

Return to School Travel Bulletin #3

18th September 2020

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council wants to ensure that children and young people can travel to school and college safely and reliably from September. We are working closely with schools, colleges and local public transport operators to monitor the operational effectiveness as students start to return to education.

To help manage travel demand during the first term, we have developed advice for schools and colleges in the form of a travel pack which provides key travel information.

In this regular bulletin we aim to keep you updated with what's happening across the transport network.

This bulletin includes information on top tips for keeping safe on public transport and driving to school or college.

Top Tips for Keeping Safe on Public Transport

- 1) **Face Coverings:** Please remember that all students aged 11 and over are required to **wear a face covering** while travelling on public transport, unless they are exempt. Face coverings must also be worn in trains stations. Those who are not exempt will be asked to wear a face cover and can be refused to board or can be fined £100. Please see here the [list of exemptions on Government Official Website](#). Whilst face coverings are not mandatory on dedicated school services, you may still wish to wear one.

- 2) **Social Distancing:** Please **remember to social distance**, while travelling on public transport. As per government guidelines, there is no requirement for social distancing on dedicated school services but it is recommended that you **stay with your year group**.
- 3) **Ventilation: Keep windows open** whenever possible for better ventilation. If you see a closed window, please open it.
- 4) **Sanitiser:** Carry hand sanitiser with you are use it before and after you use public transport

Driving and Drop-Off Reminder

Most schools and colleges in Southend have now re-opened and many people are returning to work, leisure and social activities. This puts pressure on our transport network and roads are busy. School and college gates were still extremely busy this week and congestion is increasing around schools.

If your car trip is short enough to **walk, scoot or cycle** and you are able to do it, please do so. This not only might be your quickest option but has numerous health benefits and can be a fun way to start the day.

If you still need to drive, then consider parking a few streets away and **walk the last section**. Stay alert and park correctly for everyone's safety.

Extra Bus Services

Arriva and First are putting on additional services and dedicated school services where possible. This week Arriva added an additional bus to Route 1 to help carry more passengers.