

Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

School Lane, Bunbury, CW6 9NR

01829 260524 or 261332

RCSAT Executive Headteacher: Mrs Nicola Badger

School Principal: Mrs Nicola Badger

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23rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As Principal of Bunbury I take the safeguarding and safety of all our pupils and their families extremely seriously. As you will be aware there is a regular section on our school newsletter about parking and how we can work together to ensure that parking is considerate and safe when dropping off and picking up from school.

I am aware that the start and end of day are busy times around school, this is a common problem encountered by most schools and Bunbury is not alone in the issues it faces on a daily basis. These are often worse when the weather is poor as more children come to school by car.

I am continuing to receive regular complaints about inconsiderate and dangerous parking around our school from local residents and parents. Examples include parking on pavements, parking on residents grass verges, causing obstructions, blocking driveways, parking on double yellow lines, parking where there are double white lines in the centre of the road, and allowing children to exit vehicles whilst stopped on School Keep Clear 'zig-zags' or in queuing traffic. All of these actions increase the risk of an accident and are inconsiderate or illegal.

As stated in previous correspondence problem parking would be shared – for the safety of our children and respect for those in the community.



There are still instances of abusive and threatening behaviour by parents and carers as well as members of the community. As a school, which promotes and models respectful behaviour to all we are saddened to hear this is taking place. PCSO Sharon Jones will now also be joining the morning and afternoon drop offs to carry out some unannounced monitoring of the situation.

As a school, we are committed to improving driving and parking standards around our schools, ensuring safety for all. We know that most people do want to do the right thing and drive safely and responsibly. We therefore request that you adhere to the following when parking, dropping off or collecting children from school:

- **Keep the School Keep Clear marking (zig zags) clear including parking opposite them**



- Ensure pavements, driveways and pedestrian access points are kept clear ^[1]_[SEP]
- Ensure emergency vehicles would be able to get past if needed ^[1]_[SEP]
- Adhere to local parking restrictions and considerate parking signs
- Turn off your engine when parked – engines left idling contribute to air pollution ^[1]_[SEP]
- Behave in a manner than is respectful towards others – including pedestrians and local residents ^[1]_[SEP]
- Park further away from school if at all possible ^[1]_[SEP]

During the summer term, we established a Bunbury Primary School Parking committee which is collective group of parents and school working together to tackle safe parking around school. Ultimately, our goal is to have a new car park for staff to the right of the school but planning and finances will mean this will not be a rapid development. In the interim we will be working together to find solutions as well as identifying and educating around safer parking. We will also be joined by the school council.

At the end of the first autumn term we conducted a school survey regarding journeys to school. Thank you to all who contributed to the survey. One of the questions asked was around use of the school bus. There were many who answered yes or require further information to this question.

Below, we explain everything you need to know about free school travel, from who's eligible to how it works.

Is my child eligible for free school travel?

The DfE set the national eligibility criteria for free travel to school and your local authority is responsible for deciding whether your child meets these criteria.

Your child is eligible if they are of compulsory school age (the term after their 5th birthday), go to their nearest suitable school and one of the following applies:

- they are under 8 and the school is more than 2 miles away
- they are 8 or over and the school is more than 3 miles away
- they wouldn't be able to walk there safely, even if accompanied by a parent or guardian
- they wouldn't be able walk there because of their special educational needs, disability or a mobility problem, even if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

A child will not normally be eligible for free travel solely because of their parent's work commitments or caring responsibilities.

Your child may also be entitled to free transport if you have a low family income and they are entitled to free school meals or you get the maximum Working Tax Credit and one of the following applies:

- they are aged 8 to 11, go to their nearest suitable school and it's at least 2 miles away
- they are aged 11 to 16 and go to a school 2 to 6 miles away - if it's one of their 3 nearest suitable schools
- they are aged 11 to 16 and go to a school 2 to 15 miles away - if it's one you chose because of your religion or belief.

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If your child doesn't meet the criteria above, you are responsible for arranging their travel to and from school. Some local authorities arrange travel for children who don't meet the eligibility criteria, although they are not required to. Where they choose to do so, they may charge you for the cost of it.

What is a 'suitable' school?

A suitable school is one that provides education appropriate to the child's age, ability, aptitude, and any special educational needs they may have. If your child did not get a place at their nearest school and then the LA offered you another school which you accepted, then the above criteria for transport still stands. If you chose not to attend your nearest school, then you are responsible for transporting them to school.

If your child has an Education, Health and Care plan, the school named in their plan will usually be considered their nearest suitable school for travel purposes.

What do I need to do if I think my child is eligible?

You should check your local authority website to see the school travel policy:

[School transport \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](http://cheshireeast.gov.uk)

[School transport | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

If your child is eligible for free school travel, your local authority will make suitable travel arrangements. For example, they might provide your child with a pass for free travel on public transport or arrange a dedicated school bus or taxi. They may expect your child to walk to a suitable pick-up point if they are able to.

My child has a special educational need or disability, what does this mean for them?

Your local authority will assess whether your child meets the eligibility criteria. They may ask for information to help them decide whether your child would be able to walk to school.

Your child doesn't need to have an Education, Health and Care plan to be eligible but having one doesn't make your child automatically eligible.

If your child is eligible, your local authority will make suitable travel arrangements for them, taking into account their needs. It may often be the case that they share a vehicle with other children.

If they have a medical condition which may affect them on the journey, your local authority will decide what arrangements they need to make to manage this.



Your local authority may offer you a personal travel budget or mileage allowance to take your child to school yourself. Some parents prefer this, but you don't have to accept it if you don't want to. If you don't accept it, the local authority will need to arrange your child's free travel.

As your child gets older, your local authority may offer them the opportunity to take part in independent travel training.

The authority will pay for this and your child will be supported, by a trainer, to learn how to travel to school independently, for example on public transport.

Learning to travel independently is an important part of preparing a child to lead a fulfilling and active adult life. If you want to know more about independent travel training, you should contact your local authority.

What if my child spends time at more than one address?

It's not normally possible to provide eligible children with travel to and from more than one address, for example if their parents don't live together. Local authorities usually only arrange travel to and from a child's main place of residence.

Your local authority's school travel policy will explain how it decides which address they will arrange travel to.

Can I appeal the local authority's decision?

Yes. There is an appeals process, published on the local authority's website, for parents to follow should they want to challenge the decision about their child's home to school travel.

If you're not happy with the way the local authority conducts your appeal, the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman may be able to investigate. Further information can be found on the [LGO website](#).

We do appreciate that the school journey can be a difficult time of the day particularly in the morning when wanting to get your child/children to school on time. However, I am sure that as always by working together we can ensure the roads around our school are as safe as they can be.

Many thanks for your continued support

Kind regards



Nic Badger
Principal of Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School
EHT for Rural Church Schools Academy Trust