



Cambridge Bus & Coach Ltd
College Farm Industrial Estate
Swavesey Road
Fen Drayton
Cambridge
CB24 4SE

Date: 29th April 2021

School Bus Information

Changes to Bus Loadings & Schedules

Cambridge Buses are making changes to bus loadings to redistribute seating capacity across their fleet to accommodate significant growth in student numbers across the school catchment area.

A seat has to be available for every student who is allocated to a vehicle – this is starkly different to a service bus, such as Stagecoach, where standees are permitted. Sometimes it might seem that there are spare seats available on a particular bus, but that is typically due to students not riding e.g. due to illness on a particular day. Seating must be available for the day that all students attend and travel by bus. So swapping students to alternative services is usually not practical unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Conversely, there are occasionally reports that certain services have no seats left. The bus pass checker used by Cambridge Buses shows exactly how many students were on board for each journey and how many seats were available. They monitor this daily in case adjustments are required and the reports show that no vehicles have been overloaded this term. Revised vehicles will be allocated if overloading looks possible. On no account must students sit on the floor or on the stairs.

All the school buses are full, or very nearly full, to capacity, so where a vehicle with 87 seats is scheduled, it usually has 87 students allocated to it. There is not scope for students to have a seat to themselves or use the space next to them to place their bag. Typically, the last student on the bus will have to sit where the last seat is. Often, when a student says there are no seats left, they usually mean there are no seats left where they want to sit. The bus driver must now remain in their cab behind the protective screen so is unable to assist. Students should therefore be proactive in helping each other find a seat and in not blocking spaces for others.

Safety at Bus Stops

Student safety is a priority on school transport. Boarding and alighting buses is a particular point where safety needs to be improved at some stops. Please could you remind your child to take extra care as follows:

When waiting for the bus in the morning - they must remain on the pavement and patiently queue to board the bus. We have reports of some students running along the road to get to the front of the queue, sometimes when the bus has still been in motion.

When alighting the bus in the afternoon – if they need to cross the road after getting off, they must wait until the bus has departed the stop, so they have a clear view of other traffic on the road. Some students have been crossing the road around the bus before it has finished off-loading and there have been some near misses with students not anticipating other traffic hidden by the bus.