

## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO BUS SERVICE 734/733 – CHEETHAM HILL**

**EFFECTIVE 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**The following information is issued to parents and students on behalf of TfGM:**

As funding continues to be constrained, TfGM have considered a more structured approach to providing school bus services based on the reduced resources that our funding can provide.

The statutory responsibility for school buses is as follows:

- students who live further than 3 miles from their nearest available school,
- low income students who live between 2 and 6 miles from their chosen school provided that it is one of their three nearest schools,
- low income students who live between 2 and 15 miles from their chosen faith school provided that it is their nearest faith school.

Most authorities across the country have already applied the above thresholds to their school bus services.

TfGM are responsible for sustainable travel (cycling and walking) in Greater Manchester and want to encourage more of this, especially on short journeys to regular destinations, particularly schools, to promote healthier lifestyles. One of the ways we can do this is to reduce capacity for short distance bus users and to encourage local students to walk and cycle to school. Our active travel team are on hand to help and further details of this can be found at the following page: <https://tfgm.com/walking/walking-support-for-schools>.

Therefore, from September 2019, the two buses that we have provided (733 / 734) will reduce to one (Stagecoach service 733). The bus will also be shared with William Hulme Grammar to expand usage and ensure its retention. We have not provided any spaces for students who live within two miles of school. If spaces are available then students who live less than 2 miles from school will be able to take them, however the priority will be students who live the furthest.

TfGM are not able to provide additional buses for students left behind because buses are filled with short distance travellers.

**Whalley Range 11-18 High School 0830-1500 Effective 1 September 2019**

**William Hulme's Grammar School 0830-1500 Effective 1 September 2019**

**The following bus services run close by - more details can be found at [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com):**

Stagecoach service 25 – Stockport, Heaton Norris, Heaton Moor, Burnage, Withington, Stretford, Urmston, Davyhulme

MCT service 44 – Stockport, Heaton Mersey, Burnage, Ladybarn, Withington, Fallowfield, Manchester

Stagecoach service 85 – Manchester, Alexandra Park, Chorlton

Stagecoach service 101 – Newall Green, Baguley, Northenden, Southern Cemetery, Moss Side, Manchester

Stagecoach service 102 – Roundthorn, Benchill, Sharston, Northenden, Southern Cemetery, Moss Side, Manchester

Stagecoach service 103 – Woodhouse Park, Benchill, Sharston, Northenden, Southern Cemetery, Moss Side, Manchester

Stagecoach service 108 – Timperley, Northern Moor, Northenden, Southern Cemetery

Stagecoach service 168 – Chorlton, Fallowfield, Levenshulme, Longsight, Gorton, Fairfield, Droylsden, Littlemoss, Ashton

**Additional specific school day only services also serve the school as follows:**

Stagecoach service 733 – Cheetham Hill, Miles Platting, Ardwick, Longsight

**Changes to school day only services from 1 September 2019**

Service 733 will be amended to run between Cheetham Hill and School via Miles Platting, Ardwick and Longsight replacing service 734. The bus will also be provided for William Hulme's Grammar.

TfGM Contract:	0445	TfGM Contract:	0445
Minimum Capacity:	90	Minimum Capacity:	90
Operator Code:	STG	Operator Code:	STG
Cheetham Hill, Shopping Centre	0713	Whalley Range School	1515
Cheetham Hill Road/Smedley La	0716	Longsight, Market	1528
Queens Rd/Rochdale Rd	0722	Ardwick, shops	1534
Alan Turing Way/Ashton New Rd	0731	Alan Turing Way/Ashton New Rd	1546
Ardwick, shops	0742	Collyhurst, Topley Street	1556
Longsight, Market	0752	Cheetham Hill Road/Smedley La	1600
Whalley Range School	0810	Cheetham Hill, Shopping Centre	1608
William Hulme Grammar	0812		

**Service 733 route: From Cheetham Hill, Shopping Centre** via Cheetham Hill Road, Queens Road, Hulme Hall Lane, Alan Turing Way, Pottery Lane, Wenlock Way, Clowes Street, Hyde Road, Devonshire Street, Stockport Road, Dickenson Road, Wilmslow Road, Platt Lane, Lloyd Street South, Wilbraham Road to **Whalley Range High School** then Wilbraham Road and Spring Bridge Road to **William Hulme Grammar School**.

**Returning from Whalley Range High School (also for William Hulme Grammar School)** via outward route reversed to Queens Road, Sropton Street, Topley Street, Queens Road, Cheetham Hill Road to **Cheetham Hill, Shopping Centre**.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

### **Who co-ordinates and funds the school bus services?**

Schools 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?**

Most schools have provided 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. 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 30 students on a line of route. Where there are less than 30 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, details of these are provided within the timetable pages.

### **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. In order to ensure that there are enough students on the route, buses from areas may be combined to ensure that there are enough numbers of students along the line of route.

### **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 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 unfortunately 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, parents/carers are urged to 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?***

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

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

Most of our school bus services have been designed to carry students who live more than 2 miles from school. 2 miles has been used as this is the 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 [www.tfgm.com/walking](http://www.tfgm.com/walking).

***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 most 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 students 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. This ensures that we can provide places to the maximum number of students possible.

***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.

***My child has lost their bag, who do I contact?***

Check who the operator of the service is and contact them directly.

***Are the buses provided only for school students?***

Except for services beginning with a Y, 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?***

Except for services beginning with a Y, then no passes are required to travel. However, in order 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 igo cards can be found at [www.tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/igo-pass](http://www.tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/igo-pass). Students travelling on most services beginning with a Y also require a Yellow School Bus Pass. More information on this can be found at [www.tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/bus-yellow-school-buses](http://www.tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/bus-yellow-school-buses).

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