

Home to School Transport Information for Parents and Carers - Covid-19

Thank you to all parents and carers for their ongoing support and co-operation.

This information is provided to give you updates about travel arrangements from 8th March 2021. Transport operators have been written to separately.

Parents/Carers are asked to follow the Government guidance below to help keep their children and staff safe.

General advice to Parents/Carers

To help keep all passengers and staff safe, drivers and guides must not report to work and pupils must not travel if:

- They are experiencing any [coronavirus symptoms](#)
- They are self-isolating as a result of coronavirus symptoms or sharing a [household or support bubble with somebody with symptoms](#)
- They are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) and have been advised to shield
- They have been advised by the [NHS test and trace service](#) to self-isolate.

Additional Cleaning and Hygiene Measures

Transport operators have been provided with requirements for additional cleaning and hygiene measures to keep all on transport safe. Operators have been reminded that parents/carers and schools put their trust in us to safely transport the children in our care and appreciate the increased anxiety under the current circumstances.

Operators are required to ensure that their vehicles are cleaned more regularly than usual with disinfectant. This must include:

- Cleaning of all touchpoints at the end of each route.
- A more thorough clean at the end of each day.

In addition to this, transport staff must ensure they wash their hands more frequently than usual with soap and water or sanitiser. Sanitiser should be used after securing pupils seatbelts on SEN transport for example.

Parents/Carers are advised that pupils should wash their hands with soap and water or sanitiser before getting on transport. Operators have been asked to ensure that sanitiser is available on all vehicles although some parents may prefer to provide their own.

Face coverings are not mandated for pupils travelling on SEN transport.

Route Details and Passenger Lists

All pupils must be collected in accordance with the passenger list provided. Parents/Carers are advised that pupils need to remain on the same route wherever possible.

At each stop, the driver has been requested to:

- Ensure hand sanitiser is available on all vehicles.
- Ensure social distancing is maintained while queuing, boarding and alighting a vehicle where possible.
- Advise pupils when they are able to **individually** board. Pupils must be instructed to board the rearmost appropriate seat. When the driver is satisfied that pupils have boarded and are sat in the rearmost appropriate seats, as instructed, the driver should commence to the next stop.
- **For Test and Trace purposes, the driver must be able to advise who has travelled on each date through marking off pupils on their passenger list and making sure they each go to their allocated seat (i.e. the rearmost seat).**
- Transport operators must ensure good ventilation of fresh air wherever possible by keeping windows or roof lights open.

Continuity of staff

In order to maintain continuity of drivers and guides where possible, each operator has been asked to take measures to reduce the risk of the overall workforce being impacted should any individual member of staff display symptoms.

Where staff may be unavailable e.g. due to displaying symptoms, parents/carers will appreciate that there will be a change of staff. Operators have been asked to keep parents/carers informed where this is the case.

We hope this information is helpful. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

Travel Assist