

June 2023

Codsall Community High School & Perton Middle School Transport

Dear Parent/Carer,

If you have requested information regarding, Codsall High School or Perton Middle School minibuss transport, please see the information below:

Once final numbers are known from returned slips, times allocated to each student will be sent out via Edulink or the Sims app. Times may vary slightly early in the new term once the routes are running: All students should be at the bus stop 5 minutes before their allocated time slot.

All year groups will have their time sent via EduLink or the Simms app before the start of term in September.

Some time ago we felt compelled to organise our own transport for our students due to the following factors:

- The LA not providing a free service for students who live within certain postcodes
- The LA significantly increasing the charge for transport by as much as double their original costs
- The difficulty of transport arrangements to Codsall for our 6th form students.
- Our significant concerns about the safety of the route the LA had suggested our students should walk.

Our decision to provide transport is our own **but it is not a mandatory service**, and is run at a great expense to the school, meaning that we have diverted resources to support parents in this area. Unfortunately, over the previous two years the school has not received over 20% of the expected income to cover our costs. This year 45% of parents/carers are still to pay in full for the service we have chosen to provide.

Over the previous two years, despite our best efforts at working with families who may be struggling, we have experienced non-payments from an unacceptably high percentage of parents. We have also had to deal with individual students whose behaviour has fallen below acceptable standards.

“Consequently, this coming year we will operate a non-negotiable cancellation of your child’s pass for the bus if there are proven reports of damage or bad behaviour and/or if payments are not made when requested”.

As requested, **and on condition of you returning signed paperwork**, your child will be allocated a place on the school minibuss transport service from Sainsbury’s, Perton or the Coop, Pattingham.

Please be aware we will be offering one mini-bus journey to support 6th form students from Pattingham, this will also be available for students going to Perton Middle School that do not have the availability of the county transport service.

There are no set times for the return journey, we are providing a shuttle bus service. Students may have to queue at our onsite bus stop and wait for the shuttle buses to come in.

As a non-profit service, full payment will be required in order for the school transport to be sustained. As soon as your ParentPay account is available to Perton students and CCHS Y8 (into Y9) parents (early in Sept), we will ask you to pay for your child's first month's transport, thereafter you must pay in advance each month. This is a heavily subsidised service; cancellation will only be considered in exceptional circumstances with a full terms notice.

To enable the service, the school provides drivers, hires minibuses, pays insurance and has to pay the wear and tear as well as the significantly increasing price of petrol for the service provided. We still have to pay these fees if your child opts not to catch a bus one day, or opts out of the service, as we pay yearly for this provision. We cannot reduce the number of mini-buses we hire, or change the contract of the mini-bus drivers, so the school still has to pay these costs annually.

We know that we will lose money in supporting families through our significant subsidy of transport costs. We cannot increase this subsidy, nor can we justify making more of a loss than that agreed by governors. Our transport offer is reviewed every year and if it were to stop parents would be faced with significantly higher charges through the LA scheme, if there was space available.

This year's cost will be £350 (£35 per month to be paid a month in advance); This is highly subsidised by the school and is still a lot cheaper than several local schools.

As with all the information above; Please be aware that any student with outstanding fees of 2 months, will be removed from the transport list. This is not negotiable.

By making your first payment you are agreeing to use the service for the full academic year.

If you need to discuss an issue regarding the above information, please contact the student support team email: studentsupport@cchs.sslp.uk, If your query is regarding payment or parent pay please contact the finance team at email: finance@sslp.uk

Please fill in the form on the next page and return to the SSLP Finance Office, Codsall High School. Elliott's Lane, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PQ. Alternatively, complete, scan and email to finance@sslp.uk

If you do not return the form completed, no later than Friday 14th July 2023, it may result in your child not securing a seat. Support staff will not be available to process paperwork after, Wednesday 19th July 2023. The minibus transport list will be compiled of students whose forms have been returned.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Neil Eveson
Business & Finance Director
South Staffordshire Learning Partnership

Student Name:

Year Group:

Tutor Group (if known):

Student pickup point: **Perton or Pattingham** (Please select)

I agree to the following:

- I will make a first payment of £35.00 for September transport via parent pay, if you chose to pay by cheque, these should be made payable to Staffordshire County Council.
- I will pay the monthly charges of £35.00 in full before the start of each month, from September 2023 through to June 2024 (10 months). I have been informed that if payment is not received my child/children will not be allowed on to the minibus and alternative transport will have to be found at no charge to the school.
- I agree to pay the full amount levied of £350 for the service. I am aware that the monthly payments are only used as a supportive mechanism to spread payments and do not equate to payment for monthly payments. £350 is the charge for the service. It is essential that all payments are made for the FULL YEAR, as the service is already highly subsidised by the school. The current SCC cost for the same service is £640 per annum, and this service is currently suspended.
- I am aware that, no discounts are made for students that leave after their exams have finished, or choose to not use the service before the end of the school year. This is the yearly charge for the use of this service.
- I am aware that if full payment is not received my information will be passed to Staffordshire County Council debtor department who may pursue outstanding monies owed.
- I am aware that my child will have to abide by the behaviour expected, and if these are not adhered to their place will be removed which is non-negotiable.

Parent/Carer Name:.....

Parent/Carer Signature:.....

Date:.....