

Dear parent/carer,

Home to school transport arrangements – September 2020

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school in September, in line with the government's plan around the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

You may be wondering how your child can travel safely to and from school. The government guidance remains, wherever possible, to avoid public transport (including school transport) and either walk or cycle to school, or travel in your own car.

If you are planning to drive your child, but they are eligible for home to school transport assistance and normally travel on a school bus, coach or taxi that Central Bedfordshire Council provide, then the Council can refund you for the mileage you use. Further details are available on the [Central Bedfordshire Council website](#).

However, if your child requires school transport then this will still be provided in the usual way, with the normal routes and timetables.

Government guidance is that social distancing requirements will not apply to dedicated school transport, so we understand you may have some concerns about the risk of infection on school transport. We are working with our transport providers on arrangements to ensure that they can travel to and from school as safely as possible. Please be aware that your child should not board if they or a member of your household has COVID-19 symptoms.

Transport providers are required to ensure that all vehicles are cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day and to carry out an enhanced clean of all vehicles overnight. Drivers and passenger assistants will be expected to maintain good hand hygiene practices.

We are recommending that pupils over the age of 11 should wear a face covering throughout the journey to and from school, unless they are [exempt from doing so](#). Please be aware that drivers are not expected to enforce seating arrangements or hygiene measures as their role is to drive the vehicle safely.

We would be grateful for your co-operation in helping to explain to your child the importance of good hand hygiene and that, in order to minimise contact during the journey, they should fill the vehicle to the rear when boarding and to alight the vehicle at the front. We will be responsible for boarding arrangements before the homeward journey. During the journey, windows and any roof lights should be kept open wherever possible to allow suitable ventilation.

Changes to schools start and finish times and any staggered starts and finishes will be accommodated as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,

The Central Bedfordshire Transport team

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