

Home to school transport – questions and answers (March 2021)

Q. When schools open, from week commencing 8 March, will my children be able to get to school by bus?

A. The dedicated school bus services that were put in place from September 2020 will continue to run to allow children and young people to get to school or college safely and on time.

Q. Where can I find out which buses are running to my child's school?

A. Families can find all the information they need about travelling to and from school or college safely at travelsouthyorkshire.com/schooltravel

School and college bus timetables are available at travelsouthyorkshire.com/school-buses

Q. What do I need to think about to help my child to travel safely?

A. Dedicated school buses and coaches are available to help children and young people get to schools and colleges across South Yorkshire. Information about school buses, including timetables, passes, and how pupils can help everyone to travel safely, is available at travelsouthyorkshire.com/school-buses

With a MegaTravel Pass or 16-18 Travel Pass young people can pay a concessionary 80p fare per single journey by cash. Please try to have the exact change where possible. These passes also entitle young people to pre-purchase value for money tickets, such as a GetAbout ticket, which may be better value for money if they need to travel regularly. No pass means full fare.

You can apply for a pass at travelsouthyorkshire.com/en-gb/ticketsandpasses

Some coaches being used for dedicated school services do not have the technology to scan passes for cashless payment. Pupils with pre-paid tickets on their pass who are using these services should retain their proof of purchase from the online or ticket machine transaction and show this to the driver.

Q. How are you enforcing the safety measures e.g. face coverings, social distancing, seating arrangements, on board school buses?

A. Bus or coach drivers are not expected to police arrangements such as seating plans, queues, the wearing of face coverings or use of hand sanitiser. Their role is to focus on driving the vehicle safely.

We are asking parents and schools to help us to educate all children and young people about the rules in place on board school buses to keep themselves and others safe.

Department for Education guidance states that social distancing limits on capacity on dedicated school buses does not apply. In line with this guidance, pupils using a school bus should sit with people from their school 'bubble', where possible. We are also encouraging young people to regularly wash or sanitise hands, wear a face covering unless they are exempt and keep their distance on public transport and school buses, wherever possible. **Windows should be kept open to help with ventilation, wherever possible.**

You can read Government guidance about school operations and transport at www.gov.uk

Q. My child has a health condition that means they can't travel on a school bus. What can you do to help?

A. Parents with concerns about the suitability of home to school transport for medical reasons should contact their local authority education transport teams.

Q. Can SYPTE provide taxis to get my child to school?

SYPTE has used funding provided by government to provide additional school bus or coach services where local bus services are not suitable. Additional provision for individual pupils, over and above this, is not being made available.

Q. My child's home to school transport options are not suitable.

A. Planning and managing transport demand in this unprecedented situation has been complex and challenging. Together with schools, parents, operators and local authorities, we have worked hard to try and ensure every child can get to school safely, and on time.

We have encouraged schools, colleges, families and pupils to let us know if they have any issues, so we can shape future improvements. Since the start of the academic year, we have listened to concerns and, where possible, adjusted services to make sure school transport meets the needs of our customers.

Q. How long will dedicated school services be in place?

A. The Department for Education has provided funding for additional home to school transport at least until the end of this half term – until the Easter holidays.