



St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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Dear Parent/Carer

We have finally received the information relating to dedicated school bus services for September from TfGM. It is very disappointing to find that **NO additional services** have been provided to increase capacity for our pupils despite sharing the results of our survey conducted at the end of the Summer Term.

TfGM have advised us they are following government guidelines as detailed below:

Dedicated school transport, including statutory provision:

Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of two metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a 'one metre plus' approach where this is not possible, will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport.

The approach to dedicated transport should align as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in this document and with the approach being adopted for your school. It is important to consider:-

- how pupils are grouped together on transport, where possible this should reflect the bubbles that are adopted within school
- use of hand sanitiser upon boarding and/or disembarking
- additional cleaning of vehicles
- organised queuing and boarding where possible
- distancing within vehicles wherever possible
- the use of face coverings for children (except those under the age of 11), where appropriate, for example, if they are likely to come into very close contact with people outside of their group or who they do not normally meet

Full guidance should be read prior to your child's use of school transport:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>

As the allocation of services are out of the school's control we will continue to negotiate with the Local Authority, TfGM and MerseyTravel to try and secure further capacity. The Government have announced additional funding to support pupils returning to school, however we have been advised this is to support commercial routes and increase capacity on public services.

The new timetables are attached and will also be available on the school website. We have included capacity for each service however, please be aware this includes standing.

Our initial survey conducted in July, indicated over 330 pupils would struggle to get to school if there were no school services, this does not include responses from 300 pupils! This is a worrying indication based on the capacity available to our school. Although based on our survey this should be sufficient, the reality of consistent overcrowding on some services continue to be a problem.

To establish demand for each route [please can you complete a further survey by following the link below or accessing via our website](#). This does **NOT** guarantee a place on any service and should **ONLY** be completed if your child has **NO ALTERNATIVE** but to use a SCHOOL BUS. This **DOES NOT** include PUBLIC BUSES. Services will continue to operate but social distancing remains on these services and if full, boarding will be denied.

The survey will close on Friday 28 August 2020 at noon.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aWzIPd0lmUiJCLK7g87zyZyfFtweWotlmPkJY_9c605URFdVSDU5Rk1KTDdZOE51TFY4Uk1HOUxTRy4u

The Government continues to promote alternative ways of travelling to school including walking and cycling. One mile is considered an acceptable walking distance (15-20 mins) for pupils and I am working with TfGM to produce a map highlighting safe walking routes to school. We have nominated The Gerrard Centre Car Park on Gerrard St and St Oswald's Church Car Park as our designated dropping off points for parents bringing pupils to school by car. This will help prevent congestion around the school, in particular Rookery Avenue, Vicarage Road and Warrington Road.

There will be a variety of information available to read on our website provided by TfGM to guide pupils and parents if they have no alternative but to use this method of transport.

Please be assured we will continue to monitor and evaluate services to ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils.

Yours faithfully

S Chapman

S CHAPMAN
School Business Manager