

School Transport Arrangements – September 2020

(Version 25 August, 2020)



Dear Parent/Carer,

Here is a note to explain some of the school transport arrangements for September. We also ask for your help in encouraging children to think of others and act responsibly when travelling from home to school. Further information is available on Gwynedd Council website on the link '**Travelling on a school bus during Covid-19**' on the '**Travel to school**' page on the '**Schools and learning**' site.

- If a learner has a Gwynedd Council bus/train pass, then, in line with Welsh Government Guidance, there is no requirement to wear a face covering on dedicated home to school transport.

We believe this is appropriate because:

- the overall risk to learners from COVID-19 is very low
- they do not mix with the general public on those journeys
- dedicated home to school transport often carries the same group of learners on a regular basis
- the predictability, which public transport does not offer in the same way, will allow for planning so that protective measures can be put in place
- the absence of evidence of any substantial benefit from the use of face coverings compared to the potential risks of incorrect use and disposal.

However, a child over the age of 11 who is travelling on ordinary public transport (bus/train) will need to wear a face covering in line with Regulations.

- Learners will sit on the school bus in year groups, from front to back, from youngest to oldest. Signs on the bus will indicate where each year will be sitting. Ensuring that the same learners always sit together will help to reduce the number of contacts they have.
- Learners will sit in a taxi as they normally do. If there is capacity in the vehicle then it is suggested to leave the front seat empty.
- No-one should board dedicated school transport if they or a member of their household has any of the four identified COVID-19 symptoms (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or loss of taste or smell).
- Anyone in a household that is required to self-isolate as contacts of a case under Test, Trace, Protect (TTP) or in quarantine if returned from a country specified by the Foreign Commonwealth Office should not board dedicated school transport.
- If a learner develops symptoms whilst at school, they should be sent home. However, they will not be allowed to travel home on dedicated school transport. The school will contact the parent/carers who should make arrangements for the learner's journey home.
- Learners should clean their hands, before boarding home to school transport and when arriving at school or home.
- The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach is very important. Schools will be reinforcing this message with learners. Learners should be encouraged to carry tissues at all times.
- We have worked closely with school transport operators and enhanced cleaning will take place at the end of each day.

If you have any questions about back to school travel in September, you are welcome to send an enquiry to this email address: cludiant@gwynedd.llyw.cymru.