

## **Introduction**

The Government announced on 4 June 2020 that face coverings will be required while using public transport in England from Monday 15 June 2020. Further information is available from the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/face-coverings-to-become-mandatory-on-public-transport>

The Council's advice for mainstream school transport is detailed below:

## **Advice to schools/parents/students**

Wherever possible, students should continue to follow government advice and avoid public transport and instead to walk, cycle or catch a lift, but for some this will not be possible.

Although many school buses are only available to students, it is still considered a public space and the wearing of face coverings should apply to Y6, Y10 and Y12 students when they board, during the journey and when they alight the vehicle. Young children in Reception and Y1 are unlikely to be able to wear face coverings and discretion should be used for this age group. Drivers are expected to wear a face covering at all times during the journey.

Face coverings do not need to be medical grade PPE masks and people can make their own using scarves or other textiles. For further information on making a face covering follow <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>. Coverings must cover the mouth and nose while allowing the wearer to breathe comfortably. Students should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on their face covering on and after taking it off.

If students do not abide by these regulations, the driver has the right to refuse travel. If a student fails to comply at certain points during the journey, or the driver has concerns about the conduct of a student, they will report this to school so appropriate action can be taken.

This guidance has been issued to help keep students and drivers safe during the journey. Other safety measures such as 2m social distancing and ventilation will remain in place.