

Date: 28-08-2020



ST HILDA'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear parent/carer,

TRAVEL INFORMATION

We have the latest update from Shane Fitzpatrick, the Interim Director of Integrated Transport. Please read it carefully if you are planning to use public transport. The dedicated school bus services solely for school use start with the letter S, so the S60 would be just for school children. Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have spoken to the LA regarding their concerns, as we have done about our concerns, your support is really appreciated.

School bus services

Dedicated school bus services are running. Social distancing is not required on these services but is encouraged.

On our usual commercial services, used by various passengers, then social distancing is still required and as a result capacity is restricted.

We will be monitoring demand and by working with operators we will be able to add some extra buses on busy routes as needed.

Our key aim is to get children and students to and from school and college safely to support the education restart.

Key advice

Please remember to follow this advice which is there to help keep everyone safe:

- Remember that children aged 11 and over must wear a face covering*
- Plan ahead and check timetables
- Leave more time for your journey in case services are busy
- Pay by contactless or buy pre-paid tickets if you can – our young people's bus Solo and Term Time Tickets are now available on [MetroSmart cards](http://www.metro-smart.org.uk/solo-term-time) (www.metro-smart.org.uk/solo-term-time)

Headteacher
Mrs J Code
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- If paying by cash, try to have the exact fare as drivers are not giving change
- Be mindful of social distancing
- Allow passengers to get off before boarding
- Some seats on the bus are not in use, please respect this. They will be clearly marked out.
- Try to travel with the same group of friends each day and where possible sit in the same seats.
- Be respectful to other passengers and staff
- Do not travel if you have any symptoms of Covid-19, or family members are showing symptoms

**For exemptions please visit the Government website.*

Below is the update one of our parents received from Steve Reddy, Director of Children's Services. Many thanks for sharing this. The travel situation will adapt over the course of the next few weeks and we have a dedicated contact to speak to if we have concerns, which is a really positive move.

We will also have flexibility regarding punctuality in the first instance as we know that buses and travel will need time to adjust to numbers and routes needed, so please do not worry about this.

We are really looking forward to seeing your sons and daughters next week for their induction.

Update

Below is an update of what we have been told Liverpool City Region are putting in place to increase capacity for students returning to school.

- 10 additional buses have been procured for Liverpool to support the additional dedicated transport, along with 60 additional buses being deployed across Merseyside by commercial providers.
- specific additional service will be published on Merseytravel website <https://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/customer-information/rethink-travel/>, schools can then communicate this to parents. At this point, we are still waiting for this to go live so we know which routes have additional capacity.
- Additional services may change through the course of the first few weeks, this will be reactive to demand, if schools have concerns, they can be addressed directly to LCR, they have now been issued with a contact which will be monitored on a daily basis.
- Additional dedicated school transport on normal operating routes will have the pre-fix S e.g.S81 for the 81 route. This means that only school aged children can use it.
- There will be daily meetings next week to react to transport demands through the week.
- Children who can walk or cycle are being encouraged to do so to reduce demand on the public service.

Kind regards,



Mrs Jo Code
Headteacher