

# DO YOUR BIT

## PRIMARY EDUCATION TRAVEL INFORMATION PACK RETURNING TO COLLEGE – AUTUMN TERM 2020

This pack contains information to help you plan how to travel to and from school in the Autumn term.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, travel around Greater Manchester has changed so you will need to think ahead about [how you travel to school](#), in order to keep yourself, your family, and others safe. With more people returning to work and school in September, traffic will increase, so try to walk, scoot and cycle to school if you can.

Leaving the car at home will mean less obstruction and congestion outside the school gates, creating more space to social distance and cleaner air for you and your children.

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.

### **Things to Consider**

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

### **Walk or scoot to school**

Walking or scooting to school is one of the best ways to start the day!



### **Help social distancing**

We need to work together to ensure the pavements and roads around our schools are clear to allow everyone the space to social distance.

### **Keep fit and well**

Walk or scoot to school instead of jumping in the car and increase your step count.

### **Quality time**

Children may have worries about returning to school; exercise and fresh air can be used as a coping strategy when feeling stressed; the walk, or scoot to and from school will give you time to chat.

### **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.

### **Leave the car at home**

Keep roads around schools safe. Teach your kids road safety skills and help ease congestion around the school gates.

### **Be Prepared**

- Plan ahead and work out your walking route beforehand. Now is a great time to teach children about journey planning. For example, visit [www.google.co.uk/maps](http://www.google.co.uk/maps) to plan your route.

- There's no such thing as the wrong weather, just the wrong clothes! With waterproofs, wellies and umbrellas at the ready, walking in the rain isn't a chore anymore, and perhaps you'll have fun jumping in the puddles!
- Make sure your child's bag is not too heavy, this will make walking or scooting seem harder.
- If you've not walked or scooted to school before, try it before the first day of school so you know how long it will take.
- When small feet drag, keep kids entertained on the walk by making up games or spotting things on the way. Living Streets has lots of good ideas in their #walkingfromhome [activity pack](#) and a [walk-to-school toolkit](#)

## **If you can't walk all the way, why not PARK & STRIDE?**

If you need to drive your children to school because you live too far away to walk, scoot or cycle, please consider [Park & Stride](#)

- 'Park and stride' means driving some of the way, but parking further away from school and walking the last ten minutes of the journey. For more information visit [park and stride schemes](#).
- Can you identify a carpark ten minutes away from the school where you can park and 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 drive, **please switch off your engine** when waiting outside schools

Being stationary in the car but with your engine still on causes high levels of air pollution. Turning off an engine and then restarting it can cause less pollution than letting it run and it also uses less fuel. [Help improve the air our children breathe](#).

## **Cycle to School**

Cycling to school is a great way to get to school quickly!



### **Improve air quality**

Fewer cars and more bikes will improve the air quality for everyone.

### **Stay healthy**

Cycling is great for improving health and fitness and is good for mental health. Exercise helps improve the mood, reduce stress and improve concentration in the classroom.

### **Gain new skills**

Cycling helps children learn road skills and independence which they will take with them when moving up to secondary school.

### **Getting Back in the saddle**

If you're keen on cycling to school with your child, but it's been a while since you've been on a bike, don't worry, there are lots of resources online to help you get back in the saddle.

Cycling UK are an independent organisation who champion cycling and inspire people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to discover cycling. Cycling UK have put together some [specific advice](#) for parents and children going back to school after lockdown who think cycling the school run is a possibility.

- 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.
- Alternatively, second-hand could be the way to go and environmentally friendly too! Cycling UK has a [handy guide](#) on where to start or try these [local suppliers](#).
- If your bikes are gathering dust in the shed and need a bit of TLC to make them 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

[Cycling UK](#) is an independent organisation championing cycling and inspiring people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to discover cycling. They have a wealth of expertise and support including advice on going '[Back to School](#)'.

- [Bikeability](#) cycle training is offered in many schools across the UK. Check with your child's school for availability.
- TfGM offers free adult one-to-one and family cycle confidence training sessions across Greater Manchester.
- Cycling UK's video on [how to teach an adult to cycle](#).
- Adult Learn to Ride one-to-one sessions at [Nationwide Cycling Academy](#).

## Be Prepared

Plan ahead and work out your cycling route beforehand. Now is a great time to teach children about journey planning. For example, visit:

- Visit [tfgm.com/safestreets](#) to see if any protected safe routes have been implemented in your area which could be used to commute to school by bike.
- [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](#)
- [Google maps](#)
- Get to and from school on [cycle-friendly routes](#)

## Safe Streets Save Lives

Through lockdown the number of journeys made by bike has increased to an estimated one million cycle trips being made each week.

The [#SafeStreetsSaveLives](#) campaign is supporting social distancing during coronavirus lockdown and recovery. We're creating safe space along major routes for the increasing number of people walk and cycle.

So far, a number of protected safe routes have been implemented which could be used to commute to school by bike.

You can find out what is happening in your area by visiting [tfgm.com/safestreets](#)

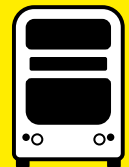
## Public Transport and School Buses

If you do use public transport to get to and from school, space will be limited on many services due to social distancing – and once capacity is reached, passengers won't be allowed to board commercial or Yellow School Buses.

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.

If your child's school is serviced by the Yellow School Bus, please be aware that 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 you will not be guaranteed a seat and services may be busier than usual. Find out more [here](#).

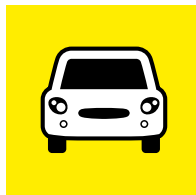
### **Be Prepared**

In order to minimise the impact on your journey, think about [how and when you wish to travel](#), plan ahead, avoid the busiest times and routes if possible, check timetables and apply in advance for any passes you need.

Visit TfGM for more information on [buses and other public transport services](#).

### **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 TfGM page [here](#).

For the latest updates on local restrictions and how this affects travel, visit [tfgm.com/coronavirus](https://tfgm.com/coronavirus).