

Alderbrook School

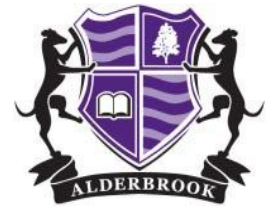
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3rd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Further to my letter of the 27 August regarding the wearing of face masks in communal areas in school such as corridors, we have now received further updated guidance on the wearing of face masks on dedicated school transport. Please see below the advice from the Department for Education:

Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and pupil groups will tend to be consistent under return to school measures. Therefore wider transmission risks are likely to be lower. From the autumn term, local authorities will not be required to uniformly apply the social distancing guidelines for public transport, on dedicated school or college transport. However, distancing should still be put in place within vehicles wherever possible. This will help to both minimise disease transmission risks and maintain consistent reinforcement of public health messaging to children and staff, particularly at the point where they are leaving school and heading back into the community each day.

The approach to dedicated transport should align wherever possible with the principles underpinning the system of controls set out in this document and with the approach being adopted for your school. It is important, wherever it is possible, that:

- *social distancing should be maximised within vehicles*
- *children either sit with their 'bubble' on school transport, or with the same constant group of children each day*
- *children should clean their hands before boarding transport and again on disembarking*
- *additional cleaning of vehicles is put in place*
- *organised queuing and boarding is put in place*
- *through ventilation of fresh air (from outside the vehicle) is maximised, particularly through opening windows and ceiling vents*

Children must not board home to school transport if they, or a member of their household, has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

In accordance with advice from PHE, from the autumn term, we recommend that local authorities advise children and young people aged 11 and over to wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport. This does not apply to people who are exempt from wearing a face covering on public transport. More information on this can be found at the [safer travel guidance for passengers](#).

Until the start of the autumn term, children and young people have not been expected to wear face coverings on dedicated transport, although they have been able to if they wish. We are adopting this new position in light of all children returning to education full-time. As well as the fact that it will not always be possible to apply the same social distancing measures as apply on public transport.

A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. It is not the same as the surgical masks or respirators used by healthcare and other workers as part of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Further information on face coverings is set out in the [transport to school and other places of education: autumn term 2020](#) guidance.

If your child does intend to use the school transport provided for Alderbrook School, can I please ask you to provide them with a face mask and would also refer you to my letter of the 27 August (attached with this email) which contains important advice on how to safely take masks on and off to minimise the potential for cross contamination.

With best wishes



Tom Beveridge
Headteacher