

TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER UPDATE

For information on transport and coronavirus, TfGM have a dedicated webpage: <https://tfgm.com/coronavirus>, which is updated regularly.

There is also a dedicated travel advice page for the return to school at www.tfgm.com/schools

TfGM social media accounts:

Twitter: @OfficialTfGM

Facebook page: facebook.com/OfficialTfGM

LinkedIn page: linkedin.com/company/transportforgreatermanchester

Instagram: @OfficialTfGM

Metrolink Twitter: @MCRMetroLink

Since lockdown at the end of March, transport across Greater Manchester has changed significantly, and it won't be back to normal when the new school term begins.

It's important that you plan ahead for how your child will get to and from school and check the latest travel advice. You should also apply now for any tickets or passes you may need.

Please consider whether your child can walk or cycle to school – it can be a safe and healthy way for pupils to make shorter trips. New cycling and walking routes have been put in place across the region as part of the #SafeStreetsSaveLives project to make it safer and easier than ever to get about on foot or by bike. For the latest information on these improvements, visit the tfgm.com/safestreets.

If your child needs to use public transport to travel to school, you should be aware that space may be limited on many services and timetables may have changed. TfGM's Yellow School Bus services will be running without the usual pass system in place, meaning they will operate as regular school buses so any schoolchild can use them.

When travelling to school your child should check timetables in advance, allow extra time for their journeys in case their first service is full and be patient with other passengers.

They also need to follow safe travel guidance and take responsibility for keeping themselves and other passengers safe:

- Wear a face covering on-board and in stations and interchanges, unless they're under 11 or are exempt for another reason;
- Keep their distance from other passengers where possible;
- Clean their hands regularly; and
- Use contactless payment or exact change only where possible.

Children aged 11 to 16 must have an igo card to travel using a child ticket on buses in Greater Manchester. It can also be used as proof of age for travelling by tram, and child Metrolink tickets are available for igo online at getmethere.com. Some bus tickets are only available to buy using igo as a smart card, even for those under 11, as tickets are loaded onto the igo card instead of giving a paper ticket. The card costs £10 and is valid until 31 August after the child's 16th birthday.

If you have to drive your child to school and/or pick them up, please consider parking further away and walking the last part of your journey. TfGM has created a Back to School hub at tfgm.com/schools where parents and pupils can find the latest information on timetables, tickets, changes to Yellow School Bus services and further information on cycling and walking.