

Parent Update

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School Expansion to Include Years 5 & 6

At our last meeting, the Governing Body formally decided to start the process to expand Barrow Primary School and add Years 5 and 6. We are excited to be embarking on this major development for the school. There is a lot of work to do to deliver this expansion, including some statutory processes as well as the building of new classrooms, which will take some time. Our aim is to work towards adding Year 5 from September 2020. This would mean that current Year 3 pupils would have the option to stay on at Barrow for Years 5 and 6. We have the full support of the Local Authority and the Diocese for our expansion. The Local Authority have presented us with some options to expand the school facilities. Once we have more concrete plans, we will share these with parents.

A Note to Our Year 4 Parents

We would have loved to be able to offer Year 5 from next September in order to accommodate our current Year 4 pupils, if they wished to stay at Barrow. We have decided not to pursue this option as providing a high quality offer within the timeframe left would have been enormously difficult. **As a reminder to Year 4 parents, the current admissions policy to the local middle schools has not changed. Pupils at Barrow who make an on-time, first choice application to either Horringer Court or Westley have priority.** For Barrow village families, in order to receive funded transport, Risby Primary School would be another local option.

School Site Development

We are aware that additional buildings will take up some of our lovely outdoor space, which is a real asset of the school. On behalf of the school, the Local Authority have been in talks with a local landowner to buy an additional strip of land to the north of our playing fields. This acquisition will take time to complete. Any building of new classrooms would be on the current footprint of the school, with the plan to re-expand the playing fields, once a land acquisition has taken place.

School Transport Information

Most of us have been aware of the Suffolk Country Council decision to change the criteria for provision of free home to school transport. This decision has a direct effect on pupils who live in Barrow and access Bury St Edmunds schools. We have put together below some further information for those parents who are considering their school options after Year 4 at Barrow.

The Council is legally required to provide transport to children aged 8 and above if the distance from their home to school is greater than 3 miles (the statutory walking distance). The Council will now only provide free transport to the nearest suitable school and will not consider the middle schools, if they are further away. Under the new arrangement the closest school to Barrow which provides Year 5 is Risby Primary School. If parents decided to move their children to Risby for Years 5 and 6 they would then be eligible for free transport to school. There is a bus service currently in place taking children from Barrow into the Bury St Edmund schools. Children who currently receive free school transport from Barrow to Westley will continue to receive this until they change phase i.e. middle school to upper school. So for example, a child who is now in Year 5 at Westley currently receives free transport to school. However, when they move phase parents will then need to pay for this provision.

If parents would like to use the County Council bus service there will be a cost of £250 - £275 per term. However places are not guaranteed on this service and you would be dependent on spare seats being available. There are clearly other options available to parents to transport children to these schools such as car pooling, public transport via bus and clubbing together to hire a mini bus.

We hope this is a helpful guide.

Child in Year 4 at Barrow CEVCP School due to transfer to new school in September 2019

- Apply for Year 5 place from September 2019 **by 15 January 2019**.
- Check nearest school checker <http://nearestschool.suffolk.gov.uk/> for school travel using your post-code and door number/house name.

Suffolk's School Travel Policy 2019/2020 has been amended. It is important that you understand how this might affect your child's eligibility for Suffolk County Council (SCC) funded school travel before you apply for a school place. Children living in Suffolk who will be starting at a new school in September 2019 will be eligible for SCC funded school travel when they meet the statutory walking distance criteria from their home to the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available for them. This would be whether or not an application was made for a place at that school. Full details about SCC funded school travel, including additional arrangements for low income families and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can be found at www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel.

Here is an example of when school travel would be provided for a child entering Year 5 in September 2019, based on a property in the postcode IP29 5DT. You **must** check your child's nearest suitable schools using the nearest school checker above as they may be different to the schools listed below:

Nearest suitable schools, including 3-tier schools:

- 1st (Nearest)** Risby CEVCP School (3 to 6 miles)
- 2nd** - Westley Middle School (3 to 6 miles)
- 3rd** - Sexton's Manor Community Primary School (3 to 6 miles)

We would provide Suffolk County Council (SCC) funded school travel to:

- 1. Risby CEVCP School** – as this is the nearest suitable school and is more than 3 miles from the child's address.
- 2. Westley Middle School** - only if this was the nearest suitable school that would have had a place available on national offer day, or when the decision is made for a late applicant. This means that if a place was available at Risby CEVCP School, we would not provide SCC funded school travel to this school.
- 3. Sexton's Manor Community Primary School** - only if this was the nearest suitable school or the nearest 2-tier school that would have had a place available on national offer day, or when the decision is made for a late applicant. This means that if a place was available at Risby CEVCP School, we would not provide SCC funded school travel to this school.

Nearest Suitable Schools for 2-tier Primary:

- 1st** - Risby CEVCP School (3 to 6 miles)
- 2nd** - Sexton's Manor Community Primary School (3 to 6 miles)
- 3rd** - Moulton CEVCP School (3 to 6 miles)

We would provide Suffolk County Council (SCC) funded school travel to:

- 1. Risby CEVCP School** - as this is the nearest suitable school and is more than 3 miles from the child's address.
- 2. Sexton's Manor Community Primary School** - only if this was the nearest suitable school or the nearest 2-tier school that would have had a place available on national offer day, or when the decision is made for a late applicant. This means that if a place was available at Risby CEVCP School, we would not provide SCC funded school travel to this school.
- 3. Moulton CEVCP School** - only if this was the nearest suitable school or the nearest 2-tier school that would have had a place available on national offer day, or when the decision is made for a late applicant. This means that if a place was available at 1) Risby CEVCP school or 2) Sexton's Manor Community School we would not provide SCC funded school travel to this school.

See www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions or www.suffolkonboard.com/schooltravel for more information.