



New Parent FAQ's

Welcome to Esher High School. The following list of questions is not exhaustive, but aims to answer some common questions about how our school works. You can find a lot more information on our website, so please feel free to look around.

What are the best ways my child can travel to school? Given we are trying to encourage our students to be environmentally aware, we would encourage your child to walk, cycle or take school or public buses wherever possible.

- **Walking;** Not only is walking good for the environment, but also allows your child to get some fresh air and is a good form of exercise. However, we know we have a large catchment area and we understand it is not always possible to walk.
- **Cycling;** Bicycles should be placed in the bicycle shed, which is locked during the day. Wearing of helmets is encouraged to and from school. A personal padlock should always be used. Whilst the school tries to ensure the safety of all personal property, it cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage.
- **School Buses;** The school buses are organised via Surrey County Council. Any queries regarding the school buses should be referred to 0300 200 1004.

All Students travelling on buses are representing Esher High School. Good standards of behaviour are expected.

If you have applied for and your child has been allocated a place on a school bus, you will have been sent a guidance note from the School and Support section at Area Office. If you do not have one, please contact the number above.

Times for pick-ups are published by Surrey County Council and students should be at the pick-up point 10 minutes in advance of that time. Please give your child instructions on what to do in the unlikely event that the bus is late or does not arrive. Students should wait 30 minutes after the published departure time and if the bus has still not arrived then contact the school for an update. The school will advise students on the situation.

Parents are advised to agree with their child arrangements for getting to school should there be an unforeseen problem. Please note that "the onus is on the parent to ensure their child knows what to do if school transport does not arrive." (SCC Leaflet, Pupil Services).

- **By Car;** If you choose to drive your child to school, please note that there is a drop off system in the morning and we would encourage you not to linger in order to ensure smooth traffic movement through the school.

To avoid congestion, at the end of the day, cars will not be allowed access to the school until the school buses have left. Please park your car at the bottom of More Lane and ask your child to walk down to meet you. The school site is open again at 3.15pm and we encourage you to drive onto site then if you wish to collect your child from school. At all times, we ask you to be considerate of our neighbours.



What food is available at school? Food is served and can be purchased in the Blue Diner at breakfast, break time and lunch time. Packed lunches may also be brought in and eaten in the Blue Diner, but please do not bring any nut products into school as we have a number of students with severe allergies.

What if my child is entitled to Free School Meals & Other Entitlements? Students are entitled to free school meals if parents are in receipt of certain benefits. Please refer to the school website [here](#) for full eligibility criteria and the application process to obtain free school meals for your child.

Students on or eligible for free school meals are entitled to school subsidies to cover a number of activities including board and lodging for curriculum essential residential activities, music tuition and subsidies for day trips.

The Headteacher has discretion to offer additional subsidies to those eligible for free school meals, or in other financially exceptional circumstances, for other costs such as sketchbooks, school uniform, PE kit etc. Requests for any subsidy should be made to the Headteacher in writing and submitted at the time forms are returned.

What after school activities are available? We run a rich timetable of after school extra-curricular activities which are updated termly so please check the timetables for these clubs and also the late buses which serve these clubs [here](#) . There are no late buses on a Friday.

Is there anywhere my child can do their homework? The Hub (our library) is open to all students before school from 8am, lunch time and after school until 4 pm (Mon-Thurs).

How can I pay for items at school? Esher High School is cashless wherever possible. To pay for food from the Blue Diner, miscellaneous resources such as lockers, Art sketchbooks, late bus tickets and school trips, we encourage all parents to set up an online payments account through the Scopay system. Before your child joins us in September you will receive a letter with instructions on how to set up their online payments account.