

**Reference: School Transport Arrangements
2020-2021**

County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Parents/Carers of:

Jason Russell
Director of Community
Operations

Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director for Children's
Services
26th August 2020

Dear Parents

Updated School Transport Arrangements for (Insert child's name)

We are looking forward to welcoming Pupils back to school in September.

We are writing to all parents/carers of Children & Young People who travel on Oxfordshire County Council contracted home to school services. It is very important for children and young people to return to school and college for their educational progress, wellbeing and their wider development. All pupils in all year groups will be expected to return to school full-time from the start of the autumn term.

Government guidance recommends that schools and colleges should minimise contact and mixing by implementing 'bubbles' thus ensuring where possible mixing is minimised. The Government further recognises that vehicle capacity and the complexity of some home to school transport arrangements mean there will often be limits to the extent to which mixing can be managed.

Oxfordshire County Council has over the summer been working with schools to reflect how school "bubbles" can be best protected in the vehicle by adopting cleaning regimes and in some cases separate\additional vehicles and seating plans.

Please also note:

- Social Distancing rules on dedicated School Transport contracted routes will not apply from September.
- Recent Government guidance strongly recommends that all children over the age of 11 years should wear a face covering, although some children with specific medical conditions are exempt - see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#exemptions-face-coverings>
- There will not be any hand sanitiser on transport as this is seen as a safety hazard because multiple uses could create a slippery floor. Because of this, children should wash their hands thoroughly before boarding the bus, or to use their own personal supply of hand sanitiser. Please note that the driver will have their own supply of hand sanitiser for their personal use only.

Lastly, please be advised that children or young people must not travel on home to school transport if they, or a member of their household, has [symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). If a child or young person develops symptoms whilst at school or their place of education, they will be sent home but in doing so they must not travel on home to school transport. The school or place of education will contact you to make arrangements for the child or young person's journey home.

The website link below is regularly updated and has answers to frequently asked questions about Home to school transport services.

Yours Sincerely



Kevin Gordon
Corporate Director Children's Services
Email – mainstream.schooltransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Jason Russell
Director Community Operations

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/travelling-school>

School Transport Code of Conduct – Social Distancing

In addition to the Student Responsibilities within the Guidelines for Parents and Carers, please see below amendment to include social distancing measures for all students travelling on Home to School Transport:

Before the school journey

- It is recommended Face Coverings are worn by all children and young people over 11yrs. However, for some special needs children and young people it is recognised this will be difficult.

During the school journey

- Passengers must not intentionally cough, spit, or invade another passengers space or the driver's space.

At the end of the school journey

- Passengers must take all belongings with them when exiting the vehicle, it will be more difficult to return forgotten items during this time.