



1st September 2025

School bus routes and ticket prices – Importance changes

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware Blackburn with Darwen Council commenced a consultation with parents and stakeholders in May 2025 with the view of making changes to the 4 dedicated school bus services which transport pupils attending St Bede's and other high schools.

It has been confirmed that the proposed changes have been agreed within the council. Whilst this is a council led decision, I hope that the summary below outlining how this will affect St Bede's will be useful for families.

There will be an increase to bus fares on dedicated school bus services to £1.95 for a single fare and £3.90 for a return fare. **These fees will commence on 1st September.** If you have any old bus vouchers remaining with a face value of £1.25 these will still be accepted **until October 18th as full payment for the journey.** New vouchers with a face value of £1.95 will be available for purchase within the next couple of weeks. Please keep checking the following website for more information. <https://blackburn.gov.uk/schools-and-education/home-school-transport/pre-paid-school-bus-vouchers> . Pupils will still be able to pay with cash should they wish to do so.

Blackburn with Darwen commenced entering into a 12-week period of notice with the current bus providers. **During this time all 4 dedicated bus routes to St Bede's will remain in operation on their current routes.**

It is anticipated that the route changes and removal of services will commence directly after the half-term holiday on Monday 3rd November 2025. Should there be any change to this proposed date we will keep families informed. Details for the new routes including stop times will be circulated in advance of the October half term break.

- Route 83 and route 84 will merge into one service.
- Route 89 which commences currently in Guide will be changed. Pupils currently getting on stops in the Guide area will in future have to use the Outer Circle public bus service.
- Route 81 which commences in the Roe Lee area will be removed and pupils will then have to use the Outer Circle public bus service.



Pupils moving onto the Outer Circle bus can find further details of the route and time on the Vision bus website link below.

https://www.visionbus.co.uk/media/1224/tt06-outer-circle_0.pdf

A weekly bus pass for the Outer Circle can be obtained from Vision at a cost of £10 per week for under 12's and £14 per week for under 19's. This pass can also be used for the outer circle bus outside of school hours.

<https://www.visionbus.co.uk/tickets-fares/?region=Blackburn&tag=7%20Day&type=mobile>

We have been advised that pupils eligible for an annual free bus pass will have already been sent their renewal form from Blackburn with Darwen. Once these forms are returned, the council will re-assess pupil's eligibility and advise which service the pupils will be able to use. We understand that pupils who currently have a pass for route 81 will, from September, be issued with a pass for public transport routes. Where there is no public transport available the council will make alternative arrangements and advise parents what these are.

If you have any queries relating to the changes outline above, please contact Blackburn with Darwen School Transport Team.

School Transport Team, Old Town Hall, King William Street, Blackburn, BB1 7DY
tel: 01254 585003
email: transport@blackburn.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. Milton

Headteacher