

## Transport

Local authorities will need to work with special settings to ensure that children and young people can get to their setting.

If a child or young person needs transport to get to the school or college named in his or her EHC plan, the local authority would normally have to pay for it.

Social distancing has significantly reduced available transport capacity. This guidance sets out a new framework for supporting transport to and from education settings from the autumn term. We are making a distinction between **dedicated school transport** (school transport used by Royal Cross Pupils) and wider public transport:

- Dedicated school transport - we mean services that are used only to carry pupils to school or college. This includes statutory home to school transport, but may also include some existing or new commercial travel routes, where they carry pupils or students only
- Public transport services - we mean routes which are also used by the general public

In this guidance for special settings, we have focused on issues relating to dedicated school transport.

### **Dedicated school transport, including statutory provision**

- Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent.
- This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of 2 metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a 'one metre plus' approach where this is not possible, will not apply exclusively from the autumn term on dedicated transport.

The approach to dedicated transport should align as far as possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in this document and with the approach being adopted for your setting. It is important to consider:

- how pupils are grouped together on transport, where possible this should reflect the class bubbles that are adopted within the setting
- use of hand sanitiser upon boarding and/or disembarking
- additional cleaning of vehicles
- organised queuing and boarding where possible
- distancing within vehicles wherever possible
- the use of face coverings for children over the age of 11, where appropriate - for example if they are likely to come into very close contact with people outside of their group or who they do not normally meet (+ children with SEN)

Dedicated school services can take different forms.

- Some journeys involve use of a minibus
- Other services are used by different pupils on different days, or by pupils with SEND.
- The precise approach taken will need to reflect the range of measures that are reasonable in the different circumstances.

It will also require a partnership approach between local authorities, schools, trusts, dioceses and others.

In particular, it is imperative that schools work closely with local authorities that have statutory responsibility for 'home to school transport' for many children, as well as a vital role in working with local transport providers to ensure sufficient bus service provision.

The Department for Education will shortly publish new guidance to local authorities on providing dedicated school transport, based on the framework outlined here.

Given the pressures on public transport services it may also be necessary to work with local authorities so that they can identify where it might be necessary to provide additional dedicated school transport services, including in places where these services do not currently operate. **[The government is currently evaluating this position and will set out next steps shortly].**