

ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL



TRANSPORT SUMMARY 2019 ENTRY

TRANSPORT SUMMARY

Slough

- Free transport on religious grounds is provided only for students from low income families (free school meals / maximum tax credit). Policy is to fund transport to the nearest Catholic school provided it is over 2 miles and at least one parent can produce a denominational certificate signed by their parish priest.
- Local authority pays for cost of a pass for public transport. No special coaches to St Bernard's.
- Slough students cannot have a free pass for the South Bucks coach.
- Slough school transport team can be contacted on 01753 875729.

Bracknell Forest

- Bracknell Forest has not provided free transport to denominational schools for children starting at secondary schools since September 2007.
- Fargo Coaches operates a service from Bracknell which takes the following route:
BRACKNELL - WARFIELD - ASCOT - VIRGINIA WATER - ENGLEFIELD GREEN- OLD WINDSOR - DATCHET
- Students not entitled to free transport may buy passes direct from the coach company. Current cost £1134 per year (£793 from Datchet), also available for casual use at £3.50 per Journey (£2.00 from Datchet). Details can be found on the www.fargocoaches.co.uk web site or contact Lisa on 01344 456561 or info@fargocoaches.co.uk.

Buckinghamshire

- Transport funded only if St Bernard's is nearest secondary school.
- No special denominational funding.
- Local Authority pays for the cost of a pass for public transport or dedicated taxi.
- There are no coaches to St Bernard's.
- Contact Bucks school transport 01296 387439 or www.bucksc.gov.uk/services/education/school-transport/school-transport-information

Windsor and Maidenhead

- Windsor and Maidenhead only provide free transport to the nearest denominational school for children from low income families (i.e. entitled to free school meals or receiving full working tax credit).
- The following restrictions apply to students from low income families applying for free transport. Some parts of Maidenhead are closer to St Bernard's High Wycombe and not entitled to free transport to Slough. Some parts of the Borough are nearer to the Salesian School in Chertsey and so not entitled to free transport to Slough. Much of the borough, including Maidenhead is closer to St Joseph's than to St Bernard's and, though St Bernard's students from these areas have been given free transport in the past, this practice ended in

September 2006 following a ruling by the ombudsman so children nearer to St Joseph's no longer receive free transport to St Bernard's. The distance is measured by the shortest safe walking route so it is difficult to estimate which is nearer to students living in Windsor. Most of those living east of the Windsor relief road are currently regarded as entitled to free transport as going to a place at which it would be safe to cross the relief road would make St Joseph's further than St Bernard's.

- Question and answer booklet gives details of policy. Obtainable from W & M Education Dept.
- If you need to check which is your nearest Catholic school, ring transport co-ordinator on 01628 796666.
- The Windsor coach is operated by a parents' group. Contact Claire Allison at stbwindsorbus@gmail.com for further details.
- Students not entitled to free transport can buy places from the parents' group for the Windsor coach (estimate £720 per year) subject to availability.

Middlesex

A parents group operates a coach service stopping at: Ruislip Rugby Club, Ickenham, Hillingdon and Uxbridge. The cost is approximately £4.85 per day (£920.00 per year) and to register or request further information email msbcoach@btinternet.com as there is generally a waiting list for places.

Others

- The 81 bus from Hounslow stops very close to St Bernard's and the service has been improved recently by the use of double decker buses.
- Drivetime Coach Hire offers a school service from Hounslow TW3, TW4 and TW5 and Whitton TW2, Hayes and Ealing, contact 07931 596121 or email drivetime@myway.com Approximate cost £1500 per year.
- Commonwealth Coaches offer a school service stopping at Hanger Lane, Perivale, Target Roundabout and Hillingdon. Current yearly cost is £1425.00 (10 Monthly payments of £142.50). Contact sales@commonwealthcoaches.co.uk for further details.
- Olympia Transport offer a school service stopping at Harrow Weald, Harrow, North Harrow, South Harrow, Greenford, Northolt and Ruislip. Current yearly cost is £1650 (payable yearly or termly). Contact olympiatrtransport@hotmail.co.uk for further details.