

School travel advice for September

Borough Communicators Event
13 Aug 2020



EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

Context

The Government published detailed plans for all children and young people to return to full-time education from September.

Points of the new guidance **most relevant to travel include:**

- Some schools or colleges may need to stagger or adjust start and finish times;
- New processes for drop off and collection;
- Where possible, children and young people are encouraged to walk or cycle to school or college;
- Managing capacity and demand for public transport and dedicated school travel services, so that children can travel safely to and from school or college.

In response, TfL is taking unprecedented action – both operationally and in our engagement – to mitigate the challenges posed by September’s return.

The return of schools and offices from September, presents a huge challenge to London’s transport network given the levels of demand it will create and the reduced capacity of public transport due to social distancing measures.

To manage the demand, our engagement plans will target students, parents, schools, office-based businesses, office workers and the wider public



Our school travel messaging

- Where possible **enable and encourage children [and parents/carers] and school staff to walk, cycle or scoot** to help free up more space on public transport for others
 - Enhance cycle and scooter parking at your site
 - Consider promoting 'walking buses' (supervising a group of children walking to, or from, school)
- If many of your students travel by bus, **consider staggering your start and finish times** to help social distancing and help take the pressure off peak travel times across London (05:45 - 08:15 and 15:00 - 17:30)
 - Consider staggering start and finish times by at least the length of a lesson either side
 - Work with neighbouring schools and education settings whose pupils use the same services so that staggered times reduce the overall number of children using local public transport stations and services during the busiest times
- **Visit our dedicated webpage** <https://tfl.gov.uk/reopeningeducation> for the most up to date advice and resources for schools and other education settings, including how to...
 - Take part in STARS, TfL's community project with over 1500 schools, nurseries and colleges inspiring young Londoners to travel sustainably, actively, responsibly and safely;
 - Reduce the frequency of, or retime, deliveries and servicing trips you require from your suppliers;
 - Start your own School Street, temporarily closing roads at school gates to traffic during drop-off and pick-up times to support safer, greener and healthier trips to and from school; and
 - Check the [Government's official guidance](#) for more details. For more general travel guidance, visit our coronavirus webpage at <https://tfl.gov.uk/coronavirus>



Operational readiness and planning

Buses

Around 250,000 school children use buses to and from school, including 11 - 12,000 which use the existing school routes. Analysis indicates that buses will have social distancing problems when schools return.

From September, during the AM and PM peak hours, we plan to introduce buses dedicated for school travel.

- We plan to dedicate **every other bus for school travel**, on what we anticipate will be the busiest high-frequency routes
- We're also planning to **add over 200 extra buses** onto some of **the busiest low-frequency bus routes** and **onto our existing school services**

Government guidance allows for all seats to be occupied on dedicated school services. These measures have been prioritised for those routes on which students travel longer distances and are planned to be in place until the October half-term. Further bus route specific details will be shared in due course.

We will communicate the changes as widely as possible to customers including through emails, media and information at bus stops.

As normal, we will not refuse access to members of the public wishing to use these services. We will monitor and review these changes to ensure an optimal level of service is being provided.



Operational readiness and planning (continued)

DLR, London Overground, TfL Rail, Tube and Trams

- We are continuing to take measures to control the flow of passengers at the busiest stations

Road Network

- 405 School Street schemes across 25 boroughs, have been allocated over £3m towards making active journeys to school safer and easier by limiting car access to school gates at drop off and pick-up times
- We recently consulted on plans to extend bus lanes to 24/7 operation to help improve bus journey times and reliability
- TfL's Network Management Control Centre continue to monitor our roads in real-time to ensure they are safe and reliable



Engagement with schools so far

- ✓ Dedicated webpage (tfl.gov.uk/reopeningeducation) live Fri 10 July - Travel advice, links to resources such as printable posters, signposts to STARS. To be updated in line with any changes to guidance advice, new resources and incentives, and examples of schools' good practice in planning September travel)
- ✓ Advice cascaded to schools via including Directors of Children's Services, Borough officers, London Transport Museum, Healthy Streets Officers and Higher Education (HE) institutions via HE Forum
- ✓ Advice emailed directly to 3,000+ state and private schools and other education settings in London through the National School Partnership
- ✓ Banner on the National School Partnership website directing to dedicated webpage on TfL site
- ✓ Advice included in the Mayor's school newsletter (July edition)
- ✓ Launch of The Road Safety Club – a new children's road safety initiative - emailed to 2,326 nurseries at end of July
- ✓ Direct engagement with 65 priority schools in and around busiest bus routes - schools surveyed for information on travel plans. Discussions with schools served by the route 6xx series
- ✓ Discussions with priority schools in and around the busiest Tram and DLR stops and London Overground stations

Travel guidance for schools

TfL is committed to helping London's schools reopen safely this September. This is part of our plan to get London moving and working again, safely and sustainably, as quickly as possible.

[▼ Planning for September](#)
[▼ STARS](#)

[▼ Streetspace for London](#)
[▼ Additional resources](#)

We need schools to help us enable social distancing on the transport network wherever possible, by enabling and encouraging children and parents/carers to walk, cycle or scoot to school. This will help make space for people who have to use public transport.

On this page you can find advice and resources to help with schools' work to re-open from a travel perspective. Keep checking back on this page as the situation develops - we will update it over the summer holiday.

Planning for September

- If many of your students come to school by bus, consider staggering your start and finish times to take the pressure off peak travel times across London (05:45 - 08:15 and 16:00 - 17:30)

TfL are working to make back-to-school travel safe, comfortable and sustainable for all






Dear Zoe,


We have some news from our friends at TfL...


We recognise the important role that London's hard-working teaching professionals are playing in supporting children and young people as they return to schools and colleges full-time this September.

[Home](#)
[Plan a journey](#)
[Status updates](#)

ROAD SAFETY CLUB

EVERY DAY IS A ROAD SAFETY DAY!

MAYOR OF LONDON 

Transport for London 

Dear Jon,

We're pleased to announce the launch of our exciting new children's road safety initiative – **The Road Safety Club!**

This engaging programme will help you teach essential life skills to children, as part of our commitment to reduce death and injury on and around London's roads.


The Road Safety Club helps Early Years settings teach pre-schoolers the basics of road safety in a fun, exciting and easy-to-follow way, along with resources for parents to continue the sessions at home.

A full resource pack is available for nurseries including an activity guide, sticker sheets and sing-along video, as well as interactive activities for you and the class to enjoy together. Expert educators helped to develop the campaign, ensuring it's perfect for young learners.



Upcoming comms, engagement and advertising

Activity	Message	When
Updates to 65 priority schools near busiest bus routes and shared with the relevant local authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active travel: walk, cycle or scoot to school - Localised bus travel advice 	Prior to start of term: w/c 17 Aug
Updated school travel advice to all local authorities and 3,000 plus schools in London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active travel: walk, cycle or scoot to school - Operational changes to the bus network 	w/c 24 Aug
Engagement with the TfL Youth Panel and advocacy groups representing children, young people and families, including disadvantaged groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active travel: walk, cycle or scoot to school - Operational changes to the bus network 	w/c 24 Aug
Updated travel advice to Higher Education settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active travel: walk, cycle or scoot to school - Operational changes to the bus network 	Prior to start of term: Sept



Youth Panel

The panel consists of around 25 volunteers, aged 16-25, who regularly travel in London. They play an important role in helping create a transport network that works for them and other young people across our city.

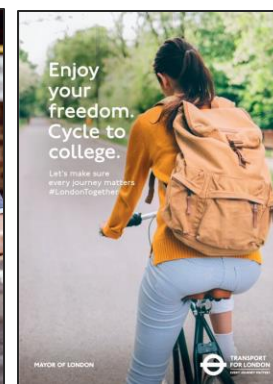
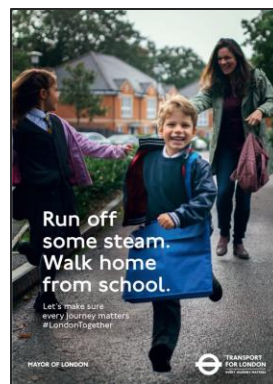
Not only do panellists get to positively impact our city, but through their involvement they also build relationships with other young people and develop a host of skills to help build their CVs, such as public speaking, debating, organising and influencing.

Since it launched in 2009, panel members have helped shape the Mayor's Transport Strategy, Road Safety campaigns and Year of Engineering, among many other initiatives. They also formally submit consultation responses, representing the voice of young Londoners, and take part in campaigns.



Upcoming comms, engagement and advertising (continued)

Activity	Message	When
TV, Video On Demand, social media	Encouraging Londoners to "travel a different way" and walk or cycle their A to B journeys, including commuting and travelling to school.	Pre-start of term: From 17 August
Pan-London digital outdoor advertising, up-weighted around priority schools and bus routes	Walk, scoot or cycle to school A range of posters aiming to create an 'Active Travel movement' to get Londoners to consider walking and cycling for their A to B journeys.	Pre-start of term: From 31 August
Paid social targeting older children and parents/ guardians of primary and secondary school children	Walk, scoot or cycle to school	Pre-start of term: From 31 August

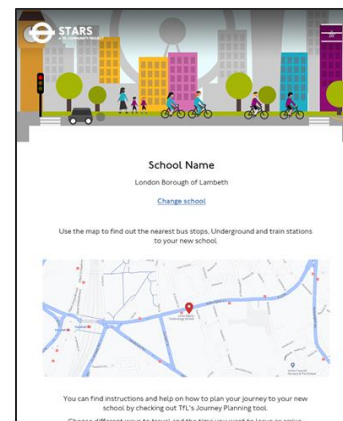
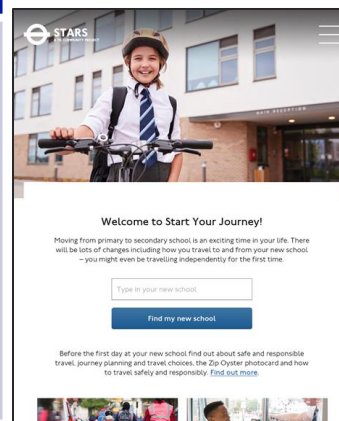


Supported by on-going safer travel behaviours including social distancing, wearing a face covering and hand washing



Schools programmes

Activity	Message	When
<p>Borough Officers, HSOs and the London Transport Museum will continue to promote the STARS programme to motivate schools to participate in activities that encourage young people to use active travel to get to and from school.</p>	<p>Due to school closures, the STARS accreditation will roll-over to the following year</p> <p>New bundles of activities to support schools to deliver more activities and reach higher levels of accreditation</p>	<p>Engagement pre-Summer holidays and pre-start of term</p>
<p>Due to school closures the Safety & Citizenship programme workshops, along with its supporting resource Start Your Journey can no longer be delivered in this format. In light of this, an online solution has been developed to continue supporting year 6/7 pupils with their transition towards independent travel.</p>	<p>The STARS Safer Journey Planner is an online resource aimed at reinforcing walking and cycling, providing key safety information, the benefits of active travel and journey planning advice.</p> <p>A downloadable guide has also been produced.</p>	<p>Start of term: September</p>



Walking to school

Walking is a great choice for lots of reasons. It's free, it keeps you fit and it's often quicker than you think. It also helps to wake you up, so you get to school fresh and full of energy.

If your school's too far away to walk, you can still try getting off the bus a stop or two early and walking the final bit - so you get the best of both worlds!



Fun fact!

Walking 7,500 steps a day = 5 times around the world in your lifetime!



Top Tip! Keep a safe distance...

Always remember the Covid-19 travel guidelines: where possible stay two metres away from others when you're out walking, or at least one metre if you're wearing a face covering, and wash your hands before and after each journey.

Secrets to a great walk

Tip 1: Use the TL Journey Planner to see how long your walk will take, or plan some different routes to try. Don't forget to leave home a few minutes early, just in case.

Tip 2: As well as being quick, reliable and healthy, walking shows you the world in new and exciting ways. On every journey you'll see things you never noticed before - so look around, and enjoy!

Tip 3: Worried it might be too far to walk? Just think about this: if your school is under one kilometre away, your walk could take less than 10 minutes!

Walking safely

Tip 1: Try to avoid walking when it's dark outside. If you have to walk in the dark, stick to well-lit streets.

Tip 2: Always find a safe place to cross the road. Remember the Green Cross Code: Stop, Listen, Look and Think.

Tip 3: Distractions can be dangerous. Wherever you are, pay close attention to what's going on around you. When you're crossing the road, take off your earphones and put away your phone.



Working in partnership with local authorities on school travel

We want to do everything we can to help schools reopen as safely and as sustainably as possible. We would appreciate the continued support of local authorities in:

- Working with schools, particularly those that rely on buses, to consider staggering start and finish times, where possible
- Promoting and enabling walking and cycling, within school communities and relevant networks
 - Encourage school staff, parents/carers and students to walk and cycle
- Communicating active and sustainable travel messages via borough comms channels and school networks
 - Use TfL resources and toolkits to support this messaging

