



Transport Guide

2025/26

Welcome

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the new Downe House Bus Service, launching in September. The service has been designed to provide a convenient and reliable ‘school run’ option for families of day pupils and flexi-boarders. Operating daily on several local routes to and from Downe House, and twice a week on our London route, the timings are aligned with the start and end of lesson times in our school day.

Whilst the service will use our own minibuses, and all drivers are vetted and appointed by the School (with many being existing staff), we are pleased to be working with Vectare, a specialist in school transport management.

Bookings are managed using Vectare’s online platform - used by hundreds of schools in the UK - which offers a user-friendly experience and a range of helpful features for parents. This **Bus Service Guide** provides an overview of the booking process, routes, fares and timetables. If you would like your daughter to use the service in the coming year, either on a regular or ad-hoc basis, please sign up at downehouse.vectare.co.uk as soon as possible. All bookings must be made through this website, which also offers a ‘Parent User Guide’.

Payment for using the service is required at the time of booking, after which your child’s name will be added to the bus register. The website allows you to book travel 24/7 from anywhere in the world, so if circumstances arise which mean you need to make a late booking either to or from school, you can do this up to one hour before the bus departs. Other amendments to your bookings – including notifying the system if your child is ‘Not Travelling’ on a booked journey (important for safeguarding and the smooth running of the service) - can be made quickly and easily on the website.

Both Downe House and Vectare are committed to continuously improving the service. Whilst we may not be able to accommodate all requests for new routes or stops, your feedback and suggestions are very welcome.

For any additional queries, please contact us via the ‘Contact Us’ area of the portal.

Kind regards

Emma McKendrick
Headmistress

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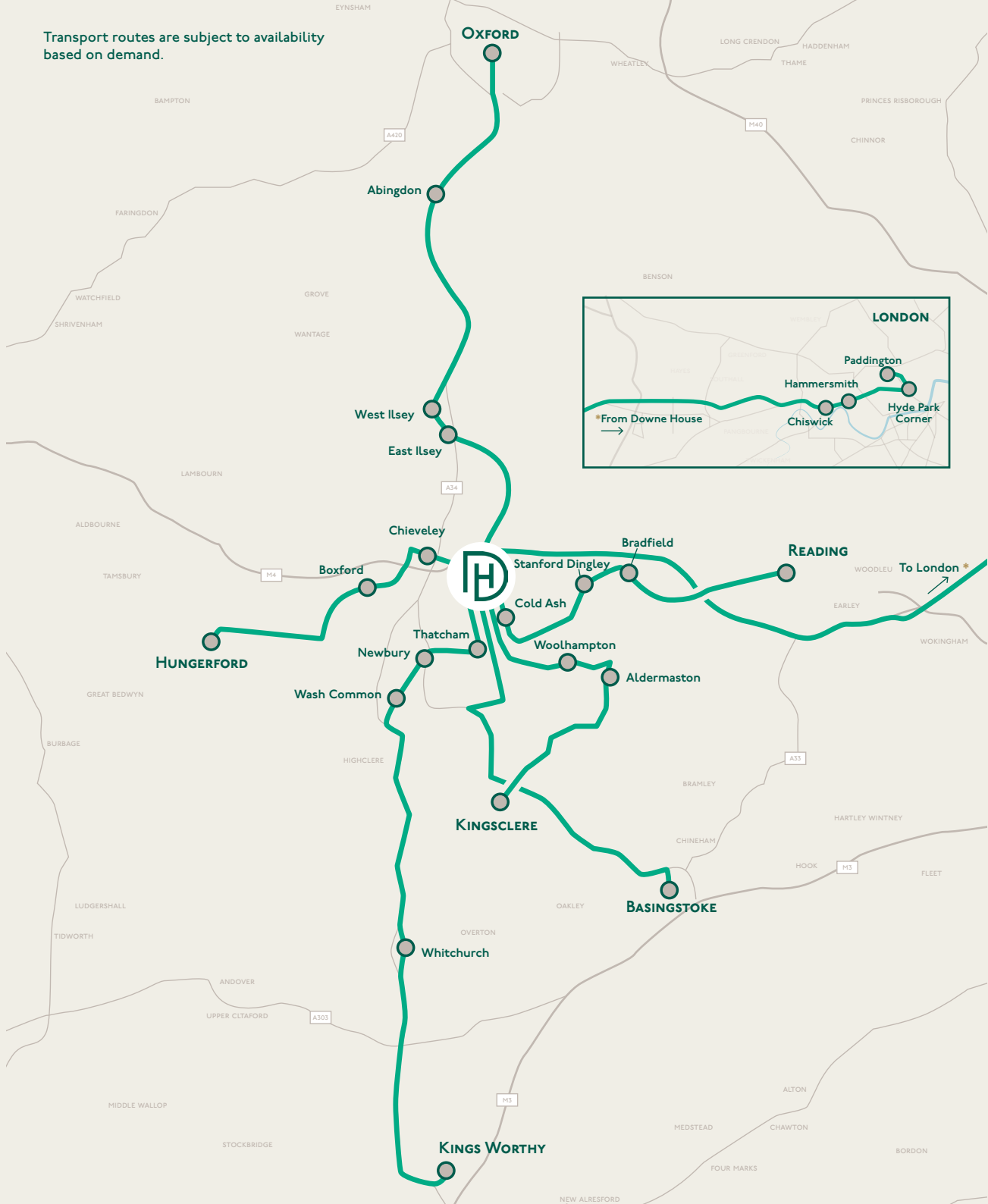
How to Book

Scan the QR code or go to
downehouse.vectare.co.uk



Make your booking and get instant confirmation.

Contact Vectare via the website if you have any questions.



Timetables

Basingstoke

Zone	Stop	AM (Mon-Sat)	PM (Mon-Fri)	PM (Sat)
3	Basingstoke Railway Station (Stop Y) 	07:20	18:40	13:40
-	Downe House School	08:00	18:00	13:00

Hungerford

Zone	Stop	AM (Mon-Sat)	PM (Mon-Fri)	PM (Sat)
2	Wheatsheaf, Hungerford	07:23	18:37	13:37
2	Dobbies, Garden Centre	07:29	18:31	13:31
1	The Boxford Pub, Boxford	07:41	18:19	13:19
1	Ye Olde Red Lion, Chieveley	07:50	18:10	13:10
-	Downe House School	08:00	18:00	13:00

Kingsclere

Zone	Stop	AM (Mon-Sat)	PM (Mon-Fri)	PM (Sat)
2	Fawconer Road, Kingsclere	07:22	18:38	13:38
2	The Street, Aldermaston	07:36	18:24	13:24
2	Aldermaston Wharf	07:40	18:20	13:20
2	The Angel	07:45	18:15	13:15
1	Harts Hill Foot	07:52	18:08	13:08
1	Thatcham Park School	07:53	18:07	13:07
-	Downe House School	08:00	18:00	13:00

London

Zone	Stop	Inbound	Midweek Outbound	Sat Outbound
London	Paddington Station ➡ / Eastbourne Terrace (Stop E) 🚶	06:30	19:00	18:00
London	Hyde Park Corner Station (Stop M) 🚶	06:45	18:45	17:45
London	Hammersmith Bus Station (Stop H)	06:50	18:30	17:30
London	Gunnersbury Station	07:39	18:15	17:15
-	Downe House School	08:15	17:30	16:30

Times of the London Bus will vary to accommodate Short Exeats and holidays

Oxford

Zone	Stop	AM (Mon-Sat)	PM (Mon-Fri)	PM (Sat)
3	St. Clements Roundabout	07:00	19:00	14:00
3	Redbridge Park and Ride	07:16	18:44	13:44
3	Sunningwell Turn	07:26	18:34	13:34
2	The Swan Hotel, East Ilsley	07:44	18:16	13:16
-	Downe House School	08:00	18:00	13:00

Winchester

Zone	Stop	AM (Mon-Sat)	PM (Mon-Fri)	PM (Sat)
3	Starbucks, A272	07:00	19:00	14:00
2	Starbucks, Tot Hill Services	07:30	18:30	13:30
1	Newbury Rugby Football Club	07:39	18:21	13:21
1	Mountbatten Close Roundabout	07:50	18:10	13:10
-	Downe House School	08:00	18:00	13:00

Reading Station

Zone	Stop	AM (Mon-Sat)	PM (Mon-Fri)	PM (Sat)
3	Reading Station (Stop EK) ➡	07:15	18:45	13:45
3	Oxford Road, Reading	07:35	18:30	13:30
2	Police Station, Pangbourne 🚶	07:40	18:25	13:25
2	Bradfield College, Bradfield 🚶	07:50	18:15	13:15
1	The Blade Bone	07:55	18:10	13:10
-	Downe House School	08:00	18:00	13:00

🚶 Request stop

Fares

	Price Per Journey	
	Regular Travel	Ad Hoc
London Zone	£16	
Zone 1	£5.20	£7.28
Zone 2	£8.40	£11.76
Zone 3	£12.60	£17.64

Terms & Conditions

1. This agreement is made between all school bus passengers, their parents and Downe House in order to provide safe, comfortable and civilised journeys for all passengers.
2. Arrangements for pupils' journeys to and from the school are the responsibility of their parents. To assist with discharging this responsibility, Downe House provides a transport service.
3. Transport on the school bus service must be arranged in advance. If you wish to use the school bus service on an ad hoc basis, or to vary the details of your bus travel as a one-off, you should book travel via the website prior to travel. Payment for using the service is required before the first day of term and can be made at the time of booking, after which your child's name will be added to the bus register. Bookings are to be made online via downehouse.vectare.co.uk
4. Bookings on the school bus service are nonrefundable in the event of a pupil failing to travel.
5. It will be the parents' responsibility to inform the school via the 'Contact Us' form on the website if they no longer wish to use the school bus service. A half term's notice must be given by a parent prior to the removal of a pupil from the school bus service (apart from an ad-hoc journey). If an ad hoc journey is cancelled with more than 24 hours' notice the booking can be transferred to another journey.
6. No pupil is permitted to travel on the school bus service if not pre-booked for that bus. Other arrangements for journeys to and from school must be made by them or their parents. Pupils must travel to and from Downe House in full school uniform or a full school PE kit (except on approved non-uniform days).
7. Pupils should be at the bus stop five minutes before the scheduled time of departure to ensure they don't miss the service. In the evening, parents should be at the bus stop five minutes before the estimated time of arrival to collect a passenger.
8. Good conduct is required at all times. Bullying, shouting, use of foul language, dropping litter, eating, playing music, or any other misbehaviour is strictly forbidden.
9. Except when embarking or disembarking, all passengers must remain seated with their seatbelts fastened correctly.
10. Whilst on a school bus, all passengers must accept without question the authority of a transport company official or school member of staff who may ask them to obey any reasonable instruction such as to pick up litter, desist from certain actions or to move to a different seat.
11. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in disciplinary action, including temporary or permanent withdrawal of permission to use the school bus service.
12. Downe House aims for 95% of journeys to operate within the transport industry window of tolerance of one minute early to five minutes late, however, timings may vary due to traffic conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Drivers will not wait past the scheduled departure time. This will not apply to the afternoon journeys due to having estimated journey times that will change on a daily basis.
13. Passengers may request to transfer their booking to a different bus route, subject to availability. Where the amended route has a higher fare, the difference must be paid at the time of the change. If the amended route is cheaper than the original booking, no refund will be issued.



Produced by Vectare for School © Vectare 2025. Timetable, route and fare information is correct as of July 2025.

This guide is produced for information only. We cannot be held liable for any errors or omissions or for any loss or damages caused, howsoever arising and including consequential losses, as a result of the use of this Guide. Please note that routes are subject to change.