

## Home-to-School Transport Consultation

Do you know...

Oxfordshire County Council proposes to end free school buses from Kennington to Matthew Arnold School (MAS) as part of their county-wide cost-cutting exercise?



If the Council Cabinet votes yes, from as early as 2017 no child living in Kennington will be eligible for free transport to Matthew Arnold School.

*This will leave up to 210 students needing to make their own way to school.*

Children in receipt of free school meals would be eligible for free transport, but only to The Oxford Academy or the two next nearest schools (not MAS). Children living three miles away from The Oxford Academy (roughly the southern half of the village) would be eligible for free transport to that school.

The **impact on Kennington** will be:

- x **Increased traffic** at peak hours on congested roads, including Kennington Road, The Avenue, and the A34
- x **A community divided** by those families that can afford to pay for transport to MAS (our designated catchment school) and those who cannot
- x **Increased transport costs for parents**
- x Negative impact on the **working lives of parents**, who could be required to transport their children to school at peak times
- x Kennington residents are set to bear the **brunt of the consequences** of these countywide proposals

To **Have Your Say** please either complete the online questionnaire at [www.j.mp/occ-hts2015](http://www.j.mp/occ-hts2015) by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013**, or fill in the shortened version overleaf and post it by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013** in one of the collection boxes at any of:

- St Swithun's School
- Matthew Arnold School
- Apple Café
- The Village Centre

### **N.B.**

Selecting any of the available options in response to the questions will exacerbate the impacts listed above. Responding with either 'None' or 'Neither' could force the council to reconsider their proposals and place alternative solutions on the table.

*Keeping schoolchildren on school buses dramatically reduces traffic on Oxfordshire's already congested road network, keeps children safe and residents happier.*

Thank you for your support!

— Helen Forey, [kenningtonsaveourschoolbuses@gmail.com](mailto:kenningtonsaveourschoolbuses@gmail.com)

## Proposed Home to School Transport Policy 2015

All responses to be handed in by **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** to any of  
St Swithun's School, Matthew Arnold School, Apple Café, or The Village Centre.

### A. To which school(s) should free travel be provided?

**Option A1** To the nearest available school only.

*For Kennington, free transport would be provided to The Oxford Academy from the southern part of the village only. No future applications from households in Kennington will be considered for free transport to MAS, and school coaches for ages 11–16 will cease altogether by 2017.*

**Option A2** To the nearest school, adjusted to avoid splitting villages.

*For Kennington, Option A2 is the same as Option A1 (as The Oxford Academy is considered the nearest school for all addresses).*

### Q 1. Which of these options do you prefer? (Tick preferred box)

Option A1	Option A2	None	Don't know

### Q 2. Do you have alternative suggestions?

*Comment: We require transport to our **catchment school**. There is provision for this in the policies of other local authorities, e.g. West Berkshire, Suffolk, Gloucestershire and East Sussex.*

24

[www.henningtonchronicle.org.uk](http://www.henningtonchronicle.org.uk)

### B. When should the policy change be implemented?

**Option B1** All children currently in Year 5 and lower to have no entitlement to free transport to secondary school. All children in Year 6 and higher to lose their entitlement from September 2017.

**Option B2** Children currently in receipt of free transport to retain it until they reach Year 11. Children not currently in receipt of free transport to fund their own travel costs as soon as they reach Year 7.

### Q 3. Which of these options do you prefer? (Tick preferred box.)

Option B1	Option B2	None	Don't know

### Q 4. Do you have alternative suggestions?

### C. Concessionary fares.

**Option C1** Concessionary fares increase in September 2014 by by £277 to £541.20 for all children.

**Option C2** Concessionary fares increase to £541.20 in 2014; £584.50 in 2015; £631.26 in 2016; £681.76 in 2017.

**Option C3** Concessionary fares increase to £541.20 in 2014; £568.26 in 2015; £596.67 in 2016; £626.51 in 2017; £657.83 in 2018; £690.72 in 2019.

### Q 5. Which of these options do you prefer? (Tick preferred box.)

Option C1	Option C2	Option C3	None	Don't know

### Q 10. Where do you live?

Postcode