

## Home to School Transport

Dear Parent or Carer

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the summer break.

Letters are currently being sent out to you with details of your child/ren's routes and pick up slots for September. You will also be contacted by your travel operator (i.e. coach or taxi company) later in the month to arrange a 'meet and greet' session where you will have an opportunity to meet your child/ren's driver and guide (where applicable) before the start of term.

During the first couple of weeks of the new term, we anticipate allowing time for routes to 'settle' as commuters return to the office and negotiate the Clean Air Zone for the first time. During this time, we will only be able to address urgent issues and pick up slots will only be changed if they impact the route or schedule or where there are absolutely exceptional circumstances around pupil need.

### COVID arrangements

From September we will no longer be operating the COVID bubble system and pre-COVID arrangements will be in place again. However, we will continue to carefully follow health and safety protocols, including increased cleaning regimes on vehicles. 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.

It is vital that all children, young people and students, including those with complex or additional health needs, are supported to continue their education and care in their education or children's social care setting, or travel arrangements where it is safe to do so.

Some children, young people and students require procedures that may generate aerosols, such as inhalers. Aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) can increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the presence of a positive case between those giving and receiving care. Please be assured that we continue to follow government guidelines in relation to this issue and adapt this guidance to meet the local and specific circumstances.

### Post 16 Transport

The deadline has now passed for applications, any late requests should be sent immediately, however transport for September cannot be guaranteed.

## Information for September

### 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, minimising disruption to families, passengers and schools.

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.

In turn, please let us know of any **changes to your circumstances** so that we can adjust your arrangements as necessary.

### Parent Transport Budget

Please note, in order to secure September payment, the deadline for submitting all paperwork for PTB applications is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

### Home to School Parent/Carer Charter

We have created a parent/carers guide for Home to School transport which explains the service in more detail and sets out what we expect from parents/carers in order that the service runs smoothly. It is available [here](#).

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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