

# Fountain Primary School and Nursery Unit

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We Believe In Each Other

## Important Information Regarding School Bus Provision

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Board of Governors wishes to inform parents and carers that the school bus service will cease operation from September 2026.

This is news that we share with great regret, and we therefore wanted to provide as much notice as possible to allow families time to consider travel arrangements for the 2026/27 school year. As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting families, the school will continue to provide its Breakfast Club each morning from 8.15am to allow for early drop-off.

The bus service was originally established to support families who had moved away from the Fountain area but wished to maintain their connection with the school. In previous years a 52-seater bus was needed to transport 40 plus children from the Waterside. However, next year there are only 12 children from P1-7 who would be using the bus.

The service has been funded through a variety of sources over the years. Initially, funding was provided through the Department for Communities. This was later supported through the Urban Villages initiative, whose aim was to improve community confidence, strengthen connections between communities and support positive outcomes for children and young people.

Throughout this period, the cost of operating the bus continued to increase. On a number of occasions, funding received did not fully cover the cost of providing the service.

The Board of Governors, school leadership team and others have worked extensively over a number of years to secure a sustainable funding solution. Discussions have taken place with government departments, elected representatives, funding bodies and community organisations. Despite these efforts, we have been unable to identify any funding source that would allow the service to continue beyond June 2026.

Families choose Fountain Primary School because of the unique qualities of our school community. Parents regularly tell us that they value the caring, family atmosphere that comes from being a smaller school. This allows staff to know every child as an individual, build strong relationships with families and provide a personalised educational experience that responds to children's strengths, interests and needs.

While the loss of the bus service presents challenges, the Board of Governors remains fully committed to ensuring that these qualities continue to define Fountain Primary School. We will continue to place the wellbeing, development and success of every child at the centre of all that we do.

The Board of Governors would like to thank parents for their ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

**Board of Governors**

Fountain Primary School



**Shared  
Education**

