

Letter to: All Shropshire Schools

Shropshire Council  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire SY2 6ND

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Headteacher,

### **Coronavirus (Covid-19) – Journey to and from School wef September 2020**

In preparation for the return of all pupils to school from September 2020 the Council has prepared a plan for safe transport.

Whilst most parents live relatively close to school and their children either walk and cycle to school, for those who rely on public or contracted transport to school, we have important information that is particularly pertinent to them.

I have attached a letter to all parents of all Shropshire pupils, and I would be most grateful if you could circulate this to all your pupils' parents.

Full advice about public and contracted transport to school can be found on the Council's website at the following link:

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport)

This advice is based on the latest Government guidance, and where needs be it has been adapted to reflect local circumstances in Shropshire.

The key messages from the Council to Shropshire schools are:

- Please circulate the attached letter to parents this week
- Pupils should not travel if feeling unwell or if they or anyone in their household have symptoms of Covid-19
- Pupils should avoid using public transport buses, particularly if they live less than two miles from school, as Covid-19 capacity regulations mean that buses are likely to be full – please cycle or walk instead, if possible
- For schools to help facilitate on-bus Year Group seating 'bubbles' and pupils using the same seat every day – your help in working with operators to organise and manage pupils so that this seating plan works is vital and will be much appreciated (*NB details of seating arrangements are on the web site at the link above*)
- On some rural public bus services, the Council has provided additional ('Shadow') buses just for school children; also, some public service buses will now be 'Schools Only' (*NB again, details are on the Council's website at the link above*)
- Where we can, we've arranged that pupils on contracted buses from different schools don't travel together

*And for the journey,*

- Pupils need to wash or alcohol gel hands before and after travel, and as often as possible throughout the day; parents can supply gel if they wish
- For pupils aged over 11 face coverings are mandatory on public transport and should be worn on school contracted buses
- During the journey, pupils should face forwards, not touch others, not move out of their seat and avoid loud talking, shouting or singing
- Everyone should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or the inside of the elbow when coughing or sneezing

We should also add that our plan also has specific guidance for SEND travel, and that the Temporary Seats Payment Scheme is not operating during the emergency.

Where parents have no option but to drive pupils to school, we have asked them to park well away from the school gates and walk the final part of the journey on foot. In any event, we've said that parents, pupils and others should avoid congregating in the school gates area, to help reduce both road and Coronavirus (Covid-19) risks.

Clearly only by everyone being committed to making this plan work will everyone be safe, and we are confident that Shropshire residents will do all they can to make Shropshire as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support and if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**By working together, we can make Shropshire safe.**

Yours faithfully,

Shropshire Council

Passenger Transport Group

*Direct Contact details:*

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