

Mrs K Scott

Our ref: 0920-TAUESG-01457

k.scott@newmanrc.oldham.sch.uk

9 September 2020

Dear Mrs Scott

RE: Student Transport

Thank you for contacting Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) regarding student transport.

Due to the impact that the Coronavirus pandemic has had on public transport and the demand for it, there have been many factors that TfGM has given careful consideration to when planning the school services for the upcoming academic year. TfGM's Bus Services team has been working closely with schools and operators to determine how school services will operate and demand is being closely monitored and adjustments will be made where appropriate to best meet the needs of the students.

Unlike general bus services, Government guidance stipulates that social distancing is not required on dedicated school buses as students will not be mixing with the general public. However, you may be aware that Government funding has been made available to boost capacity on services for students. Data taken prior to the coronavirus pandemic shows that around 90% of students in GM use general bus services, which do have to adhere to social distancing guidance unlike dedicated school services. Therefore, this funding is to provide additional transport provision to meet demand that, due to social distancing guidelines on the general bus network, cannot be met.

With the above in mind, TfGM has met with the 10 Greater Manchester councils and has liaised closely with them and transport operators to identify hot spots across the city-region where the additional funding will be most impactful in supporting students on their return to school. This information has been used to provide approximately 300 additional bus journeys on the public commercial network each weekday across the region.

This means duplicate buses – exclusively for school and college students and staff – will run up to five minutes behind scheduled services at set times, with the usual route number on the front, starting with an ‘S’ to show they are school services. These buses and journeys are separate to existing dedicated school bus services and TfGM’s Yellow School Bus services. Further information regarding these additional journeys can be found at the following link:

<https://tfgm.com/public-transport/schools/duplicate-school-bus-services>

I can confirm that service 182 is listed as S182 on the duplicate services list and will be operated by First Bus.

More generally I would like to assure you that TfGM is doing everything within its powers and in line with the latest Government guidance to ensure that transport for students meets demand and work is ongoing with both schools and operators to address any concerns on the network and ongoing adjustments will be made where possible to ensure students have the support they need during this troubling time.

Thank you again for your email and I trust that the above information proves useful. If there is anything further I can help you with then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Foulds
Customer Casework Officer