

25th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: MH1 Bus Service – Urgent Review

As part of our commitment to widening access to Madeley School, we currently operate a privately arranged bus service (the **MH1**) with a local transport provider. This service covers around nine stops and has enabled many families to choose Madeley with confidence, knowing that safe and reliable travel is available.

The MH1 has been well supported by pupils on the return journey home, but unfortunately, morning uptake has been much lower. This imbalance means that the service is running at a financial loss for the provider. Unless usage increases, the company may have no option but to withdraw the service when we next review the situation together in two weeks' time.

We are therefore asking parents to consider committing to use the MH1 service both in the morning and afternoon wherever possible. Your support is crucial if we are to keep this valued route in place for the longer term.

It is important to be transparent: if numbers do not increase, the provider may be forced to either discontinue the service or raise fares to cover costs. While a small increase in fares might be manageable, significant rises could make the service less affordable for many families – creating a cycle that could ultimately bring the service to an end.

What we need from you:

- If your child already uses the MH1, please encourage them to use it both ways, not just in the afternoon.
- If you are considering using the service but have not yet done so, now is the time to trial it and show support.
- If you would be prepared to commit more regularly to the service, please let us know by emailing Mrs Downie at the school at denise.downie@madeley.set.org. This will help us present accurate numbers at the forthcoming review meeting.

We know how valuable this service is for families, and we want to keep it running. With the support of our school community, we hope the MH1 can continue to give parents genuine choice and pupils safe, reliable transport to and from school.

Thank you for your attention and your continued support of Madeley School.

Yours sincerely,

Lee J Nixon

Academy Principal