

25.08.2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

Covid -19 Guidance to Students and Parents on School Transport

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

The government is asking us to help control coronavirus and travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can. Where this is not possible, the government says to use public transport or drive.

The guidance in this document is in relation to the dedicated school transport and wider public transport:

- Dedicated school transport- services that are used only to carry students to school (Marsh bus, Bowerham bus and school minibus)
- 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. This means that the advice for these two types of transport are different. This guidance is primarily aimed at dedicated school transport usage.

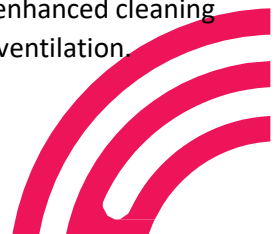
Please note, students must not board home to school transport if they or a member of their household has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). If a student develops symptoms whilst at school, they will be collected from school by their parent. They must not travel on home to school transport. We will contact the parent or carer who should make arrangements for the student's safe 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.
- Used face coverings should be stored appropriately in plastic bags until they can be washed. Alternatively, non reusable face coverings should be disposed of appropriately on arrival into school (bins are provided). Guidance on how to wear and make face coverings can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>
- When queuing for the bus, 1m plus social distancing should be maintained where possible.
- Standing is not permitted whilst the vehicle is in motion. Students should remain seated until they leave the vehicle.
- Students leave the bus from the front first to reduce passenger contact.
- Please note it is not mandatory that bus drivers wear face coverings whilst working although the county council will make recommendations and the operators will take this into consideration when completing their risk assessment.

Hygiene

- Bus operators have risk assessments in place to ensure safe services for their passengers as well as their staff. These risk assessments are regularly monitored and reviewed. Operators will be conducting enhanced cleaning regimes to ensure COVID-19 hygiene standards are met and windows/air vents left open for ventilation.



- Personal hygiene is very important. One of the key messages from Public Health England is that we should all be washing or sanitising our hands regularly. Hand sanitising gel should have an alcohol base of a minimum 60%.
- 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. Tissue will be disposed of in a covered bin on arrival to school (bins provided).
- There is no eating or drinking on board.
- Students should 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 is important that the correct fare is used in order to minimise cash handling. Fare prices: Single Return Journeys up to 3miles £1.60, return £3.00.
- House Tutors will keep daily records of students who have used the bus service for Test and Trace purposes.
- If there are any positive cases within the school, as well as informing the Local Health Prevention Team and following any specific school COVID-19 guidance, school will also inform School Bus Managers immediately so that appropriate action can be taken with regards to dedicated school transport i.e service amendments.

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.
- If a student uses a public transport service 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>

Safe and appropriate behaviour

- We do not expect drivers to police pupil behaviour. The driver should be able to focus on driving the vehicle safely.
- Everyone on board the bus has a responsibility to help keep students and drivers safe during the journeys.
- Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring children understand how to use transport safely, and children themselves are responsible for acting upon this.
- It is extremely important that guidelines are followed to minimise the risk of COVID19 transmission. Operators have been asked to advise the county council of breaches of guidelines.
- Persistent breaches in behaving safely and appropriately by a student may result in a refusal to carry them on board the bus service.

For everyone's safety it is vital that we work together. I appreciate your support in communicating the importance of safe behaviours with your child.

If you have any queries about your child's use of transport during the autumn term, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Victoria O'Farrell
Vice Principal

Principal:
Dr Walmsley

