




Parent/Carer

 transport.contracts@telford.gov.uk

 telford.gov.uk

 facebook.com/TelfordWrekin

 twitter.com/TelfordWrekin

 01952 384384

Date: 22/07/2020

Our ref: DS/klb

Your ref:

Dear Parent/Carer

Home to School transport from September 2020

Following recent guidance issued by the Government on home to school transport in the Autumn term, this letter is to advise you of the changes that will happen to support a safe return to education.

Children travel to school in a variety of ways including cycling/walking, dedicated school transport, public transport and some by car. We encourage and promote children to continue to walk or cycle to school wherever possible. However, where parents choose to travel by car we encourage considerate parking as we are concerned with the potential for increased congestion at school gates as well as parking issues and air pollution.

From 2nd September all our home to school transport routes will be operating the same routes and times as they did prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, in accordance with government guidance, we are asking any pupil using school transport to follow these five important steps for safe travel:

- Keep a safe social distance while waiting for transport;
- Pupils over the age of 11 should wear a face covering (this is already mandatory on public transport and is recommended on school transport) Children with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities [will not be required to wear a face covering](#)¹, however it is recommended where possible;
- Sanitise hands before getting on and off the vehicle;
- Dispose of litter responsibly;
- If possible use the same seat for each journey;

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#exemptions-face-coverings>

² <https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20466/travelling-to-school/10/home-to-school-transport>



We are working with schools to put in place appropriate queuing arrangements along with measures for picking up and dropping off children at school, provision for hand washing and disposal of litter. If you are in receipt of a travel pass this will be issued as usual in the next few weeks along with supporting information for safe travel. We will also be publishing information on our [home to school webpage](#)² during the school holidays to encourage people to travel as safely as possible.

Since April 2020, all transport operators have carried out additional cleaning of vehicles to protect against Covid-19. This will continue and we will be asking transport operators to keep windows open, where possible, to increase ventilation. Drivers will also wear face coverings.

For children eligible for travel assistance who attend a specialist setting it would be helpful, where possible, for parents/carers to use a private vehicle to transport their children. If you are able to do so please contact the transport team (transport.contracts@telford.gov.uk) to discuss the financial support that may be available to fund some of the costs associated with using a private vehicle.

We know that some children travel to school by public transport. If your child normally travels to and from school by public transport, using the online link provided below, please help us by answering the following questions:

- Will your child use a public bus to get to school from September 2020? (If yes, please tell us the bus service number and the approximate time they will use the bus)
- Will your child walk or cycle instead?
- Will you arrange travel by car instead?

If your child travels to school by public transport, please could you follow this link (https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20466/travelling_to_school/10/home_to_school_transport) and provide answers to the above questions by no later than **7 August 2020**.

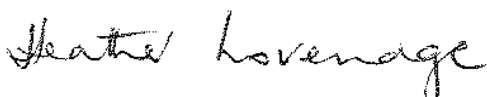
This will enable us to work with you and transport operators to ensure that those pupils who need to use public transport can continue to do so safely.

Finally, we thank you for all your support and co-operation during this challenging time. You can be assured that we will continue to follow national guidance to make school transport as safe as possible from September 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Dean Sargeant
Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services



Heather Loveridge
Director: Education & Skills

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#exemptions-face-coverings>

² https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20466/travelling_to_school/10/home_to_school_transport
