

Public Transport

You will be aware that there are still capacity restrictions on public transport and that face coverings must be worn by anyone aged 11 or over (unless they have an exemption).

There is a national concern that the capacity restrictions could result in pressure and demands during the peak hours, as schools and colleges reopen. This could impact on:

- Students/pupils getting to their place of education on time or from their place of education back home.
- People getting to work if there is no capacity on reduced capacity services.
- People getting to appointments if there is no capacity on reduced capacity services.
- People getting to and from the town centre at school start and finish time

We have been working with Tees Valley Combined Authority and bus operators to identify where social distancing requirements may restrict peoples ability to travel. A number of additional buses and coaches are going to be provided by the Council at school/college start and finish times to increase capacity.

There are not enough normal service buses available so most of the duplicate services are coaches and as such the duplicate services cannot accept cash or card payments and cannot dispense tickets.

All passengers using the duplicate services must buy their tickets ahead of using the service or have their school/college pass with them.

Child/student weekly passes can be bought in advance using the NEW Arriva app.

Buying an advance ticket also helps reduce contact and helps manage spread of the virus.

These additional buses are only on certain journeys and routes and will follow the established public transport routes.

PLEASE SEE THE TABLE AT THE END OF THIS NOTE THAT PROVIDES MORE INFORMATION ON :

- **WHICH BUS SERVICES MAY EXPERIENCE CAPACITY ISSUES.**
- **WHAT WE HAVE DONE TO HELP.**
- **WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP, AND**
- **WHAT WILL WE BE DOING.**

We will be monitoring this closely with bus operators to see if other pressure areas materialise, but it is important that parents have alternative plans in place with their children.

We need to make Parents, Students and Pupils aware of the possible capacity issues and put in place alternative arrangements and plans with their children, just in case they cannot get on the bus on their journey to school or on their return home.

Contacts:

The Lead officers who will be able to direct any queries to the relevant officer are:

- Tony Murphy: Head of Education and Inclusion, who is the main point of contact in relation to School Transport. tony.murphy@darlington.gov.uk
- Dave Winstanley: Assistant Director, who is the main point of contact in relation to highway matters and public transport. dave.winstanley@darlington.gov.uk

Additional Public Transport Information

Supporting a Safe and Successful return to Education, will not be without Issues and Challenges, but from a Public Transport perspective this is our Plan and we need EVERYONE to help.

The Issue	What have we done to help?	What can you do to help ?
<p>The schools and colleges are returning gradually over the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Capacity restrictions remain on public transport</p> <p>There may be pressure on certain services and at certain times of the day.</p>	<p>We have worked to provide extra capacity, but there are things you can do to help too....</p> <p>The table below shows where there maybe capacity issues on buses when schools and colleges return.</p> <p>There could be capacity issues on other services too, so be aware of what you can do to help.</p>	<p>Parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider whether there are places on dedicated School Transport with your School / College. • Buy your child a pre-paid ticket for public transport ahead of journeys. • Be aware your child could be late home if they must wait for the next bus. • Have a plan with your Child in case they can't get their normal bus. <p>Pupils / Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please observe Social Distancing • Buy your pre-paid ticket for public transport ahead of journeys. • Remember your mask and remember to wear it to keep everyone Safe. • Have a plan with your parents in case you can't get the normal bus. <p>Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware pupils and students could be late if they can't get on a certain service. • Encourage parents and Students buy a pre-paid ticket for public transport ahead of journeys. <p>General Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers - Can you re-time your journey to avoid school journey times. • Buy a pre-paid ticket for public transport ahead of journeys. • Alert your employers that you could be late if you can't get on a certain service. • Avoid making Medical appointment if it means using public transport at School start and finish times • Try and avoid these times on public transport if you are going shopping.

What will we be doing ?

Over the first few weeks we will be monitoring the return with public transport operators, schools and other agencies to help support the safe return to education. With the introduction of more buses and coaches it could mean there is some additional congestion at some bus stops, particularly in the town centre.

Services & journeys where there maybe capacity issues

Please note the additional services below are subject to final confirmation from transport providers. The table below will be kept up to date at <https://www.darlington.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-years/school-travel-and-transport/> . We will also update you on any amendments or changes.

Service	From – To	Frequency from 30 August 2020	Schools/Colleges served	Potential Capacity Issue Identified on the following journeys	What have we done to provide capacity for you.	What else can you do to help?
People travelling within Darlington						
Arriva 3/3A	Skerne Park - Mowden	30 minutes	Carmel Hummersknott	07:42 from Skerne Park to Hummersknott 15:29 from Hummersknott to Skerne Park 15:20 from Harrowgate Hill to Skerne Park	An additional Arriva bus will follow the service bus to provide additional capacity. <i>From Wednesday 2 September.</i> A Coach will follow the normal bus to provide additional capacity. <i>From Monday 7 September.</i> TO BE CONFIRMED	FOR ALL SERVICES:- Please purchase an advance pre-paid ticket through the NEW Arriva App, which must be shown to the driver on boarding. Pre-paid tickets must be purchased for use on the duplicate coaches.
Arriva 12	Oak Tree MSG to Darlington town centre - Hurworth	30 minutes	Hurworth School	07:50 from Oak Tree MSG to Darlington Town centre to Hurworth 15:57 Hurworth to Darlington Town Centre to Oak Tree MSG Message to schools, parents and pupils: Encourage children not to try and walk home to Darlington along roads where there are no footways if there is a capacity issue. Wait the 30 minutes for the next bus.	An additional Arriva bus will follow the service bus to provide additional capacity. <i>From Wednesday 2 September.</i>	
Arriva 2	Branksome – Town Centre – Red Hall	10 minutes	Onward travel to schools from town centre	07:46 Red Hall to Branksome 15:04 Branksome to Red Hall	A Coach will follow the normal bus to provide additional capacity. <i>From Monday 7 September.</i> TO BE CONFIRMED	
Arriva 9	Darlington town centre – Springfield	12 minutes	Education Village	14:50 Northgate to Springfield 15:02 Northgate to Springfield		
Arriva 13A	Darlington town centre - Firthmoor	5 minutes	Onward travel to schools from town centre	07:37 Town Centre to Firthmoor		

Service	From – To	Frequency from 30 August 2020	Schools/Colleges served	Potential Capacity Issue Identified on the following journeys	What have we done to provide capacity for you.	What else can you do to help?
People travelling to and from County Durham and North Yorkshire						
Arriva 5,5A	Darlington – Newton Aycliffe – Bishop Auckland	30 minutes	QE Darlington College Bishop Auckland College	07:25 Darlington to Bishop Auckland College = 25 07:55 Darlington to Bishop Auckland = 18	A Coach will follow the normal bus to provide additional capacity. <i>From Monday 7 September.</i> TO BE CONFIRMED	FOR ALL SERVICES:- Please purchase an advance pre-paid ticket through the new Arriva App, which must be shown to the driver on boarding. Pre-paid tickets must be purchased for use on duplicate coaches.
Arriva 7	Darlington – Newton Aycliffe – Ferryhill – Durham	15 minutes	UTC South Durham (5A) New College Durham	07:07 Durham to Darlington 07:05 Darlington to Framwellgate Moor 15:47 Durham to Darlington		
Arriva X75	Darlington – Staindrop – Barnard Castle	30 minutes	Barnard Castle School QE Darlington College	07:48 Darlington to Barnard Castle 15:03 Barnard Castle to Darlington		
Arriva X26/X27	Darlington – Richmond – Catterick Garrison – Colburn	20 minutes	QE Darlington College	07:13 Marne Barracks to Darlington 07:36 Colburn to Darlington 15:00 Darlington to Colburn 15:25 Darlington to Catterick Garrison	North Yorkshire County Council are providing additional buses or coaches to provide additional capacity. <i>From Monday 7 September.</i> TO BE CONFIRMED	
Hodgsons 29	Darlington to Aldbrough to Richmond	120 minutes	Carmel QE Darlington College	07:50 Richmond to Darlington 17:20 Darlington to Richmond	North Yorkshire County Council are providing additional buses through Hodgsons to provide additional capacity. <i>From Wednesday 2 September.</i>	
Hodgsons 72	Darlington to Northallerton	120 minutes	Carmel QE Darlington College	07:48 Northallerton to Darlington 17:15 Darlington to Northallerton		
Hodgsons 34	Darlington to Middleton Tyas to Richmond	120 minutes	QE Darlington College	07:30 Richmond to Darlington 16:20 Darlington to Richmond	North Yorkshire County Council are providing additional buses through Hodgsons to provide additional capacity. <i>From Monday 7 September.</i>	