



14 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

School Transport Consultation Item

The LA are looking to save the paltry sum, of somewhere in the region of £17.5k this year, by removing the concessionary bus fares as outlined in their letter below. I would urge all parents to respond to the consultation. There is a methodology being employed here, whereby the LA will be expecting few responses and therefore, will take any opportunity to explain apathy as consent. Since two of the three points in the consultation seem to target faith schools, I would suggest that those of us who currently benefit from an education in a faith school should respond by strongly opposing these proposals. These proposals represent yet another approach which we have to defend against in an increasingly secular culture and society. These proposals would inevitably impact most heavily on the poorest and most vulnerable members of our communities.

Yours sincerely

Mr. K. Turmeau.

Mr K Turmeau
Headteacher

Free School Bus Passes: 2018 Consultation – Stockport letter

I am writing to you to ensure that you know of a consultation that is being undertaken over proposals to reduce the number of free school bus passes that are issued each year to facilitate home to school transport.

You will probably already know that Stockport Council is facing financial challenges which means we have to save £47 million pounds over the next four years. Due to our financial position we have difficult decisions to make when allocating and prioritising public spending.

To balance the budget, one of the steps the Council is proposing is to reduce the number of free school bus passes that are currently made available by taking these steps or options:

- Reduce the current entitlement so that only pupils whose parents/guardians are in receipt of the maximum level of Working Tax Credit qualify for free bus passes. This minimum statutory entitlement is what happens in all other Greater Manchester Councils already.
- Remove **faith schools** from the qualifying eligibility criteria, in favour of the nearest school to the pupil's home address with places available.
- Remove from the qualifying criteria **faith schools** outside of the Borough, whose particular offer cannot be provided for within Borough boundaries.

Please be assured that the statutory entitlement for children who are in receipt of Free School Meals whose journey to their school is more than two miles will continue to be able to apply for a free school bus pass.

The proposal states that the new policy would take effect from 1st September 2019, and this may be across all year cohorts at that point.

The school bus pass consultation is now live on the Council website and here is a link to <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay>. If you need a paper copy of the questionnaire please email to schools.organisation@stockport.gov.uk

Please ensure we receive your views as soon as possible and certainly by **25th January 2019**. It is important that we receive your views as early as possible as all feedback will be pulled together into a report which will then be considered by the Scrutiny Committees and the Council's Cabinet meeting in February.

Please do contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a horizontal line.

Stephen Bell MA(Ed) BA(hons) Head of Commissioning School Places