgol Bro), & S49 (SRG).**

If you wish to purchase a pass for a fare-paying service, please contact the Watts Coaches directly for the following services costs, times and route on Watts Coaches – 01446 781277 or wattscoaches@gmail.com

Contact us:

Passenger Transport Team

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

The Alps

Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Tel: 01446 700111 (Contact One Vale)

Email: schooltransport@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Passenger Transport Team.