

DO YOUR BIT

SECONDARY EDUCATION TRAVEL INFORMATION PACK RETURNING TO COLLEGE – AUTUMN TERM 2020

As your family begin to prepare for the return to school in September, or your child is starting secondary school for the first time, you will be starting to think about how the coronavirus pandemic may affect your travel plans.

How we travel around Greater Manchester has changed so you will need to think ahead about [how and when your child will travel](#), to make sure they arrive safely and on time.

Public transport services have limited space due to social distancing measures, and with more people returning to work and school in September, traffic will increase.

One way to help reduce congestion is to walk and cycle to school if possible. Walking and cycling to school is a healthy way to travel and frees up space on services for those pupils who need to use public transport.

If you do need to use public transport, TfGM and public transport operators have put more measures in place to help you travel safely, including enhanced cleaning, extra services and passenger information and signage. We are working closely with our partners to ensure that your network is as safe, clean and reliable as possible. We have risk assessed our service in-line with Government advice and put in measures to increase social distancing as well as ensuring buses, trams and trains are deep cleaned more regularly. Hand sanitiser dispensers are located at interchanges, bus stations and at key Metrolink stops.

This travel information pack provides guidance to enable you to make informed decisions about your child's journey to and from school and help you plan ahead. For the latest updates on local restrictions and how this affects travel, visit tfgm.com/coronavirus.

Things to Consider

- How does your child currently travel to school?
- How will they travel to school in September?
- Will they be looking to travel differently than usual?

Public Transport

Bus

If your child needs to travel by public transport, space will be limited on many services due to social distancing. Capacity is reduced to half and **services will operate on a one-off, one-on basis, meaning you might have to wait longer for a bus that has free space for you.**



Commercial bus, train, tram and rail services are all running as many services as possible to support those returning to school and work in September and increase social distancing.

To support you and your children in your journeys to and from school in September, TfGM have received additional Government funding to provide extra transport for back to school services where required.

Yellow School Buses

- Your child can use the Yellow School bus service if you live within Greater Manchester and they go to a school that's served by Yellow Bus. [See which schools use the yellow bus service.](#)
- Usually you need to apply for a yellow school bus pass via TfGM before the start of the new school year, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, TfGM won't be issuing passes for the new academic year in September.

- Instead, all Yellow School Buses will operate as regular dedicated school buses, meaning no passes will be needed and any pupil can board any service. This means your child will not be guaranteed a seat and services may be busier than usual.
- Your child must have an **igo card** to buy Yellow School Bus tickets.
- A weekly ticket costs £7.40. This is the best choice if they go to school by bus every day. There is the option to buy single tickets (£1.40 with an igo Pass, £1.80 without) and return tickets (£2.40).

Tram

- Current social distancing guidance on trams means space will be limited, especially at peak times, and passengers may have to wait for longer for a tram.
- We advise that any pupils who normally use trams should cycle or walk to school for short journeys if possible.
- Check up to date [Metrolink service timetables](#) and the [quietest times](#) to travel online (usually between 9am and 4pm and after 6.30pm).



Ticketing

Please **buy prepaid tickets or use contactless payment where possible.**

- If your child can't use contactless or buy tickets online, **make sure they have the exact change for your fare.** Some bus operators have introduced an 'exact change only' policy; **no change will be given to anyone not paying the exact amount.**
- Bus operators have a range of smart products readily available that remove the need for cash handling on public transport. Please visit [TfGM](#) for more information.



[igo card](#) is a card that allows 11-16-year olds to travel using child tickets on buses and trams in Greater Manchester.

- You must live in Greater Manchester, or your child must go to school in Greater Manchester to qualify for a card.
- The card costs £10 and lasts until 31 August after their 16th birthday.
- Apply for an igo card by post, by downloading an [application form](#) or get one from a TfGM Travelshop.
- An igo card can also be used as proof of age for travelling by tram with a child ticket.
- Child Metrolink tickets are available to buy online with igo at [getmethere.com](#).

[Our Pass](#) is a membership scheme for young people who live in Greater Manchester, 16 to 18-year olds can receive free bus travel across GM on most local buses.

For a one-off fee of £10 you will receive an Our Pass card that allows you to get where you want to go, no tickets, no hassle.

- Members get half-price off-peak 1 day and weekend travelcards on Metrolink.
- Membership also unlocks exclusive experiences, discounts and special offers.

[Free School Pass](#) lets your child travel to school and back for nothing; if your child is under 16 and it's a long way to school.

To qualify, they must:

- Go to school more than three miles away from your home; or
- Are disabled and cannot walk; or
- There is no safe walking route to school.

The pass is free, and lasts for one academic year starting in September, and finishing on the 31st July the following year. Apply for a pass from your local council, not from TfGM.

Be Prepared

In order to minimise the impact on your child's journey, you should:

- Plan ahead.
- Set off earlier.
- Avoid the busiest times and routes if possible.
- Check timetables.
- Apply in advance for any passes you need.

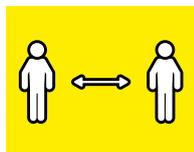
Safety

Please continue to adhere to social distancing and wear a face covering on public transport

Be respectful of others and help to keep everyone safe by:

- Considering other passengers and transport staff and wearing a face covering (**anyone aged 11 years and over must wear a face covering**) when using public transport or inside any transport hub (train/bus stations etc), unless you are exempt.
- If you're **not** exempt and don't wear a face covering, transport staff or police could stop you from boarding or can ask you to leave a service. You could also be fined £100.
- Stay safe by following social distancing guidance at stations, platforms and on public transport wherever possible.
- Carry hand sanitiser and wash your hands before and after travelling.
- Do not travel if either you and or anyone in your household are showing symptoms of coronavirus.

It is recommended that families check for [updated government guidance](#) regularly as advice may change as and when needed.



Walk or Cycle to School

Can you walk or cycle to school?

A walk of 1km takes 15 mins or 5 mins by bike and can form part of your daily exercise



Keep fit and healthy

Walking and cycling are not only great ways to keep fit and healthy but can also reduce stress, improve productivity and are good for your mental wellbeing.



Free up public transport

If you live close enough to walk, scoot or cycle to school, please do so to help keep public transport services free for those who really need it.

Save money

Cycling and walking are cheap and cost-effective ways to get around.

Great for the environment

Choosing sustainable travel reduces greenhouse gases that cause climate change and contributes to cleaner air.

Access to a working bike

- If you're looking for a new bike there are lots of bike shops – independents and national chains to choose from. Here's a [directory of bike shops](#) open across Greater Manchester to get you started.
- For those with a smaller budget, second-hand could be the way to go, and environmentally friendly too! Cycling UK has a [handy guide](#) with lots of suggestions on where to look or try these [local suppliers](#).
- If your bike is gathering dust in the shed and needs a bit of TLC to make it roadworthy, Cycling UK's [Get Fixed Up](#) scheme is providing pop-up Dr Bike sessions nationwide to help get people's bikes back to working order.

- [The Fix-your-bike voucher scheme](#) is available to anyone who has an unused bike in need of a repair, up to the value of £50. The scheme has been hugely popular and all the vouchers in the first batch have been allocated. Keep an eye out for the next lot of vouchers to be released

Cycle with Confidence!

Everyone can learn how to ride a bike, whatever their age.

- TfGM offers free one-to-one and family [cycle confidence training sessions](#) across Greater Manchester
- Adult Learn to Ride one-to-one sessions at [Nationwide Cycling Academy](#)
- [Bikeability cycle training programme](#) available across the UK for children and adults

Safe Streets Save Lives

TfGM, on behalf of the GMCA and the local authorities have received funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) to build road safety measures across Greater Manchester (GM) as part of the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF).

Schemes across GM will provide positive changes to our streets and roads in favour of people's safe movement and health and wellbeing; both on foot by pedestrianising areas, and by cycle by building temporary safe travel lanes.

Bolton, Bury, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford are all introducing safe cycle lanes to support those who want to cycle safely to school and work come September. So far, a number of protected safe routes have been implemented which could be used to commute to school by bike.

Be Prepared

Plan ahead and work out your walking or cycling route beforehand. Now is a great time to learn more about journey planning and reading maps. For example, visit:

- Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, has put together some [useful information and advice](#) to help you plan your travel.
- Plan a route with Google journey planner <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>.
- [Cycle Streets journey planner](#) can help you plan cycle routes, choosing the quietest streets away from busy roads. Or use their new [mobile phone app](#).
- Get to and from school on [cycle-friendly routes](#).

Car Travel

If you live too far away to walk, cycle or take public transport, please consider getting your parent/carer to drop you off (or find a carpark) **ten minutes** away from the school where you can walk the rest of the way.

Parking away from the school will help reduce congestion, reduce air pollution and make it easier for people to follow social distancing guidance at the school gates.

If you need to travel by car, **please ask the driver to switch off their engine when waiting outside school**

Many drivers don't realise that turning off an engine and then restarting it can cause less pollution than letting it run and it also uses less fuel. Please [help improve the air we breathe](#).



Car Sharing

You should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble. If you need to do this, try to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- clean your car between journeys using standard cleaning products - make sure you clean door handles and other areas that people may touch
- ask the driver and passengers to [wear a face covering](#)

Be Prepared

Plan your journey

- Plan your route, including any breaks, before setting out. Routes may be different as local areas make changes to enable social distancing.
- [Check that your vehicle is safe and roadworthy](#) if you haven't used it for several weeks.
- People from a household or [support bubble](#) can travel together in a vehicle.
- You should wear a face covering in an enclosed space where social distancing isn't possible and where you will come into contact with people outside your household or support bubble. Take care to [use face coverings properly](#).

We hope this information pack has been useful in helping you to consider how to travel when Autumn term starts.

Sign up to our [school newsletter](#) for latest news and offers for school travel products. Also visit the dedicated [back to school pages](#).

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