

ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH



30 September 2021

Dear Families

Ref: SEND Transport challenges and one potential solution for some students/families

This letter is for the attention of those families, whose children are entitled to the Local Authority provided transport to and from Abbot's Lea School – this applies to the vast majority of our student population.

As you will be aware, there is a national shortage of drivers – this applies to HGV drivers, as well as taxi drivers in our region.

Since returning to school in September, we had daily challenges affecting our students, and in turn, our school operation, with some routes not having any drivers at all, resulting in students either not being brought to school or not being collected at the end of the day.

This, as you can imagine, has a hugely negative impact on our young people. A change of routine can lead to stress and anxiety and this, in turn, can lead to school avoidance and wider social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

As a school, we have helped, where we could, by taking students home in our school minibuses, and, whilst I am grateful to my team for never leaving any child unattended and cared for after school hours, this is now impacting negatively on the team's ability to do their "day job".

I have therefore liaised with John Carrington, Head of Fleet and Transport at Liverpool City Council who recognises the challenges, accepts that the workforce shortage crisis is unlikely to be resolved swiftly and so, is working on two things:

- Solutions "here and now"
- Long term, sustainable transport options.

I want to invite as many of you as possible, to support the interim solutions, by considering whether you might be able to bring your child to school.

Any such arrangement of a child transported to/from the school by their family, would be funded directly to the family via Personal Transport Budget (PTB), based on:

- £3 per day plus
- 45pm per mile x 4 ways (there and back and there and back)

For illustrative purposes, for a child who lives 3 miles from the school, this would mean: $45 \times 12(\text{miles})$ plus £3 = £8.40 per day, so £42 per week. This would be adjusted based on actual distance from home postcode to the school's postcode.

I realise that, naturally, this is not something that every family might be able to consider and there might be some who could potentially help on some, but not all days of the term.

Every little helps, and so, if you can transport your child to and from school, or if you would like to find out more about the Personal Travel Budgets (PTB), please contact SEND Transport Team via email on: sen.transport@liverpool.gov.uk

Thank you very much in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Hildrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a stylized 'H'.

Mrs A Hildrey
Headteacher