



SEN Transport: use of face-coverings

Dear parent/carers,

As you will be aware, there has been a great deal of publicity around the use of face-coverings recently, particularly in relation to public transport.

Guidance for SEN Transport is different from public transport. For some children with SEND, trying to use face-coverings on SEN Transport would present difficulties due to age and/or needs, and the inappropriate use of them, such as touching or removing the covering, would be difficult to manage. As a result, we are **not** asking for your children to use face-coverings.

This is not a change, however given recent publicity we felt it would be helpful to restate our position.

Our focus is on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children on SEND Transport, which includes carefully planned seating arrangements (with nobody sitting to either side, or facing any child), strict cleaning routines for the vehicles, and PPE and clear guidance for drivers and passenger assistants. This is the same whether your child is transported by our in-house fleet or a private taxi provider.

If however, you feel that you would like your child to use a face-covering whilst on the vehicle, and it is appropriate in terms of their age and/or needs, you are quite welcome to arrange this. You would need to provide the face-covering.

Please note that the driver or passenger assistant would not be expected to adjust or otherwise help with the covering, and also that some children on a shared vehicle will not be wearing face-coverings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Travel Training and Assessment Team at indetravel@sheffield.gov.uk or tel. 0114 2053542.

Regards
Paul

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