

Parents / Carers

**Please ask for:** Phil Curd

**E-mail :** phil.curd@somerset.gov.uk

**Direct Dial:** 01823 355165

**Date:** 29 August 2025

Dear parents / carers,

### **Ridlers Contracted Vehicles – 2025/26 Academic Year**

Following a round of retendering over the Summer, a number of school transport contracts previously held by Ridlers Ltd have been awarded to other operators, following an open bidding process.

This followed a decision by Ridlers Ltd to surrender 9 of its 12 contracts in the West Somerset area, for various reasons.

They will still operate 3 contracts, which are:

- C307 – Bicknoller – Doniford – Watchet – Washford – West Somerset College
- C318 – Washford – Danesfield Middle School
- C319 – Porlock – Selworthy – Minehead Middle School – West Somerset College

Where a child's route has changed (including a change of operator), or they are joining a route for the first time, their parents / carers will have received a letter providing the necessary details.

For the 3 routes listed above, parents / carers of children already travelling on those vehicles will not have received letter as standard, as nothing has materially changed.

This letter is intended to inform parents / carers of children on those routes that nothing has changed and Ridlers Ltd will continue to operate them.

However, the vehicles that will be running on the routes will be unbranded, with very limited information relating to Ridlers Ltd displayed upon them.

This is a deliberate decision, taken to serve two purposes:

- To reduce the likelihood of children, parents / carers and others of being emotionally triggered by the Ridlers branding
- Reduce the risk of Ridlers employees from being subjected to verbal and physical abuse

The decision was not taken to try and deceive the public by hiding the fact these vehicles are operated by Ridlers Ltd.

Further school transport FAQs can be found on the Together for West Somerset web page here: <https://connectsomerset.org.uk/my-community/together-for-west-somerset/information-on-west-somerset-school-transport/>

Further information on emotional and wellbeing support can also be found here: [Together for West Somerset – Support for All](#)

If there are further questions you would like me to answer and add to the FAQs, please contact me at the e-mail address above.

Yours Sincerely



**Phil Curd**  
Head of Education Places  
**Somerset Council**