



*Our ref* conc/school/03/11

*Your ref*

25 March 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian

### **Important changes to bus travel for children in Greater Manchester**

This letter is to tell about important changes being made to bus fares for children and the arrangements they will need to make to pay them.

We are asking for your assistance in making sure parents are aware of the changes and enclosed is a letter which can be circulated to parents. I have also emailed an e-letter copy of this to your school headed 'Important changes to bus travel for children in Greater Manchester', sent from the Travel Concessions Team on 25 March.

All of this information is available on the GMPTE website at [www.gmppte.com/passes](http://www.gmppte.com/passes) and in leaflets at GMPTE Travelshops and at bus stations in Greater Manchester.

#### *Fare changes*

From **Sunday 3 April 2011** changes are being made to the concessionary fares scheme in Greater Manchester.

From that date, the standard flat 80p bus fare that children currently pay will change to half the adult fare.

For normal service bus fares or school bus services not subsidised by GMPTE children should ask their bus driver how much their fare will be, or find out from the bus company that runs that service.

For Yellow School Buses and dedicated school services provided by GMPTE, a new simple fare structure is being introduced. This will be based on the approximate distance each stop is from the school and three fare bands will apply: £1, £1.20, £1.40 for single journeys.

No matter what distance children travel to get to school on this type of service, they will pay no more than £1.40 for a single journey.

The bands have been adjusted appropriately to take account of the fact that some services have a longer, winding route in order to pick up children. The bands will apply service by service, and drivers will know which bus stops on their route mark the transition between bands. Bus drivers may not have this information at present but will do so before the changes come into effect. Children should ask their driver about fares or they can find out on our website [www.gmpte.com/passes](http://www.gmpte.com/passes).

*New ID arrangements*

From **Monday 16 May** 2011 children aged 11 – 16 will have to show drivers an **igo** pass to confirm they are eligible to pay concessionary child fares on buses in Greater Manchester. Children of any age will need an igo pass to buy a Junior Bus Saver season ticket. To help you and your staff understand these changes, we've created an education resource webpage [www.gmpte.com/igo/resource](http://www.gmpte.com/igo/resource)

Children and parents must remember that without the igo pass, drivers will be likely to charge a higher fare after 15 May.

*Children travelling in areas immediately outside Greater Manchester*

From **Sunday 3 April**, the child concessionary fare will no longer apply to any journeys outside the Greater Manchester boundary. This includes Poynton, Glossop, Whitworth, Bacup, Edenfield, Stubbins, Edgworth and Belmont.

Children travelling across the boundary of Greater Manchester will continue to be eligible for the concessionary fare for the portion of their journey that is within Greater Manchester. For the element of the journey outside Greater Manchester, children will pay the full child fare. They will only need one ticket for the journey and drivers will be able to tell passengers how much they will pay for the whole journey.

We'd like to ensure that none of these changes cause disruption or problems and we are currently publicising the changes with posters and leaflets on the public transport network, as well as advertising in local papers.

Please help us by telling your pupils and their parents about the changes. Attached is an e-letter for you to forward to parents explaining the changes and how it will affect their children. We would appreciate it if you could also consider making announcements in assembly and adding information to your school's website.

Thank you for your assistance letting pupils and parents know about the changes.

Yours faithfully



**Susan Wildman**

Director of Communications and Customer Services