

Please see information below with regards to public transport from September

As pupils/students return to college in September, there is likely to be new pressure on peak bus services due to the continuation of the need for Social Distancing on public transport leading to fewer seats being available, and no standing passengers being carried.

The dispensation which has allowed holders of English National Concessionary Travel passes (ENCTS / NoWCards) to travel free before 0930 will end from 1 September, and with the exception of those who qualify for a 24/7 card for travel to work/education, all will need to pay if travelling before 0930 on weekdays. Travel at weekends will continue to be unrestricted, as it always has been. This dispensation had already been withdrawn in some neighbouring Counties, as have already experienced greater capacity problems at peak times.

There will be encouragement for those who can travel outside the morning and afternoon peak to do so, and for those who can walk or cycle to do so.

Stagecoach have also, following guidance from the Department for Education, decided to temporarily make a number of their school and college transport service, which normally are also open to the public, only available to pupils/students. This reduces Social Distancing requirements and allows greater capacity. Whilst open to the public these services normally carried very few passengers, apart from those going to school/college, and have not run since schools/colleges closed at the start of the Pandemic, so the impact of this move will hopefully be fairly small.

Stagecoach have also highlighted a number of journeys that are part of their normal service network, but at peak times carry high volumes of students/pupils which may mean that not all can be carried on the existing vehicle. These include routes into the colleges in Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith and West Lakes, and schools in Carlisle, Barrow, Cockermouth, Egremont, Keswick and Workington. We are working with Stagecoach to try to ensure extra capacity is available, so workers, pupils and students do not reach their destination later than planned. This is for pupils not entitled to transport provided by the Council, arrangements for those entitled pupils is being dealt with separately.