

FAO: Parents / Guardians

Re; School Transport:

The school transport scheme will proceed as planned with additional measures and hygiene requirements when schools re-open.

At post-primary there will be rolling implementation of the additional measures in line with those required on public transport; that is, using 50 per cent of passenger capacity, which will support physical distancing requirements.

Discussions are already underway with Bus Éireann in respect of these plans, in order to implement measures so that any services that can operate from the start of the school year at 50 per cent capacity will do so. Over the coming period all other post-primary transport services will be re-organised and additional services will be provided as required to allow for physical distancing.

For those children who are eligible for transport under the terms of the school transport scheme and whose parents decide not to use post-primary transport for the 2020/2021 school year, arising from the most recent health advice, the Department will provide a grant to support them with the cost of private transport arrangements. Grants will be paid at the end of the school year, following receipt of relevant documentation, confirming the number of days of school attended in the 2020/2021 school year. The grant is based on the distance a family resides from their school of eligibility with a maximum daily allowance payable of €5.10 per day.

Further information and guidance on the operation of School Transport Scheme Services for the 2020/2021 School Year is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/64a88-school-transport/>

The school will provide guidelines for buses delivering and collecting pupils to encourage social distancing.

For Attention of Pupils studying for Certificate Examinations in 2021:

Adjustments to the Certificate Examinations in 2021.

The adjustments put in place are intended to play to student strengths by leaving intact the familiar overall structure of the examinations while incorporating additional choice. The assessment arrangements are an attempt to provide clarity, certainty and reassurance to students, their parents/guardians, teachers and schools in advance of the start of the 2020/2021 school year.

These documents can be found here:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Curriculum-and-Syllabus/assessment-arrangements-junior-cycle-and-leaving-certificate-examinations-2021.pdf>