

Covid-19 - Public Buses for School Children – September 2020

Many Shropshire school children and students use public (LBS) buses to get to school/college, but because of Covid-19 seating regulations, these buses are likely to be full in September 2020 with no room for many passengers.

Government have asked local authorities to liaise with their schools and operators and arrange for additional buses (or coaches) to be provided for school children from September 2020 where loading capacity restrictions on public bus services mean that there won't be enough on-bus spaces for all. Where this is most likely, the Council have arranged for extra temporary 'closed' school only buses/coaches ('Shadows') to directly follow the main public bus in order to provide extra capacity. Where provided, entitled and non-entitled pupils should only travel on these temporary 'Shadow' buses/coaches, with adult fare paying passengers continuing to use the main public bus. Our table below lists these additional buses.

Where non-entitled pupils travel on public transport (LBS) also used by the public, because loading capacities on public buses will still be less than 50% in September 2020, parents are being encouraged to find alternative ways of getting their children to school – if they live in the same town/community as the school, active travel (walking/cycling) should be the first choice. The second choice should be travel by car. Only if none of these options are available to parents should they attempt to use public transport.

For pupils not entitled to free school transport, parents will make appropriate arrangements to get their children to and from school. Many pupils walk or cycle to school themselves. Where parental cars are used instead, a 'Park & Stride' strategy can be used – this is a simple solution that allows pupils to walk for part of their journey and where parents safely park a little further away from school, typically within a 5 to 10 minutes walking distance. Parents will decide whether or not to escort their children to and from school on the 'Stride' element of the journey. 'Park & Stride' helps reduce entry risks at the school and eases access overall.

If you require further information regarding public bus services please contact the individual operator or call Shropshire Council's Customer Service Centre on 0345 678 9008 or email passtrans@shropshire.gov.uk

Table of Additional Temporary 'Shadow' Buses - September 2020

Local (Public) Bus Service No.	Local (Public) Bus Service route	Schools/Colleges served	Existing Bus Operator/Phone No.	Additional Temporary 'Shadow' bus Operator/Phone contact: pupils/students only
53	Oswestry - Ellesmere	Lakelands, Ellesmere	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Lakeside Coaches 01691 622761
53	Ellesmere - Oswestry	Marches, Oswestry	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Arriva 0344 800 4411
576	Shrewsbury - Oswestry	Marches, Oswestry	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Owens of Oswestry 01691 652126
576	Oswestry - Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury College	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Owens of Oswestry 01691 652126
436	Bridgnorth - Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury College	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Whittles Coach & Bus 01562 820002
9	Bridgnorth – Upper Ludstone (Afternoon Only)	Bridgnorth Endowed	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Whittles Coach & Bus 01562 820002
546	Pulverbatch - Shrewsbury	Meole Brace, Shrewsbury	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Longmynd Travel 01743 861999
511	Higher Heath - Whitchurch	Sir John Talbot's School	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Lakeside Coaches 01691 622761
9	Bridgnorth – Rudge Heath (Afternoon Only)	Oldbury Wells School	Arriva 0344 800 4411	Caradoc 01694 724522
501	Ellesmere - Shrewsbury	Meole Brace School Shrewsbury College	Lakeside 01691 622761	Lakeside Coaches 01691 622761