

Our ref: SP/JP

Date: 5 June 2019

**Education, Communities &
Organisational Development**
Corporate Director: Ruth Binks

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Education Services
Wallace Place
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Dear parent

We are looking at changes to school bus transport and would like to hear what you think of our proposal.

The proposal specifically affects those who live further than two miles from the school by the safest walking route and are entitled to free transport. The change we are proposing is detailed below. It is important to highlight that the proposal only affects how transport is provided and doesn't change anyone's entitlement to free transport to school.

What is the change we want to make?

We are considering providing bus passes for secondary pupils entitled to free transport to school. This means that some secondary pupils will be issued with a bus pass for public buses for their journey to school. The pass will be a weekly bus pass for the weeks your child is in school. There is no change to the existing arrangements for primary school pupils.

Why is this changing?

Inverclyde is the only council in the Strathclyde Passenger Transport region not to offer this service. Our proposal will reduce costs, means no change to who is entitled to free school transport and will also mean that pupils issued with passes will have more flexibility in the use of the passes and can use them at other times during the week. For example, pupils could use the passes to attend after school clubs or for other journeys outside of school.

Will this apply to all pupils?

This will only apply if there is enough room on existing buses and appropriate bus routes available.

What happens if there isn't a public bus route available?

If the public buses cannot accommodate the number of pupils or there are no bus routes available at school times, the council will still provide a bus or taxi service to pupils entitled to free school transport.

Will this affect my child who has additional support needs and receives separate transport to school?

No. If your child currently has free transport to support their additional support needs, this will not change.

When will this start?

If there are appropriate public buses available then they will begin to be allocated during the 2019/20 academic year, subject to any arrangements we already have with bus companies.

What if there isn't enough space on a public bus service at the time this starts?

We are currently working with existing bus companies to try and make sure there is enough space. However, if public bus routes don't have room for all the pupils then only older pupils will be offered a public bus pass to start with. As the process is put in place and more space on buses become available or more bus services are running on routes, we would start to roll it out to all pupils. That would only happen as space becomes available.

How can I give my views?

We are holding a series of events at secondary schools to which all parents are invited.

The dates for the events are attached to this letter. Alternatively you can write to us with your comments to:

Education services (school buses consultation)
Inverclyde Council
Wallace Place
Greenock
Inverclyde
PA15 1JB

Comments should include your name and postcode.

Yours faithfully



Tony McEwan
Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources

Dates for events are as follows:

Venue	Address	Date	Time
Port Glasgow Community Campus: Enterprise Centre Conference Room	Kilmacolm Road Port Glasgow PA14 6PP	Wednesday 12 June 2019	6.00 pm – 7.15 pm
Clydeview Academy: Assembly Hall	Burnside Road Gourock PA19 1UX	Thursday 13 June 2019	6.00 pm – 7.15 pm
Notre Dame High School: Assembly Hall	Dunlop Street Greenock PA16 9BJ	Tuesday 18 June 2019	6.00 pm – 7.15 pm
Inverclyde Academy: Assembly Hall	Cumberland Road Greenock PA16 0FB	Tuesday 18 June 2019	7.30 pm – 8.45 pm
St Columba's High School: Assembly Hall	Fletcher Avenue Gourock PA19 1TP	Monday 24 June 2019	6.00 pm – 7.15 pm