

Appendix 4: Transport

Social distancing has significantly reduced available transport capacity. This guidance sets out a new framework for supporting transport to and from education provisions from the autumn term.

We are making a distinction between dedicated school transport and wider public transport:

- by dedicated school transport, we mean services that are used only to carry pupils to school. This includes statutory home to school transport, but may also include some existing or new commercial travel routes, where they carry school pupils only
- by public transport services, we mean routes which are also used by the general public

Dedicated school transport, including statutory provision

Learners 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 and with the approach being adopted by this setting.

It is important to consider:

- how pupils are grouped together on transport, where possible this should reflect the bubbles that are adopted within sessions.
- 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

Wider public transport

In many areas, learners normally make extensive use of the wider public transport system, particularly public buses. We expect that public transport capacity will continue to be constrained in the autumn term. Its use by learners, particularly in peak times, should be kept to an absolute minimum.

Our session times work to stagger our start and finish times and avoid peak hours as being asked of schools to consider.

Schools should encourage learners, parents and staff to walk or cycle to school if at all possible. For some families, driving will also be an option.

However, these options will not be suitable for all. The Department for Transport is asking local authorities to:

- urgently work with schools to survey parents on their typical routes to school and potential alternatives
- consider a range of options for shifting demand for public transport onto other modes
- consider using traffic demand management approaches in order to ensure that children are able to attend school from the start of the autumn term

Public transport

You must wear a [face covering](#) on public transport and in substantially enclosed areas of transport hubs in England. You will be breaking the law if you fail to do so and could be fined.

Some people [don't have to wear a face covering](#) for health, age or equality reasons.

You should remove your face covering if asked to do so by a police officer or other relevant person.

It is important to wash or sanitise your hands before and after touching your face covering.

If you need to dispose of your face covering, use 'black bag' waste bins or litter bins. You should not use a recycling bin.

Plan your journey

Before and during your journey, check with your transport operator for the latest travel advice on your route:

- [bus, coach, tram and ferry operators](#)
- [National Rail](#)
- [TfL](#)

Travel may take longer than normal on some routes due to social distancing measures. Allow more time if your journey involves changes between different forms of transport.

If you can:

- travel at off-peak times
- use quieter stations and stops – get off a stop early if it's less busy
- keep changes to a minimum, for example, between bus and train
- walk for more of your journey, for example the first or last mile
- book your tickets online in advance or pay by contactless

Consider making a [list of items to take with you](#) and minimise the luggage you take.

On your journey

You must wear a [face covering](#) on public transport and in substantially enclosed areas of transport hubs in England. You will be breaking the law if you fail to do so and could be fined.

Some people [don't have to wear a face covering](#) for health, age or equality reasons.

The risk of transmission is small at 2 metres and where possible, you should maintain 2 metres distance.

If you cannot keep a 2 metre distance, reduce the risk to yourself and others by maintaining a 1 metre distance where possible, and taking suitable precautions.

Help keep yourself, other passengers and transport staff safe by taking the following precautions:

- ensure you maintain [social distancing](#), where possible, including at busy entrances, exits, under canopies, bus stops, platforms or outside of stations
- limit the number of people that you come into contact with, for example avoid peak travel
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly
- avoid touching your face
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- touch as few surfaces as possible
- stay outdoors, rather than indoors, where possible
- minimise the time spent close to other people, where possible
- avoid loud talking, shouting or singing
- dispose of waste safely, including items such as used disposable face coverings
- be prepared to queue or take a different entrance or exit at stations

- wait for passengers to get off first before you board
- wait for the next service if you cannot safely keep your distance on board a train, bus or coach
- avoid consuming food and drink on public transport, where possible
- respect other people's space while travelling
- be aware of pregnant, older and disabled people who may require a seat or extra space
- be aware that not all disability is visible and [some people may be exempt from wearing a face covering](#)

Treat transport staff with respect and follow instructions from your transport operator. This may include:

- notices about which seats to use or how to queue
- additional screens, barriers or floor markings
- requests to board through different doors or to move to less busy areas

Seek assistance if you need it

If you require assistance when travelling, contact your transport operator as you would normally do.

If any problems arise or you feel ill during your journey, speak to a member of transport staff. In the case of an emergency, contact the emergency services as you normally would.

If you need help, try to [keep a suitable distance from members of staff](#). If this isn't possible, try to avoid physical contact and keep the time you spend near staff as short as possible.

Children

Where travel is necessary, consider whether children could walk or cycle, accompanied by a responsible adult or carer, where appropriate.

[Social distancing applies to children](#) as well as adults. Children should keep their distance from people who are not in their household or [support bubble](#), while on public transport and in enclosed or substantially enclosed public areas of transport hubs. If this isn't possible children should:

- avoid physical contact
- face away from others
- keep the time spent near others as short as possible

Children under the age of 3 should not wear face coverings. Children aged from 3 to 10 can wear face coverings, but they are not required to.

If you are the responsible adult or carer travelling with children, please help them:

- minimise the surfaces they touch
- maintain their distance from others
- wear their face covering
- wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise your hands as soon as possible after the end of your journey
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Completing your journey

When finishing your journey:

- consider walking or cycling from the station or stop you arrived at
- wash your hands for at least 20 seconds or sanitise your hands as soon as possible - do the same for children who have travelled with you