

[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: <https://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 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, although where possible some practical approaches to grouping and distancing are provided. Adults should conform with the requirements for public transport (1m distancing). Pupils will fill the bus rear to front as per their boarding.

Face coverings are required on **all** school transport to provide consistent message across the transport and stop any confusion. 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 <https://disabilityequality.scot/face-covering/>

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

The creation of “dedicated zones/carriages” on certain limited types of public transport is permitted, with rules on distancing the same as for dedicated school transport. East Lothian Council and operators have adopted this approach where capacity could be achieved on services that are classified as public transport but which primarily carry children and young people to school, with limited numbers of adult passengers. Face coverings in dedicated zones **must be worn** in dedicated zones on all other forms of public transport.

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

Service	School	Pickups	Contractor	Remarks
120	Dunbar Grammar	East Linton	Eve Coaches	S1 and S2
253	Dunbar Grammar	East Linton	Eve Coaches	S3 and S5
107	Dunbar Grammar	East Linton	Eve Coaches	S4 and S6

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

Passes and Letters

We're busy producing letters and passes for all routes and will be sending them out this week. 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:

The main areas will be:

Dunbar Grammar

East Linton Pupils

0800 East Linton Surgery (1st, 2nd, 4th & 6th years)

Linton Hotel (3rd & 5th year)

ALL other route timetables are on operator websites