

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org

✉ oaklands@oaklandscatholicsschool.org



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

OCS/20230320/TF

20th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

7A BUS SERVICE BETWEEN SOUTH PARADE PIER/PORTSMOTH CITY CENTRE AND OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

I write to inform you that we have been put on notice by First Bus that they intend to withdraw the 7A Bus Service from the end of this academic year. The reason they have given for this decision is that due to the rising costs of fuel, wages and other overhead costs, the running of the 7A Bus Service is not financially sustainable.

The school has challenged this decision on the basis of the number of students that use this service and the additional safety that is afforded to our students due to the 7A Bus service finishing and starting within the school grounds in the morning and afternoon respectively.

First Bus has advised that the bus service 7 – running between Wecock Farm, Waterlooville, Cosham and Portsmouth City Centre - will continue to run. The service currently runs every 20 minutes during the day time on Monday to Friday, but at every 15 minutes during the morning and afternoon peak. There are bus stops near the school where this service operates from. First Bus has also advised that our students are welcome to use this service but that they might not all be able to board one bus. Therefore, extra time may be required for the bus journey to school as well as the return home being delayed due to the volume of passengers trying to get on a particular bus.

We are aware that there are connecting bus services from South Parade Pier and parents/carers are advised to check timings of those services to ensure their children have plenty of time to get to school. If you would like any further information regarding First Bus services please use the following contact details:

[Contact Us | First Bus](#) or 0345 646 0707

School bus services are a safe, efficient and affordable option to transport children too and from school. Mr Quinn, Headteacher, has recently written to local MPs to raise his concern about this decision. You may wish to do the same.

T S A Finch

Director of Business and Finance