

School Bus Services and Travel Advice

Bolton Schools

Academic Year 2021/22

Summary

This booklet shows all home to school bus services as provided to schools within the Borough of Bolton.

Other booklets are available for schools across the other 9 districts of Greater Manchester and these can be found at tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/bus-school-bus-services.

In addition to the services contained in this booklet, there is a network of general bus services which can also be used to get to and from school. Details of these can be found at tfgm.com/public-transport/bus/.

Services shown in this booklet operate only on the school days of the schools that the services operate for and will not operate during school holidays or on days when students are not in attendance. Some buses are shared between schools and in these instances, buses will operate on days that all relevant schools are in attendance unless marked on the timetable.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS - If you are using school bus information to choose your child's school, please be aware that these services are subject to change and may be withdrawn due to low use and/or a suitable public transport alternative. Any alternative may involve a journey of up to 90 minutes, use the general service network and a change of bus on route may be required.

The provision of direct school buses in the 2021/22 academic year does not indicate that these buses will be provided in future academic years and parents should consider carefully how their child may get to/from school if no school bus was provided.

Frequently Asked Questions

Please see the information below on popular questions relating to school bus services in Bolton.

Who co-ordinates and funds the school bus services?

School bus services are co-ordinated by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). TfGM don't run any buses, but most of the services in this booklet are provided by funding from TfGM to bus operators to provide the services shown.

How do you decide where to run the buses?

Some schools provide information to TfGM to allow us to understand the areas where students live to determine where there is likely to be a demand for services, otherwise we will look at where students travelled in previous years. Buses are not cheap to run, so to ensure that we make the maximum use of the resources we have available, we will only provide buses where there are at least 25 students on a line of route. Where there are less than 25 students then the general service network can be used to get to/from school.

There is no bus for my child to get to school. How are they going to get there?

Many students across Greater Manchester use the general network of services to get to/from school, basic details of these are provided within the timetable pages and full timetables for these services can be found at tfgm.com/public-transport/bus/.

The route and timetable of my child's service has been changed from last year, why is this?

As the numbers of students to schools from individual areas fluctuates, this means that routes may be revised to cater for these fluctuations. To ensure that there are enough students on the route to justify the service running, buses from areas may be combined to ensure that there are enough numbers of students for each bus to run.

Will it change again?

TfGM reviews the operation and use of services throughout the year and particularly during the autumn term to determine whether any changes are necessary. Mid-year changes predominantly take place at October half-term but can take place at any point in the year. It is possible that routes may change again next year if the number of students using services are low, suitable alternative services are in place or if there has been a significant change in the location of students attending school.

My child is applying for a place not at our local school, there is a bus service there now, will it be there next year?

Services are subject to change, and the provision of a service this year does not mean that the service will necessarily be provided next year. Before deciding to attend a non-local school, consider how your child would get to school if the school bus was no longer provided.

My child's school bus now drops them off much earlier and picks them up later than now, why is this?

To make maximum use of our buses, we look to use the buses to run more than one journey. This means that some students will be dropped off earlier in the morning, up to 30 minutes before the start of school, to allow the bus to run onto another school or will be picked up later in the afternoon, up to 20 minutes after the end of school, because the bus has run a journey preceding.

We live local to our school - will my child be able to use the bus?

Most of our school bus services are in place to carry students who live more than 2 miles from school. 2 miles has been used as this is the absolute minimum statutory distance before students may be eligible for free school travel. Whilst there may be a limited number of places available for students who live closer than 2 miles, local students are encouraged to walk to school. More information on walking to/from school can be found at activetravel.tfgm.com/.

Why don't you just put another bus?

TfGM's funding predominantly comes from a levy on the 10 districts of Greater Manchester and ultimately from the Council Tax. Like all Local Authorities we have a limited budget, and this means that we don't have the money to simply put on an extra bus. Where buses are not provided, the student numbers are low enough to be accommodated on the general service network.

Will my child get a seat on the bus?

Most buses provided allow for both seated and standing passengers, this means that some students may need to stand especially on more popular services for part or all of their journey to ensure that we can provide places to the maximum number of students possible.

There was a bigger bus last year, why is it now smaller?

We look to provide places for everyone in the most cost-effective manner, smaller buses cost less to run than larger buses, so we will try to provide buses which match the current demand for places. This may mean some double deck vehicles have been replaced by single deck vehicles with some students needing to stand for part or all of their journey.

What happened to all the Yellow School Buses?

Everything gets older - even our buses!! After many years serving the area, most of these buses have now been retired from service.

My child has a large sports bag or instrument, do you provide luggage space?

Unfortunately, the buses we use have very limited luggage space to ensure that we can carry the maximum number of students. If there is room on the bus then drivers may allow the carriage of a large item, but this cannot be at the expense of carrying another student and if your child's service is very popular then you will need to consider alternative methods.

Are the buses provided only for school students?

All school bus services operate as local bus services. This means that they are open for everyone to use. Most of the time services are not used by anyone other than students, but it is possible.

Do I need a special pass to use the school buses?

To travel for reduced fare on the bus, students must hold an iGo card and present this to the driver each time. More information on fares is shown below. The Yellow Bus Pass scheme will not be in operation in 2021/22.

If you've any other question not answered above, then please call our Traveline team on 0161 244 1000.

Using the Bus

The following notes will help you in using the bus, especially if it is your first time using one.

Planning the journey

It's a good idea to check which bus is best to catch. All school bus services are shown in this booklet, but you may be using a regular bus service which carries other people. Try and find out in advance where to find the nearest stop is, so that you are confident where to go on the first day.

Even if you've caught the bus before then check that the times and the route haven't changed, you don't want to be late on the first day!

Plan to arrive at the stop 5 minutes before the bus is due to ensure that you don't miss it.

Waiting for the bus

There may be more than one person waiting for a bus at the stop, so wait sensibly away from the road; please be mindful of other bus passengers who may be waiting for the bus also. Do not push or trip others on the pavement whilst waiting for the bus, as it could cause an accident.

Make sure you have your pass and any fare ready before the bus arrives, this will mean that the driver won't have to wait for you to find it and delay the journey.

As the bus approaches make sure it is your bus by checking the service number and destination which are clearly displayed on the front of the bus; raise your arm as a signal to the driver that you want the bus to stop.

Getting on the bus

Board the bus calmly and do not push other people in front or to the side of you to get on more quickly; make sure that you allow other passengers to board the bus if they were there before you.

Show your pass to the driver, and where necessary pay your fare, try to have the correct change if possible.

Then find a seat on the bus, use seats upstairs if necessary.

During the journey

Stay seated throughout the journey, if seatbelts are fitted then they must be worn.

If no seats are available and you must stand then ensure that you always hold onto handrails, that you don't stand upstairs, on the stairs or to the side of the driver.

Do not distract the driver unless it is an emergency and do not cause any damage to the bus or interfere with its working.

Getting off the bus

When your stop is next, ring the bell once. If it has already been rung, you do not need to ring it again.

If you need to cross the road when you get off the bus, wait until the bus has moved off and you can see the road clearly in both directions or go to the nearest available crossing.

REMEMBER: When using the bus, behave sensibly and safely for all parts of the journey.

Any pupil that causes damage to buses, bus stops or shelters and/or does not meet the required standard of behaviour on the bus could:

- Have their pass withdrawn.
- Be banned from the bus.
- Be prosecuted by the police.
- Be required to pay for any damage they have caused.

Operator Contact Details

The following operators operate bus services across Bolton, if you have any lost bag queries or complaints regarding the operation of the services then please contact the operators below in the first instance.

Operator Code	Operator	Contact Details		
ARR	Arriva North West	73 Ormskirk Road, Aintree, Liverpool, L9 5AR	p	0344 800 4411
			w	www.arrivabus.co.uk
			e	customer.services@arrivanw.co.uk
			t	@arrivanorthwest
ATL	Atlantic Travel	Northolt Drive, Mikar Business Park, Bolton, B13 6RE	p	01204 386056
			w	www.atlantictravel.co.uk/
			e	info@atlantictravel.co.uk
BBC	Blackburn Bus Company	Blackburn Bus Station, Blackburn, BB1 6HG	p	01254 670583
			w	www.lancashirebus.co.uk
			e	hello@blackburnbus.co.uk
			t	@blackburnbusco
BES	Bestway Travel	281 Wigan Road, Bolton, BL3 5QX	p	07714 330963
			e	bestwaytravel786@gmail.com
			t	@blackburnbusco
BPH	Blackburn Private Hire	Unit 9 Stancliffe Street Industrial Estate, Blackburn, BB2 2QR	p	01254 678830
			w	www.blackburnprivatehire.co.uk/
			e	bphcoaches@hotmail.co.uk
DIA	Diamond Bus	Weston Street, Bolton, BL3 2AW	p	01204 937535
			w	www.diamondbuses.com/north-west
			e	commentsdiamondbusnorthwest@rotala.co.uk
			t	@DiamondBusNW
HAR	Harris Travel	Unit 5B, Shadsworth Business Park, Duttons Way, Blackburn, BB1 2QR	p	01254 389046
NRL	Northern Rail	Freepost NORTHERN RAILWAY	p	0800 200 6060
			w	www.northernrailway.co.uk
			e	enquiries@northernrailway.co.uk
			t	@northernassist
OLY	Olympia Travel	44 Argyle Street, Wigan, WN2 3PH	p	01942 522322
			w	www.coach-hire.net
			e	olympia@coach-hire.net
			t	@olympiatraveluk
ROS	Rosso	Rawtenstall Bus Station, Bacup Road, Rawtenstall, BB5 7VN	p	0345 6040110
			w	www.transdevbus.co.uk/rosso/
			e	getintouch@rossobus.com
			t	@RossoBus
STG	Stagecoach	Hyde Road, Manchester, M12 6JS	p	0161 273 3377
			w	www.stagecoachbus.com
			e	manchester.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com
			t	@StagecoachGM
STM	Stagecoach Lancashire	Gillmoss Bus Depot, East Lancashire Road, Liverpool, L11 0BB	p	01772 255777
			w	www.stagecoachbus.com
			e	enquiries.preston@stagecoachbus.com
			t	@StagecoachMCSL
TYR	Tyrers Coaches	Crosse Hall Street, Chorley, PR6 0UH	p	01257 480979
			w	www.tyrerscoaches.co.uk
			t	@Tyrerscoaches
VBL	Vision Bus	Blackrod Interchange, Station Road, Blackrod, Bolton, BL6 5JE	p	01204 468288
			w	www.visionbus.co.uk
			e	info@visionbus.co.uk
			t	@VisionBus

For any comments of the routes/times or vehicles provided, or for any other queries or comments on services in Bolton then please contact TfGM on 0161 244 1000 or use the contact form at www.tfgm.com/contact.

Fares Information

Passengers can pay a fare to the driver for each journey shown on this timetable. However, students will need to show an IGO pass to travel at the concessionary (reduced) fare. If students do not have an IGO pass, they will have to pay a higher fare.

All students between the ages of 11 and 16 need an igo pass if they wish to travel at the concessionary fare on buses. It must be carried on all journeys and shown to the driver before paying the fare.

The igo pass costs £10 and can only be bought by students who live in or go to school in Greater Manchester. More information on IGO and an application form to get an IGO pass is on the TfGM website at tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/igo-pass.

Unless marked within the timetables then the following fares are applicable on school bus services:

igo Single Ticket - £1.40	igo Return Ticket - £2.40
Single Ticket (without igo) - £1.80	no return available

TfGM School Weekly (requires igo) - £7.60 Ten trip carnet (requires igo) - £10 – must be used within 28 days.

The above tickets are only valid for use on the school bus service to/from school. It is not valid on any other services, therefore if you miss the bus you will need to buy another ticket to travel.

Students can apply for an Our Pass if they have completed their GCSEs which allows free travel on all bus services in Greater Manchester. More details can be found at ourpass.co.uk.

get me there tickets

get me there passes allow use on the school bus services included in this guide wholly within Greater Manchester as well as all other bus services within Greater Manchester for the duration of the ticket. Tickets may be used after school and at weekends where applicable and offer better value than purchasing additional tickets at the weekend.

1 Day Any Bus Junior - £3.00 – available from the driver
7 Day Any Bus Junior - £9.70 – available from the driver
28 Day Any Bus Junior - £35.00 – must be purchased at TfGM Travelshops or Pay Point locations.

The above tickets are for 11-16 years only and an igo card is required.

7 Day Any Bus Young Person - £14.00 – must be purchased at TfGM Travelshops or Pay Point locations.
28 Day Any Bus Young Person - £49.00 – must be purchased at TfGM Travelshops or Pay Point locations.

These tickets are available to Sixth Form and College students with a get me there card.

Other tickets are available for individual operators, details of these can be found on their respective websites.

Free School Travel

Your child may be entitled to free travel to and from school if they:

are under 8 years old and live more than 2 miles from your nearest qualifying school, **or**
are aged 8-16 years old and live more than 3 miles from nearest qualifying school.

Your child may qualify for free travel if they are eligible for free school meals or if the parents receive maximum level of Working Tax Credit, and:

are under 11 years old and live more than 2 miles from your nearest qualifying school, **or**
are aged 11-16 years old and live between 2 and 6 miles from attended school, if there are not three or more nearer qualifying schools, **or**
are aged 11-16 years old and live between 2 and 15 miles from your nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief.

Further information on eligibility for free school travel may be found below, please select the council where the student is **resident**:

Students living in Bolton - www.bolton.gov.uk/school-travel/assistance-transport-costs-school-college

Students living in Salford - <https://www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/info-for-parents-students-and-teachers/help-and-support-for-students/transport-to-school/>

Students living in Wigan - www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Home-to-school-travel/Home-to-school-travel.aspx

Students living in Bury - <https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10420>

Students living in Blackburn with Darwen - <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/transport-and-streets-policies-and-strategies/home-school-transport-policy>

Students living in Lancashire - www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/free-travel-to-and-from-school/

The following services run close by - more details can be found at www.tfgm.com:

Stagecoach service 7 – Bolton, Gilnow, Deane, Daisy Hill, Hindley, Wigan
Diamond Bus service 520 – Bolton, Gilnow, Deane, Lostock Junction, Chew Moor

Additionally specific schoolday only services also serve the school as follows:

Bestway service 944 – Daubhill, Over Hulton, Hag Fold, Atherton
Vision Bus service 945 – Lostock, Horwich, Blackrod, Wingates

Changes to schoolday only services from 1 September 2021

Service 924 – will be retimed to operate up to 4 minutes earlier to improve punctuality, between Atherton and Westhoughton will be rerouted to a more direct route and will be renumbered to 944. It will be operated by *Bestway* instead of *Tyrers/Vision Bus*.
 Service 945 – this new service will be introduced running from Lostock, Horwich, Blackrod and Wingates on a trial basis. It will be operated by *Vision Bus*.

Daubhill / Over Hulton / Hag Fold / Atherton Service 944

TfGM Contract:	5068	TfGM Contract:	5068	5068
Minimum Capacity:	52	Minimum Capacity:	52	52
Operator Code:	BES	Operator Code:	BES	BES
		Days of Operation:	We	NW
Daubhill, St Helens Road	0744	Westhoughton High School	1420	1520
Four Lane Ends	0750	Wigan Road/Linstock Way	1432	1532
Atherton, Railway Station	0756	Atherton, Railway Station	1442	1542
Wigan Road/Linstock Way	0806	Four Lane Ends	1448	1548
Westhoughton High School	0825	Daubhill, St Helens Road	1457	1557

From Daubhill, St Helens Road/Deane Church Lane via St Helens Road, Newbrook Road, Bolton Road, Car Bank Street, Cross Street, Bag Lane, Gloucester Street, Wigan Road, Gibfield Park Way, Gibfield Park Avenue, North Road, Platt Lane, Park Road, Cricketers Way, Church Street, Central Drive, Bolton Road **to Westhoughton High School**.

Returning from Westhoughton High School via Bolton Road, Park Road and outward route reversed **to Daubhill, St Helens Road/Deane Church Lane**.

Lostock / Horwich / Blackrod / Wingates Service 945

TfGM Contract:	0431	TfGM Contract:	5032	5032
Minimum Capacity:	90	Minimum Capacity:	63	63
Operator Code:	VBL	Operator Code:	VBL	VBL
		Days of Operation:	We	NW
Lostock, St Joseph's School	0810	Westhoughton High School	1420	1535
Horwich, The Crown	0817	Wingates	1427	1542
Blackrod, Primary School	0822	Blackrod, Primary School	1435	1550
Wingates	0830	Horwich, The Crown	1440	1605
Westhoughton High School	0835	Lostock, St Joseph's School	1447	1602

From Lostock, St Joseph's School via Chorley New Road, Crown Lane, Station Road, Manchester Road, Chorley Road, Manchester Road, Bolton Road **to Westhoughton High School**.

Returning from Westhoughton High School via outward route reversed **to Lostock, St Joseph's School**.