



Gipsy Lane
Balsall Common
Coventry
CV7 7FW

Tel: 01676 535222
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3rd September 2020

Principal:
Jacqueline Hughes-Williams

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Transport Services: Heart of England School

Heart of England School currently benefits from the following services:

Bus Number	Bus Provider	Bus Route	Contracted by
825	Claribel's Coaches	For details regarding Transport Assistance routes and bus passes please contact the Transport Office at SMBC Tel 0121 704 6610	SMBC
826	Claribel's Coaches	For details regarding Transport Assistance routes and bus passes please contact the Transport Office at SMBC Tel 0121 704 6610	SMBC
182	Claribel's Coaches	For details regarding Transport Assistance routes and bus passes please contact the Transport Office at SMBC Tel 0121 704 6610	SMBC
183	Claribel's Coaches	For details regarding Transport Assistance routes and bus passes please contact the Transport Office at SMBC Tel 0121 704 6610	SMBC
180	Ridley's Coaches	Link: https://heart-england.co.uk/parent-handbook/travelling-to-school/	Heart of England School
181	Ridley's Coaches	Link: https://heart-england.co.uk/parent-handbook/travelling-to-school/	Heart of England School
184	Ridley's Coaches	Link: https://heart-england.co.uk/parent-handbook/travelling-to-school/	Heart of England School
555	Marcus Lewis Coaches	Link: https://www.marcuslewiscoaches.com/	Warwickshire County Council
89	Diamond Buses	Link: https://www.diamondbuses.com/west-midlands/bus-services/89-solihull/	Public Bus



Service Routes 825, 826, 182 and 183

Service Routes 825, 826, 182 and 183 are contracted by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. If your child benefits from Transport Assistance then they will have access to these services. Details regarding routes can be found on the school website. Parents who have questions about these routes can contact Claribel's Coaches or the Transport Office at SMBC.

From next week onwards, pupils not in receipt of Transport Assistance are not eligible to access these services and will be refused entry if they do not have the appropriate pass provided by Solihull Council.

Service routes 180, 181 and 184

Service routes 180, 181 and 184 are now contracted by Heart of England School. Temporary provision has been secured for the first half term and until such time as the school has completed its competitive tendering process.

Parents who wish for their child to access any of these Heart of England School contracted services will need to purchase a bus pass directly from the school. The price of the bus pass has been set at £250 for the autumn term.

The pricing structure may change as a result of the tendering process; where discounts relating to siblings, annual payment and Year 11s (assuming timing of examinations does not change) will also be assessed. The tendering process will take into consideration the views of school governors and the views of parents as expressed by our parent panel before any decision is made regarding our preferred provider.

This payment will secure a place on a dedicated school bus service (not accessible by the general public) initially with Ridley's Coaches and thereafter with our chosen provider.

Details regarding how to purchase a pass for the 180, 181 and 184 services will be available shortly. School systems for processing bus pass applications and issuing bus passes are not yet fully operational. For this reason pupils will be able to access these services until Friday 11th September without the need to present a bus pass. Thereafter a pass issued by Heart of England School will be required to access these services.

Families on income support or who are facing severe financial difficulties may be able to apply for financial support to assist with the additional cost of travel. To apply for this support please contact our School Finance Office via email Finance-Email@heart-england.co.uk stating clearly that you wish to apply for financial support to assist with the cost of school bus travel.

These new services represent a safer, cleaner and more reliable form of transport than those previously offered. They are 'closed door services' where each child will be allocated a designated seat and where enhanced cleaning and Covid-19 prevention measures are in force.

As part of our efforts to ensure the safest possible travel for our pupils, all pupils will be required to sign and return our Code of Conduct form. In addition all passengers must abide by the rules we have established to ensure Covid-safe travel, details of which can be found on our school website. Any breach of the code of conduct or a failure to comply with rules surrounding

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HEART OF ENGLAND

Creating Futures

Covid-safe travel will mean the pupil will lose access to any and all school contracted bus services.

Finally, and importantly, we are looking at ways we can improve future provision and we would respectfully ask all parents whose child uses any of the school bus service to complete the online survey which is now available on our school website.

This survey will allow us to make improvements such as refining routes to meet the needs of those pupils who are no longer eligible to access the 182 and 183 services.

Please rest assured that we are doing all we can to resolve the transport issues facing so many of our pupils. We will try to keep you informed in the coming days regarding how to apply for a bus pass and any changes to bus routes.

In the meantime if you have any questions please email Office@heart-england.co.uk We are receiving a high volume of information requests and will endeavour to respond to them as soon as we are able.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Livingstone
Senior Assistant Principal
Heart of England School

Jacqueline Hughes-Williams
Principal
Heart of England School