

24 January 2019

Kia ora Parent/Caregiver



COBDEN BUS

The Ministry of Education (MoE) rules state that to be eligible for free transport your address must be more than 4.8km from your nearest school. In your case, we are told that you are not eligible for free transport which means you have no right as such to use a school bus.

A few years ago we argued this case with the MoE and we gained a concession: the MoE pays a subsidy to the bus company for ineligible students meaning that travel only costs \$1 per trip. We agreed with Ritchies buses that to make it easier for families we would sell tickets on their behalf. We did all this so that Cobden families can access transport to get to Grey High. Cobden is the only place I am aware of in the whole country to have this agreement.

This system has slipped in recent times and people have not been buying tickets. This is not fair and could result in losing the bus service for ineligible students if it continues.

To be able to continue with a Cobden bus service, we need parents/caregivers to **make sure they buy tickets** from the GHS office or Ritchies directly (Kaiata). **Tickets must be paid for and cannot be put on a school account.** This year, Ritchies drivers will not be allowed to carry passengers without a ticket which may mean your child being left off the bus if this is the case.

Although this is hard, it is rare to have the subsidy we got for Cobden so I write to ask you to respect the deal and to make sure your child has tickets for the bus.

Regards

ANDY ENGLAND
Principal