



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

25th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

School Bus Travel Advice from Sept 2020

The following guidelines have been passed on by LCC with regards safe travel to and from school.

You can help control coronavirus and travel safely by walking and cycling, if you can. Guidance says that all journeys of less than 2 miles should be walked or cycled. Where this is not possible, you may have to use dedicated school bus transport provided by LCC or the 46x provided by us or drive students to and from school. Use of public transport services is discouraged due to the cross-contamination risk with the general public. Students on dedicated school transport services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent in the make-up of the cohort reducing cross-contamination risk.

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. We will contact the parent or carer who will need to make arrangements for the student's journey home.

On dedicated school transport social distancing will not apply from the autumn term.

However, local authorities recommend people aged 11 years and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated school transport to secondary school from the start of the autumn term. Exemptions would need to be backed up with medical evidence.

A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. Reusable or single-use face coverings can be used. All face coverings must securely fit round the side of the face. Evidence shows that mitigations (face coverings, screens, cleaning and ventilation) can reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. It is for this reason, even though research shows that overall risk to children and young people from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low, that the county council is recommending the use of face coverings for students 11 years and over on dedicated school transport to secondary school. A clean face covering should be worn on each journey. 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 in the bins provided at school. This removal, storage /disposal should be followed in every case by a handwashing / sanitisation process on arrival in school.

Guidance on how to wear and make face coverings can be found via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-andhow-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-yourown>

Use of the school bus should involve orderly social distanced queuing at bus stops and in the bus park at school, sanitisation of hands on entry and departure to / from the bus, (some



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

busses have hand sanitiser available at the entrance door, but not all may, so students are advised to carry their own hand sanitiser in addition) and to sit in year group bubbles as much as possible to reduce cross-contamination risk. Over the first week or so, staff will supervise the boarding of buses at the end of the day and try to ensure year group bubbles are sitting together on the buses going from Y7 nearest the front to Year 11 nearest the back. On the two double decker services, Y7/8 should be downstairs with Y9-11 upstairs following the same year group order. Mixing of year groups sitting together on

buses is to be avoided. This will also be important if we ever need to use track and trace measures. No food or drink should be consumed on bus services either to limit the risk.

Any face- to-face seating will have been removed/marked out of use by operators.

Standing is not permitted whilst the vehicle is in motion. Students should remain seated until they leave the vehicle and not move around at any time during the journey to reduce risk.

When leaving the bus, ideally let passengers leave the bus from the front first to reduce passenger contact. Operators will be conducting enhanced cleaning regimes to ensure COVID-19 hygiene standards are met and windows/air vents left open for ventilation. Students must not close windows purposely left open.

All students will be required to show their valid pass/season ticket or pay their exact fare from the autumn term. Students must only use the service that is shown on their pass for test and trace purposes. Anyone who pays onto a bus service daily will be required to log this with school on return to school in September for the same reasons. Students must not change services during the day (different service coming to school than going home on). If paying on the service, please have the correct fare available to limit the exchange of cash.

Normal school bus behaviour policies will also be in operation in addition to these extensive COVID guidelines. If a student fails to comply at any point during the journey, or the driver / bus monitors has concerns about the conduct of a student, the school will investigate these concerns and apply appropriate sanctions.

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring children understand how to use transport safely, and children themselves are responsible for acting upon this advice. These rules will also be re-emphasized in school.

Thank you for your forbearance with these additional rules to try and ensure that all students can access school and education as easily as possible with the smallest amount of risk to health and wellbeing.

Kind regards

Mr G Felvus

Assistant Headteacher