



# Saint Ignatius College Geelong

## College Bus Fares/Fees – Commencing Term 1, 2022

A significant change in the provision of student bus services will commence in 2022. Families have utilised different types of bus services for students attending Saint Ignatius College since 2003. The service uses a combination of providers to enable students to be able to travel to and from the College from most areas of the Geelong region. Our students currently use Public Bus Routes (designated for students), Private Charter Buses and an application system for designated PTV routes used by Bellarine Secondary College.

Each service provided has been at no cost to families since its inception, however the escalating costs, the increased number of students and changes to the PTV/Myki structure have brought about a review of our bus system.

### 1. Private Charter Buses

Currently, there are 10 private charter bus routes. These are: Routes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (1), 8 (2), 9 and 10.

At a meeting of the College Board on 21 May, 2021, a decision was made to commence a bus fee charge for students using the College private charter buses as of Term 1, 2022. The Board is conscious for these additional costs that can add a further burden to families, however it is a necessity in maintaining a lower fee structure for all students.

The bus service relies on the assistance from the Victorian State Government Conveyance Allowance Program and has also been heavily subsidised by the College. With the opening of Iona College, we have not been able to claim this assistance in many cases as it is dependent on the distance to the closest denominational school. Iona has now become, in some cases, the closest Catholic, co-educational secondary school and, if there are places available at Iona College, this excludes Saint Ignatius College from this government funding.

The fee structure has been adopted by the College, and is used in conjunction with the Victorian State Government Conveyance Allowance Program to fund the College Private Charter Bus Service.

The fee for 2022 will be:

- \$440 (includes GST) for each student.

This fee will be reviewed annually. If this fee applies in your case, we will automatically include it on your 2022 account.

Similar schools in the Geelong and Bellarine area who provide a private charter bus service have a much higher bus fare fee structure than this new fare.

### 2. Public Transport Bus

A further change has been made by the Department of Education and Training (DET) and a directive received by the College reads in part:

#### **“Important change - Bellarine Peninsula public transport ticketing arrangements**

*To enable the transition from paper-based public transport ticketing to Myki ticketing, from Term 2, 2021 McHarry’s will no longer produce and distribute ‘McHarry’s Bellarine Conveyance Pass’ tickets for students attending Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula schools from Zone 5. The McHarry’s produced tickets will be replaced by the Geelong Transit Student Pass (TSP), which is a Myki-based ticket, already used widely in the Geelong area and on the Bellarine Peninsula.”*

*“ Note - students who already have a ‘McHarry’s Bellarine Conveyance Pass’ for 2021 will not be impacted by this change until 2022 when they will need to purchase a new ticket and claim a reimbursement (if eligible) through the conveyance allowance program.*



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*From Term 2, 2021 onwards, newly enrolled students using public transport to travel to/from school will need to purchase a Geelong TSP. Eligible students will then need to apply for a conveyance allowance at the school office to be reimbursed the ticket cost”.*

## What does this mean?

Any student who is travelling on a Public Bus will be required to have a TSP (Myki) for this travel. In some cases, parents may be able to claim the cost of this TSP Pass, estimated at \$353.00, providing the student is eligible to make this claim. This amount can be refunded to the College fee account. **\*You must provide a receipt to enable a claim to be made.** This reimbursement will be credited to the College fee account once received from DET (usually mid Term 2).

Saint Ignatius College will no longer allocate a place on a Public Bus to a student as the use of these buses using a MYKI card are dependent on students wishing to travel on these buses. All enquiries will need to be addressed to McHarry's Buslines (5223 2111), the PTV accredited bus providers.

All bus route maps are located on the McHarry's Buslines website.

<https://mcharrys.com.au/school-bus/>

Buses shared with Bellarine Secondary College will also be included in this public bus Myki system.

## How do families apply for a TSP and claim the cost of the pass (where eligible)

### Purchasing a Transit Student Pass (TSP)

#### If your child has a Saint Ignatius Student ID card

Take their ID card directly to the Geelong VLine station or the PTV hub in Westfield Geelong to purchase a yearly or half-yearly pass. \*Please retain your receipt for claim.

#### If your child does not have a Saint Ignatius Student ID Card

Please complete the PTV School Student ID and Student Pass Application Form available from the College office or online at <http://bit.ly/3bAtNLF>. To complete this form, you will require two passport photographs before the form can be validated. Once the form is completed and the two photographs have been attached, please bring the form to the College office where it will be validated by our Reception staff. Once validated, please take the form to the Geelong VLine station or the PTV hub at Westfield Geelong to purchase a yearly or half-yearly pass.

\*Please retain your receipt for claim.

### Claiming the cost of the TSP

Attach your \*receipt for the TSP to the **Application for Conveyance – Public Bus** form provided by the College and return as soon as possible in Term 1 of 2022.

### Am I eligible for a claim?

Families may be eligible to claim a reimbursement for the cost of the TSP from the Department of Education and Training. Eligibility refers to families residing more than 4.8km by the shortest practical route from their closest Co-educational, Catholic school.

### Student Conveyance Allowance – How does this work?

The Victorian State Government provides financial assistance with student transport in Rural & Regional Areas via a Conveyance Allowance.

The Conveyance Allowance is available to eligible students travelling by:

- Public Transport
- Private Car
- Private Bus



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The Conveyance Allowance is a contribution towards transport costs and is not intended to cover the full cost of transporting children to and from school. Eligibility for Conveyance Allowance is subject to meeting certain criteria, namely:

- Student lives more than 4.8km from the school they attend
- Student is attending their closest Catholic or co-educational Secondary School
- Public Transport or a “School Bus Program” Bus is not available to the school they attend

To simplify and minimise the cost to parents for College Bus Travel, the College will retain the Bus Conveyance Allowance from those families with eligible students and these monies are used to offset the actual cost of providing the College Bus Service.

Families who drive their child to school, may be eligible to claim for Private Car Conveyance reimbursement. These monies will be applied towards their College Fees when the funds are received by the College.

It is vitally important that all families complete the relevant Conveyance Application Form provided to each family at the beginning of each year to enable the claims to be processed. These forms will be sent to families at the time of the student’s bus allocation.

Please feel free to contact the College regarding these changes at [buses@ignatius.vic.edu.au](mailto:buses@ignatius.vic.edu.au)

PLEASE NOTE: BUS ALLOCATIONS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS IN DECEMBER, 2021 OR EARLY JANUARY, 2022.