

COVID-19 FAQ's for School transport

Who will be eligible for school transport?

School transport entitlement will continue to be in line with guidance from Welsh Government. However due to reduced capacity we urge parents to follow the WG advice and try wherever possible to take their own children to and from school, this will ensure that transport will be available for those most in need

How will social distancing be kept on school transport?

As indicated by WG on Tuesday 9th June 2020 it is virtually impossible to maintain social distancing on public transport, therefore they issued advice that face coverings should be worn at all times when travelling on public transport. We will have the exact same issues on school transport and although we will be ensuring as much distance between passengers as practically possible this may not always be 2m and therefore we would advise all pupils to wear face coverings to ensure not only their own safety but that of everyone travelling on the transport. Pupils will only be able to use those seats clearly marked as available with appropriate signage. Any pupils found to be moving around the vehicles, changing seats and not obeying the social distancing rules may lose their right to travel.

Please see link to WG guidance on how to make a 3 ply face mask:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/how-to-make-a-3-layer-face-covering.pdf>

How many children will be able to travel on each bus/coach?

The number of pupils that will be able to travel at any one time will be significantly reduced due to social distancing (approx. 20%). For example, on a 53-seater coach only 12 pupils will be able to travel.

How will you make sure that all children that need to use school transport can do so?

The availability of suitable vehicles at school start and finish times is going to be limited. We are therefore going to be reliant on schools to let us know which pupils will be attending school on which days. We will do our best to arrange transport around each school's needs, but this is going to be challenging depending on how each school decides to implement the phased return.

Each school will need to confirm which pupils, that are eligible for free transport, are going to attend on each day and to confirm that they will want to travel on the school bus. We suspect many parents will decide to transport their own children to school rather than use the school transport we provide.

We will then allocate each pupil a seat on the transport route, work out the timetable and pick up order for each service, so that pupils board the bus in a set order and sit in designated seats on each vehicle.

Some buses may need to do more than one trip to get all the pupils into and out of school, so there may be staggered arrival and departure times at schools to allow for vehicle cleaning between trips.

Will there be more public transport?

At the moment, Welsh Government has not indicated that this will change to accommodate the re-opening of schools. However, we are working with the local operators to arrange for the school time journeys to be re-introduced. We anticipate that pupils wishing to travel on public transport will have to book a seat via the school.

How will transport look for special schools and those with additional learning needs?

The transport arrangements for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) will be looked at individually but it is unlikely that we will be able to provide transport using the same 4-seater cars that have been used to-date for many pupils. Subject to risk assessments it is probable that larger vehicles will be required and that passenger assistants will be required to wear PPE due to the need to be in close proximity to the children to carry out their role.

Can I still buy a spare seat on a school bus?

Unfortunately the sale of spare seats has been suspended for the remainder of the 2019/2020 academic year. If you have already purchased a spare seat you will need to contact the operator to discuss how you will receive a refund.

The charging for concessionary passes due to be implemented on 1st April 2020 has been suspended until further notice