

info.roscommon@gretb.ie

Roscommon Community College

Lisnamult

Co. Roscommon

28 May 2024

Re: Participation in School Transport Pilot Project

Dear Ms. Keena,

I hope this letter finds you well.

We are seeking your assistance in relation to an innovative pilot in school transport that will shape its future in your community and nationwide over the next few years, including future integration of school transport and public transport services.

An area in your school's catchment area has been selected for the pilot scheme. We would appreciate it if you could help us contact the families of certain children attending your school who live in that area.

You may be aware that the Department of Education recently completed a review of the School Transport Scheme – "School Transport 2030". As a result of this review, we are piloting changes to the Scheme which we hope will help us provide a better service to families using the school bus service. At the same time, the review seeks to support wider Government policies to support active travel and to support our climate action targets.

Given that this is a pilot for a specific area, this may mean that not all children attending your school are included in the pilot, just those in the chosen area who have been identified as living in the pilot area and as listed in this communication.

The objective of this pilot project is to evaluate and implement the recommendations from the review of the school Transport Scheme. These recommendations have significant potential to reshape and improve the way students travel to and from school, enhance their wellbeing and life skills and also to address climate change.

After careful analysis and planning, it has been determined that 185 pupils attending your school live within the designated pilot area for this project. As such, these families are eligible to participate in the pilot and will benefit from the services and the changes being made to the Scheme.

To ensure effective communication and to foster participation, we kindly request your assistance in distributing the enclosed communication to the families of students who are within the pilot area. This communication outlines the objectives of the pilot project, the benefits to the participants, and how interested families can get involved or seek further information.

We would like to assure you that we have sought guidance from our Data Protection Unit on this matter. They have advised that there are no GDPR issues as this information would constitute processing which is compatible with the original purpose for which the data was collected.

Should you have any questions or require further details about the project or the process of issuing the communication, please do not hesitate to contact us at SchooTransportPilots@education.gov.ie

Thanking you in advance for your support with this initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Kearney

Principal Officer

School Transport Section

Department of Education