

# SEND transport update

12/07/2021



## Home to School Transport

Dear Parent or Carer

We write with further information on 'Home to School' transport to keep you up to date and let you know what you can expect from our service during the summer. The government are signalling an end to all COVID restrictions at the moment. When term resumes in September we will be returning to pre-COVID travel arrangements, so there will no longer be bubble arrangements for home to school transport. This means that passenger numbers on each vehicle will be governed by journey times and pupil needs.

We will continue to carefully follow health and safety protocols, including increased cleaning regimes on vehicles and transport staff may choose to continue to wear face coverings (drivers are not required to wear them whilst driving). We ask that pupils wash their hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser prior to boarding. In addition, if your child has any [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 or has been required to isolate, they must not travel.

### Extra cover for routes

The Council's contractors already build in contingency to cover staff sickness and vehicle breakdown. In addition, the Council is also securing a small amount of additional contingency transport capacity as requested by the Department for Education, to cover any additional transport which may be needed. In effect, from September, we are able to call on alternative providers to quickly cover for any problems, we minimise any disruption to families, passengers and schools.

Families will also be aware that the **Clean Air Zone** went live on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Families should be aware that September sees increased traffic volumes and this along with new routes people take outside the clean air zone may mean journey times take a few weeks to settle at the start of the year. This is quite normal and could be more so as some people return to offices for the first time.

Generally, these routes settle in the first few weeks of term and will ultimately lead to quicker journey times.



## What happens next?

We (either the Council or the transport operator) will be in regular touch over the coming weeks to let you know:

- Your operator details
- Your guide details
- Your route details
- Your drop off and pick up times
- Details of your meet and greet session

We would be very grateful if you would wait for us to contact you rather than contacting us.

Please also let us know of any **changes to your circumstances** so that we can adjust your arrangements as necessary.

The Home to School transport operation is very complex and details of **routes and services may change** over the summer; however, we will let you know about any changes as soon as they occur. Thank you in advance for your patience.

We are pleased to say that currently our transport is running 99.6% of all its routes on time, and we are determined to build on this improvement.

Parents and carers are also politely reminded that they need to bring their child to the agreed pick up point in the mornings.

## Get in touch

Travel Assist – Tel: 0121 303 4955

Email: [travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk)

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