

Update on the 786 bus service

Following the release of recent government guidance, Merseytravel has written to the transport providers of the supported services so that the necessary steps can be put in to place. Merseytravel Supported Services are to recommence from the start of the new academic year. This includes the 786 service from Speke to Halewood and the return journey.

I would draw your attention to the following points:

- Changes in Government guidance permits Merseytravel Supported Services to schools to return to pre covid 19 capacity levels. Social Distancing will not apply to dedicated services to schools but it is mandatory for school children to wear face coverings (unless covered by one of the valid exemptions). Whilst social distancing is not mandatory, we will still encourage this where possible. Vehicles where possible will operate with open vents and windows at all times.
- Children using bus services will be expected to tender the correct fare or present a valid concessionary or prepaid ticket to travel. Contactless payment is also promoted where this is an option.
- Government guidance through the pandemic has required transport operators enhance the cleaning of service vehicles, particularly around frequent touch points. These arrangements have been in place for some time.
- Transport operators are required to have a risk assessment in place for service operation and in the pandemic that extends to mitigating risks associated with Covid19. Merseytravel have requested that operators continuously review and keep this information available as we restart school services.

The full government guidance can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020>