



26 May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

## IMPORTANT: School Transport Consultation

While the Headteachers/Principals of the SWAN network of schools have agreed a response to the transport consultation and this has been sent to the Local Authority, it is important that I communicate the significant impact these proposals will have on our community, particularly those families in Long Buckby who chose to, or would like to send their children to Guilsborough.

If the proposals are accepted, I have summarised the impact below:

- It is highly likely, under these proposals, that those living in Long Buckby would be given free transport to DSLV rather than Guilsborough.
- Those who lose their entitlement to free transport to Guilsborough would be required to pay for a seat under the non-entitled arrangement.
- The availability of non-entitled seats would be significantly reduced resulting in families having to arrange their own transport to Guilsborough.

These impacts have been confirmed by Tom Callahan, Head of Transport Delivery, in an email to me today, Thursday 25 May 2023. I have copied sections of this email below:

*"I can advise that if DSLV was deemed the nearest school, then under the new policy free transport would not be provided to Guilsborough Academy and parents would need to apply for a non-entitled seat which they would need to pay for.*

*I should also point out that as part of the consultation, the council is proposing changes to the non-entitled bus pass scheme which if approved, will mean that we will only offer seats where we have spare capacity available. Currently we offer parents the option of a guaranteed seat if they apply by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in May each year, however under the proposals this option will no longer be available. The likely consequence of this will be a reduced number of non-entitled seats being available."*

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As the Principal of Guilsborough Academy, I have already responded to this proposal, via the link at the end of this letter. I shall be encouraging all staff at Guilsborough to do the same.

If these proposals are adopted, it will severely restrict the choices our community have in terms of their secondary school. Almost one in five students at Guilsborough come from the Long Buckby area. The adoption of these proposals would have a serious detrimental effect on Guilsborough Academy.

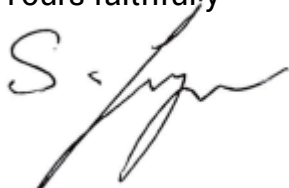
I encourage you to respond to this proposal via this link.

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/home-to-school-transport-2023/consultation/intro/>

If you would like to keep the linked areas which currently receive free transport to Guilsborough, it is important that you 'strongly disagree' with the proposal to remove the linked areas. I would also advise that you 'strongly disagree' with the non-entitled seat proposal.

The deadline for replies to the proposal is Tuesday 30 May 2023.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Frazer', written in a cursive style.

Simon Frazer  
Principal