

**Updates and information can be found on the Local Offer website page here**  
- <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/home-to-school-transport/home-to-school-transport-news/>

### **Travel Assist Opening Times during the Holiday**

During the period 20 December 2021 to 3 January 2022 inclusive Travel Assist will provide telephone support between the hours of 10am and 4pm on working weekdays. Outside of these hours please contact Travel Assist via email [travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk).

### **Possible changes to transport arrangements at the start of next term due to COVID-19**

At the moment, we plan to run Home to School Transport as usual from the first day of term in January, however please continue to check the Local Offer website for news and updates on the service in case of further government changes to COVID rules or school closures.

### **Home to School Transport - Severe Weather Information**

In the event of severe weather conditions (e.g. snow, storms, floods) it may be necessary to either change or cancel Home to School Transport arrangements for safety reasons. Wherever possible, operators will attempt to operate unless safety concerns deem it not feasible to do so.

If a school has not already announced its closure, then it is an individual driver's decision as to whether they can operate or take a certain route, as they are the only responsible party who is aware of all the facts. Contractors must inform Headteachers and the Travel Assist of their decision immediately.

It is vital that they put the safety of the students first and this means that we cannot insist that the transport runs, or that a child or young person is taken directly to their home if there is no safe route available. If you are advised by the transport company that your child's morning journey has been cancelled, you should assume that the afternoon journey will also be cancelled, unless you hear otherwise.

Parents/carers who have chosen to take their children to school during bad weather should ensure they have confirmed return transport arrangements for their child before leaving them at school. Contractors will not be expected to transport a child taken into school by a parent home if an assessment considers an afternoon journey inoperable.

Transport is arranged to run at set times and therefore if a school decides to close early due to adverse weather, it may not be possible for transport companies to arrive earlier than normal. Therefore, the school will need to ensure that students are supervised until they are collected. If a parent/carer does not want their child to attend school

during bad weather they should contact the transport company to inform them at the earliest opportunity.

In bad weather conditions, parents/carers are advised to regularly check the [City Council](#) and the [Local Offer](#) website and to listen to local radio. If parents/carers suspect that the school is closed but there is nothing on the website or the radio, they should contact the school directly before travelling. Parents/carers should also contact the school if they are unable to travel due to bad weather, but the school is open.

Travel Assist will publish information on the Local Offer website here - <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/home-to-school-transport/home-to-school-transport-news/> and ask schools to send messages to parents and carers where possible.

With Kind Regards

**Rachel Edwards**

Communications & Engagement Lead

SEND, Wellbeing & Inclusion

07786 082657

[www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk)