

[East Lothian Council Parental Information Home to School Transport](#)

Introduction

The guidance is designed to support a safe return to school for all children and young people taking full account of progress made in suppressing COVID-19 in Scotland, the scientific advice received and Scottish Government/Transport Scotland guidance.

East Lothian Council will continue to deliver Home to School transport as per the current Education Policy rule of 2 mile for all pupils attending their catchment school. The Transport Plan will remain as pre COVID-19 lockdown with limited changes as per the scientific advice received and national advice.

Passenger responsibilities

Whether you travel on dedicated school transport or on a public service, we expect all families to help us keep all passengers, drivers and escorts safe.

- All passengers should wear face coverings regardless of whether they are travelling on dedicated school transport or on a public service. Families should provide their child or young person with a covering. Information on exemptions and an exemption card is available here: disabilityequality.scot/face-covering
- All passengers should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser before getting on the bus. Families should provide their child or young person with hand sanitiser for this purpose.
- All Secondary Pupils must maintain 2 metre distancing on transport
- All passengers must have a valid pass for travel.

Failing to comply with these guidelines could mean that a pupil is not allowed to travel.

We are grateful for your support keeping everyone who travels safe.

Dedicated School Transport

Dedicated school transport should be treated as an extension of the school estate. Enhanced cleaning of dedicated school transport vehicles will be important, especially where vehicles are used for other purposes before and after transporting children to and from school. Personal hand and respiratory hygiene is important, including sanitisation of hands prior to boarding. East Lothian Council has created a protocol for operators of all Home to School transport routes stating what is required and this information will be displayed on the council website.

Distancing between children and young people on dedicated school transport is not required for primary age children however all secondary pupils must adhere to a 2 meter social distancing, although where possible some practical approaches to grouping and distancing are provided. Adults should conform with the requirements for public transport

(1m distancing) for drivers, all other adults 2m distancing. Pupils will fill the bus rear to front as per their boarding.

Face coverings are required on **all** school transport as per the new Scottish Government’s guidance for all pupils above age of 5 on transport. All pupils should wear a face covering no matter what type of transport they travel on; failing to wear a face covering could mean the pupil is refused transport. The exemption rules for face coverings are the same as public transport and an exemption card can be found at disabilityequality.scot/face-covering

East Lothian has taken on board the advice to segregate pupils travelling to different schools who normally travel together and secondary pupils from primary. Additional buses have been provided. The impact of this is pupils travelling on the following routes will have separate transport even if from the same family:

Route	School
106	Haddington Primary
	St Mary’s RC Primary
106 (1)	Knox Academy
107	Haddington Primary
	St Mary’s RC Primary
107(1)	Knox Academy
121	Yester Primary
121 (1)	Knox Academy
123	Gaelic Primary School
123 (1)	Gaelic Primary School
161	North Berwick High
161 (1)	Law Primary
162	North Berwick High
162(1)	Law Primary
171	James Gillespie’s High School
171 (1)	James Gillespie’s High School

The availability of spare seating will depend on parental choice about whether to use home to school transport. We will gather parents’ views and preferences and review spare seating in October and every three months thereafter.

Public Transport

East Lothian Council has looked at the impact of the 2m social distancing guidance on the use of public transport and has decided to replace routes with dedicated transport for entitled pupils.

The exception to the normal delivery of school transport to school by public bus service due to capacity concerns during the COVID-19 period will be the creation of dedicated school transport for the following areas:

Service	School	Pickups	Contractor	Remarks
111	Musselburgh Grammar	Whitecraig	AC Taxis	Coach
126	North Berwick High School	Aberlady & Luffness Mains	Eve Coaches	Coach
125	North Berwick High School	Gullane	Eve Coaches	Coach
124	North Berwick High School	Gullane	East Coast Buses	Outside of Gullane 30 mph Limit
127	North Berwick High School	Ballencrief, Drem Fenton Barns, West Fenton, Dirleton	AC Taxis	Minibus
121	North Berwick High School	Athelstaneford, Drem, Fenton Barns & Kingtson	Eve Coaches	Coach
128	Preston Lodge High School	Longniddry	Eve Coaches	Coach
111/118	Preston Lodge High School	Port Seton	Eve Coaches	Coach
110	Ross High	Elphinstone	Prentice Coaches	Service bus
108	Ross High	Macmerry	Prentice Coaches	Service bus
120	Dunbar Grammar	East Linton	Eve Coaches	Coach
253	Dunbar Grammar	East Linton	Eve Coaches	Coach
X7	Dunbar Grammar	East Linton	Eve Coaches	Coach
44	Musselburgh Grammar	Wallyford	AC Taxis	2 x 60 seat buses

We have created a protocol for parents and families to follow during the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be found on the website.

Passes and Letters

Passes for all routes are the same as August issue. Operators will be updating their website with information on route pick up and times.

The impact on transport has meant we have made changes and need to deliver pupils slightly earlier in some areas to achieve the transportation of all pupils. Please check contractor website or by phone.