

Lancashire County Council
School Transport Policy and Guidance
As of 17th August 2020
Covid -19 Guidance to Schools

Please note: Government guidance changes as the pandemic progresses and the information below is based on the current guidance and may be updated.

You can help control coronavirus and travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can. Where this is not possible, use public transport or drive.

Please note the distinction between dedicated school transport and wider public transport:

- Dedicated school transport- services that are used only to carry students to school.
- Wider public transport services- services which are used by students as well as by the general public.

Pupils on dedicated school transport services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for these two types of transport are different. This guidance is primarily aimed at dedicated school transport usage.

Please note, parents/carers must be advised that students must not board home to school transport if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). If a student develops symptoms whilst at school or their place of education, they will be sent home. They must not travel on home to school transport. The school or place of education should contact the parent or carer who should make arrangements for the student's journey home.

Social distancing, face coverings and bubbles

- On dedicated school transport social distancing will not apply from the autumn term.
- It is now the law that children and young people aged 11 years and over must wear a face covering on public transport. This law does not apply to dedicated school transport. However, national government guidance states that local authorities recommend people aged 11 years and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school or college from the start of the autumn term, understanding various exemptions. A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings are available for parents and carers to buy. A scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering may also be used but these must securely fit round the side of the face. Face coverings may be particularly useful where measures such as distancing and sitting in bubbles or year groups are not possible. They also may help students to feel more confident about using home to school transport, and parents to feel more confident about their child using home to school transport.
- It is recommended that students travel with their own sanitising hand gel as this is unlikely to be available on board.
- Students should be encouraged to carry tissues on home to school transport. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is very important. Tissues will need to be disposed of in a covered bin. Schools should have a suitable disposal process on arrival, in line with their process for disposing of face coverings.
- Passenger assistants will not necessarily require personal protective equipment on dedicated school transport, even if they are not able to distance from students but face coverings will be recommended.
- It is advised that there is no eating or drinking on board.

- Students should try to talk at low levels and refrain from shouting.

School bus fares/passes and test and trace

- All students will be required to show their valid pass/season ticket or pay their exact fare from the autumn term.
- It has always been imperative that students only use the service that is shown on their pass/season ticket. It is more so important that they continue to follow this rule for test and trace purposes.
- Schools have been asked to keep daily records of students who have paid a fare on board the bus and which service number they used. Consistency is very important for test and trace purposes in case there is a COVID-19 related incident and the school needs information. Students should refrain from changing services during the same day- i.e try to use the same service to and from school.
- It is also important that the correct fare is used in order to minimise cash handling. Please see below for fare prices.

	Single	Return
Journeys up to 3miles £1.60 £3.00	£1.60	£3.30
Journeys between 3-8 miles £2.30 £4.10	£2.30	£4.10
Journeys over 8 miles £2.80 £5.20	£2.80	£5.20

- Where dedicated school transport is shared with students attending different schools students should try to sit together based on the school that they are attending and abide by the other principles within this document. If possible children should also sit within their school bubble.

Wider public transport services

- Social distancing and the mandatory wearing of face coverings of those people 11 years and over still applies on wider public transport which is obviously challenging for students who travel to school by this means. If a student uses a public transport service which is used by students as well as by the general public they must follow the guidance for passengers set by government which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-forpassengers>

- The county council has been working with schools to survey parents and students to understand the demand for public transport amongst students. The survey results have been provided to public transport operators so that they can attempt to understand what safety measures could be put in place and deal with the capacity. Students that use these services should abide by national guidance and check with their operator for more specific information. In some cases forecast demand on public transport may mean that the county council supplements these services with extra dedicated school transport services to increase capacity. Schools will be provided information about these services if this is the case.

Active travel

- Schools and colleges should encourage parents, staff and pupils to walk or cycle to school where it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Antisocial behaviour

- We do not expect drivers to police pupil behaviour. The driver should be able to focus on driving the vehicle safely.
- If a student fails to comply at any point during the journey, or the driver has concerns about the conduct of a student, they must report this to their manager who must then report this to the county council and the school so that appropriate action can be taken.
- This guidance has been issued to help keep students and drivers safe during the journey.
- Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring children understand how to use transport safely, and children themselves are responsible for acting upon this, where they are able to.
- It is extremely important that guidelines are followed to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Operators have been asked to advise the county council of breaches of guidelines. Persistent breaches by a student may result in a refusal to carry them.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the safety of school transport services in Lancashire.