



Statement regarding the need to increase transport costs.

Context

Bosworth Academy does not want to have to charge for transport to our school. However, in 2013 the Local Authority took a decision that they would not pay for transport to a child’s catchment school, only to their closest school if you live beyond three miles. This means very few children can receive free transport to any school in our local area.

In 2014, Bosworth admitted children in Year 7 for the first time. In order to support the government’s policy of parental choice, and prevent the accidental ‘selection’ of children from the wealthiest families, Bosworth heavily subsidised the cost of transport.

Bosworth continues to use the income we generate through out of hours use of our facilities to help with the cost of transport. In particular, children who can claim free school meals have over 60% of the cost paid by our school. We are not required to do this, but we do so because we think it’s the right thing.

Why have we had to increase the cost this year?

As you may be aware the amount of money we receive for each child we educate is deteriorating in real terms. School budgets nationally are under significant pressure. Many schools are asking parents to make termly donations to help schools survive. Many schools are having to make teachers and teaching assistants redundant in order to balance their books. Many schools are increasing class sizes, cutting their curriculum and reducing the availability of trips and visits in order to save money. Bosworth does not believe in this approach. Hence, we have taken the difficult decision to **reduce the amount of subsidy we put into school transport. This should be viewed in the context that most schools in Leicestershire do not subsidise transport at all.** We do not want to be in a position where we cannot support transport for students in receipt of free school meals. To be clear, we are not making a profit from the charges we make – quite the opposite. We are just ensuring that we are not spending money that should be spent on education, on transport instead.

How do our costs compare to other schools?

As you will see from the figures below, transport to Bosworth is still cheaper than most schools. When you take into account the distances involved, we still believe it offers very good value for money. Bosworth does not make an additional charge for parents who wish to pay by instalments.

School Transport costs 2019-20 Academic Year (as per website 21/6/19)	Cost range	Additional information
Brookvale Groby Learning Campus	£460.00 - £625.00	
South Charnwood High School	£450.00 - £510.00 £1.50 per single journey (x 190 days = £570.00)	Additional charge for payments made by instalment
The Market Bosworth School	£520.00 - £630.00	Additional charge for payments made by instalment





### Will there be further increases?

It is not anticipated that there will be significant increases in the future beyond that of the rate of cost inflation. However, if decisions are taken at governmental level which further reduce the level of funding, we may have to reduce the amount of our subsidy again in order to protect the quality of education we provide. Bosworth Academy will never make a profit from our transport in order to increase our funds.

### Can Bosworth help if the increases this year create difficulties for our family?

Yes. It is absolutely not our desire to create hardship for our children and parents.

We have already added the option of payment over a longer period. We fully appreciate that if you have multiple children at our school and are not in receipt of free school meals, then transport can be a significant pressure. Please write to us explaining your situation and the governors will review each case individually.

### Who organises transport to Bosworth Academy?

Bosworth Academy does. Many schools turn over the administration and organisation of school transport themselves to bus companies. We do not wish to do this as then we have no control over how much is charged. If we did this there would be a further significant increase in costs because:

- Bosworth would not be contributing a subsidy at all.
- Costs to students in receipt of free school meals would have a 300% increase because there is no requirement to subsidise their transport.
- The bus companies would offer the routes as they wished. We organise our transport around our children.
- Parents would not be able to address issues to the school if they were unhappy with the transport service.

In addition, we believe there is a significant safety issue when transport is handed over to bus companies. These services do not count as school transport and therefore your child is not guaranteed a seat; they may have to stand. With the transport organised by Bosworth Academy, every child is guaranteed a seat.

### Raising the issue with Councillors and MP's

We would encourage parents and carers to raise the problem with their local Councillor and MPs as it has arisen as a result of the national issue of reducing school funding per child, and the local issue of Leicestershire only paying for school transport to the closest school.

