**School travel policy – introduced from September 2019**

Key points of new travel policy:

* Funded travel is only given to the nearest school
* There is a ‘Nearest School Checker’ on SCC website for parents to confirm nearest school
* If the nearest school is a middle school and the school offered is the nearest two-tier school, funding will be available
* If the nearest school is King Edward VI School for Years 9 – 11 but St Benedict’s Lower School is nearer for Years 7 - 8, funding will be given to King Edward’s for the whole secondary phase
* Funding is only available if the distance criteria is met – three miles or more from the school
* Parents have to opt-in and will need to apply. Information will be provided in the admissions email or letter offering a school place in March 2020
* If a pupil lives in Suffolk and the nearest school is in the next county, funding would be given to the nearest Suffolk school
* If the pupil is offered a place at a school that is not the nearest, but the nearest school has a place when the admission application was decided, parents are responsible for the cost
* If none of the preferences have been met, and the pupil is offered a place at the next nearest school suitable school with places available which is over the statutory walking distance, funding will be available
* SCC will run a ‘Spare Seat Policy’. Costs under the ‘Spare Seat Policy’ will be £250 per term rising by £30 per term annually to a maximum of £960 p.a. (By 2022/2023). Seats are giving on a first come first served basis. Children with SEND will be charged £230 per term rising by £10 per term annually to a maximum of £780 p.a. (2022/2023)
* Funding will be available for families with a low income, receiving the maximum Working Tax Credit or who are entitled to free school meals. If aged between 11 -16 funding will be available to these pupils that are attending one of the three nearest school that is 2 – 6 miles way or attending nearest schools preferred on the grounds or religion or belief 2 – 15 miles away
* If the pupil has special educational needs and disabilities, or mobility difficulties, SCC will assess eligibility for funded travel except where the EHCP states travel arrangements should be provided
* If the pupil is eligible for funded travel and no options are available in the area, SCC may consider paying mileage allowance