

School Transport Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be enough buses for children to travel to school safely?

Transport for London have confirmed that from September, they will be introducing more dedicated buses for school travel during the AM and PM peak hours. It is planned that 'every other' bus will be dedicated for school travel, on what they anticipate will be the busiest high frequency routes. Bexley education service have been provided with a list of buses and routes which will be supported and it is intended that this will be monitored to keep local area needs under review.

Will children and young people need to socially distance on buses?

The government guidance states that all seats can be occupied on dedicated school services. These measures have been prioritised for those routes on which students travel longer distances and are planned to be in place until the October half-term. Widespread media coverage has highlighted the importance of students wearing face coverings when travelling on buses or using alternative travel where possible. The guidance requires that all pupils travelling to and from school should wear a face covering unless they are under the age of 11, or have an exemption.

Is free travel for school and college pupils going to be cancelled by Transport for London?

It is planned that changes to this scheme will come into force from **October half-term** and Councils are still waiting for confirmation as to how this will be administered and by whom.

The planned changes will mean that free travel for Under 18s will be suspended with the exception of:

- Children aged 10 and under
- Children aged 11-17 who live more than two miles from their school/college
- Children aged 11-17 who live less than two miles away from their school/college if they:

- have a social worker

- have an Education, Health and Care Plan
- are in alternative provision (i.e. educated in a pupil referral unit, or an alternative provision academy/free school)
- do not have a safe walking route
- cannot walk due to a medical condition or lack of mobility

Children turning 11 should retain free travel until they finish primary school and eligible pupils turning 18 should retain free travel until they finish school that year. Those not eligible will be required to pay half price adult pay as you go fares.