



Important notice for Parents/Carers of Children Using the School Bus

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware the school bus requires a paid escort in the morning and afternoon, to ensure that children remain safe and get off at the correct stop.

Regardless of whether your child receives a bus pass or pays a fare, the cost of employing the bus escort is not covered by Translink and falls to the school. Due to well-publicised cuts in Education and lack of funding the school can no longer subsidise the cost of the bus escort and we continue to rely on the parents of children who use the bus to make a contribution to costs. We currently have 60 families using the school bus weekly with less than 15 so far this year making a contribution. This is not sustainable going forward.

The school bus was facilitated by the school on a good will basis to help and assist parents get their children to Lough View. It is not a statutory obligation and in recent years, we have had to cut the 1.30pm bus due to the drain on our finances.

If contributions this year do not greatly increase, we will have no option but to stop the bus completely. Therefore, if you depend on the school bus and would like it to remain viable we need every child who uses the bus to pay the following contributions:

40p per journey per child, e.g. 80p per return trip or £4 per week

Simply calculate the number of journeys you plan to take each week or month and send the correct amount in an envelope marked 'Bus Money' with your child/children's names, to the school office.

Finally thank you very much to the parents who currently contribute to the costs of the bus escort. Your support is much appreciated.

Regards

Sean Spillane, on behalf of the Board of Governors.

September 2019