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SCHOOL BUS SERVICES 2020/21 (updated as at 31st December 2020)

Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School are committed to helping to ensure our students receive a safe and reliable transport service to school. Below are details of the bus services for our students in 2020/21, with the latest timetable information available to us. The timetable is likely to be changed from time to time by the bus companies however, so we do advise all parents and students to check details on the Thames Travel and Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) transport websites depending on the provider listed below for the very latest information.

OCC assess eligibility for free school transport and arrange for passes to be issued when applicable. Otherwise, the bus company, Thames Travel, manages the administration, provides all the tickets and passes and collects any fees for fare paying routes. **No tickets can be purchased from school and passes must be purchased in advance of travelling.**

There are currently a number of routes every school day that are suitable for Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School students. This information pack seeks to summarise those that will be in place for the 2020/21 academic year. **Please take extra time to read the section on keeping safe when travelling on dedicated school buses.**

Route	Operator	Calling at
DC02 (a) (ESUK Bus Number 5)	Heyfordian Travel in conjunction with Culham Bus Club – through OCC School Transport Team	Appleford, Culham, Sutton Courtenay, Didcot Girls' School, St Birinus School
DC02 (b) (ESUK Bus Number 9)	Heyfordian Travel in conjunction with Culham Bus Club – through OCC School Transport Team	Long Wittenham, Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Didcot Girls' School, St Birinus School
DC06	Tappins Coaches – through OCC School Transport Team.	North Moreton, South Moreton, Aston Upthorpe, Blewbury, Upton, St Birinus School, Didcot Girls' School
BB1A	Thames Travel	Iffley, Kennington, Radley, Abingdon Hadland Road, St Birinus School, Didcot Girls' School
BB1 (B,C and D)	Thames Travel	Abingdon, Drayton, Steventon, St Birinus School, Didcot Girls' School
BB2	Thames Travel	Clifton Hampden, Burcot, Berinsfield, Dorchester, Shillingford Roundabout, Benson Marina, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, St Birinus School, Didcot Girls' School
BB4	Thames Travel	East Hanney, Grove, Wantage, Ardington Turn, West Hendred, East Hendred, Rowstock, Milton Heights, Didcot Girls' School, St Birinus School

BB5	Thames Travel	Chilton, Harwell Campus, Rowstock, Harwell, Didcot Girls' School, St Birinus School
33	Thames Travel	Sutton Courtenay, Milton, Didcot Station Road (for Didcot Girls' School), Didcot Orchard Centre (for St Birinus School).

OCC Provided Free School Transport

Buses DC02 (a) and (b) are specific buses arranged by OCC for free school transport as is the 94S. OCC set the policy on student eligibility for free school transport. Any student aged 8 to 16 is eligible for free travel to the nearest suitable school if it is over the statutory walking distance of 3 miles. Full details of the policy, contact details and how to apply for free school transport are available on the OCC website below, along with details of the timetable.

Oxfordshire County Council		
Telephone:	01865 323500 or 01865 815175	mainstream.schooltransport@oxfordshire.gov.uk

It is possible that tickets may be available to purchase on OCC provided transport even if students do not qualify for free school transport (this is called concessionary transport) but any such queries or requests need to be made direct to OCC. OCC have advised that there is a high likelihood of capacity on existing routes being much more restricted, so opportunities are likely to be more limited in 2020/21.

Students must have an OCC issued bus pass to use the routes below for free school transport. This is important. The school is not able to issue passes for OCC provided transport. Parents are reminded that the opening of new schools has had an impact on eligibility for free school transport. It is really important that, if in doubt, you contact OCC direct as they are the body that will determine whether students are eligible for free school transport to our schools or not.

The latest planned routes and pick up points for OCC dedicated school transport are detailed below. It is emphasised this information could be subject to change periodically so it is important for parents to check very latest information on the OCC website referred to above.

DC02 (a) Appleford to Didcot	To School			To Home		
	Mon - Fri	Mon - Thurs	Fridays	Mon - Thurs	Fridays	Fridays
Calling at...						
St Birinus School	0834	1525	1425			
Didcot Girls' School (Brasenose Road drop off and pick up)	0825	1534	1434			
Sutton Courtenay - Harwell Road	0815	1544	1445			
Sutton Courtenay - High Street Garage	0813	1546	1446			
Sutton Courtenay - The Plough	0812	1547	1447			
Sutton Courtenay - George & Dragon	0810	1549	1449			
Sutton Courtenay - Appleford Road	0808	1551	1451			
Appleford - Opposite Former Carpenters Arms	0744	1611	1508			

DC02 (b) Long Wittenham to Didcot	To School			To Home		
	Mon - Fri	Mon - Thurs	Fridays	Mon - Thurs	Fridays	Fridays
Calling at...						
St Birinus School	0834	1525	1425			
Didcot Girls' School (Brasenose Road drop off and pick up)	0825	1534	1434			
Milton High Street	0813	1544	1444			

Milton –Heather Road	0811	1545	1445
Bradstocks Way, Milton Road	0808	1548	1448
Long Wittenham - Fieldside	0743	1612	1459
Long Wittenham – The Plough	0742	1613	1458
Long Wittenham – Didcot Road	0741	1614	1457
Long Wittenham –Saxons Heath	0740	1615	1456

Note –the DC02 routes also incorporates stops for the Europa School, where it stops both in the morning and afternoon.

DC06 Blewbury to Didcot Calling at....	To School	To Home	
	Mon - Fri	Mon – Thurs	Fridays
St Birinus School	0824	1525	1425
Didcot Girls’ School (Brasenose Road drop off and pick up)	0832	1535	1435
North Moreton	0810	1621	1512
South Moreton - Crown PH	0804	1606	1506
Aston Upthorpe – Chequers PH	0758	1600	1500
Blewbury, The Blueberry	0749	1551	1451
Upton, Village Hall	0741	1545	1445

Note – the 94S public bus is still running, with details of the timetable available on the Thames Travel website. However, use of the dedicated school DC06 bus is very strongly encouraged to allow public passenger capacity on the 94S, The Thames Travel passes provided by OCC can be used on the DC06.

It is requested that students sit in year groups or with siblings when travelling on the bus.

DGS students are asked where possible to sit drivers side of the vehicle with Year 7 towards the front of the bus going through to Year 11 and 6th form at the rear. St Birinus School students are asked where possible to sit door side of the vehicle with Year 7 towards the front of the bus going through to Year 11 and 6th form at the rear.

Free School Transport Use on other BB routes below.

OCC does now sometimes provide free school transport passes to eligible students who travel in from locations other than those listed above. When there are not dedicated OCC provide buses they can make arrangements to issue passes for other routes.

Complaints or comments on OCC provided services can be sent to

QMCC@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Thames Travel Additional School Subsidised Bus / Community Services

Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School continue to work with Thames Travel to ensure there are a wide range of bus routes that are geared around the transport needs of students who live outside of the local area but attend our schools. Oxfordshire County Council do not contribute to the cost of these buses unless a student qualifies for free travel under the County Council scheme, as the buses serve families outside the catchment area for the schools. Didcot Girls' School and St Birinus School subsidise these bus routes to ensure they are affordable for students coming to our schools from outside the immediate catchment area.

Thames Travel operates the BB1(A to D), BB2, BB4, BB5 and 33 services geared around school times and payment is made directly to Thames Travel. Students can buy term passes or an academic annual pass. **For 2020/21 these are dedicated school transport routes rather than public service buses. As such all passengers must purchase a pass in advance of travelling. It will not be possible at any time for any student to turn up at a bus stop and simply pay the driver for a single / return journey.**

For the 2020/21 school year, term season tickets are as follows:

- Didcot Schools Inner (covering Steventon, Harwell Village and Milton)
- South Oxon Zone plus BB services (see map at <https://www.thames-travel.co.uk/maps-guides/>)
- Route BB1A (covering the South Oxon Zone as above plus the entire BB1A route)

All three pass types can only be purchased online.

Tickets and further information from: Thames Travel on <https://www.thames-travel.co.uk/> or telephone 01865 785400, alternatively email office@thames-travel.co.uk. Current ticket prices are given although these may vary from time to time as agreed by the bus company.

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Academic Annual
Didcot Schools Inner	£150	£120	£120	£369
South Oxon Zone + BB	£190	£140	£140	£460
Route BB1A	£200	£165	£165	£499

We would recommend you check with Thames Travel on the types of tickets available to ensure the ticket you purchase is the most suitable one for your individual circumstances:

www.thames-travel.co.uk/buy-tickets/school-season-bus-pass

Bus passes can be used between Didcot and any point in the same zone shown on the pass. Therefore students attending after school clubs can use other bus services as well as those set out in this guide.

For the purposes of this information guide term prices are for the following periods:

Term 1 – 2nd September 2020 to 18th December 2020 (incl October break)

Term 2 – 4th January 2021 to 1st April 2021 (incl February break)

Term 3 – 19th April 2021 to 22nd July 2021 (incl May break)

Academic Annual – 2nd September 2020 to 22nd July 2021 (incl holidays)

An indication of timetable information is set out below but parents and students are always encouraged to check the Thames Travel website for very latest information:

BB1A – Oxford to Didcot	To School	To Home	
	Mon – Fri	Mon – Thurs	Fridays
Calling at....			
St Birinus School	0816	1529	1429
Didcot Girls' School,	0822	1537	1437
Abingdon Town Centre, Stratton Way	0745	1602	1502
Abingdon, Hadland Road Community Centre	0736	1606	1506
Radley, Railway Station	0730	1612	1512
Kennington, Manor Grove	0725	1617	1517
Oxford, Canning Crescent	0715	1623	1523
Iffley, Freelands Road	0711	1629	1529
Rose Hill Parade	0707	1633	1533

BB1 (B,C&D) – Abingdon to Didcot	To School			To Home			To Home		
	Mon – Friday BB1B	Mon – Friday BB1C	Mon – Friday BB1D	Mon – Thurs BB1B	Mon – Thurs BB1C	Mon – Thurs BB1D	Friday BB1B	Friday BB1C	Friday BB1D
Calling at....									
St Birinus School	0816	0816	0816	1524	-	-	1424	-	-
Didcot Girls' School	0822	0822	0822	1532	1525	1525	1432	1425	1425
Milton Heights Turn (1)	0804	0804	0804	1539	1532	1532	1439	1432	1432
Steventon, The Green	0801	0801	0801	1542	1535	1535	1442	1435	1435
Drayton, The Green	0755	0755	0755	1546	1539	1539	1446	1439	1439
Abingdon, Saxton Road	0750	0750	0750	1550	1543	1543	1450	1443	1443
Abingdon Town Centre, Stratton Way	0744	0744		1557	1550	1550	1457	1450	1450
Abingdon, Peachcroft Roundabout	0732	0732		1602	1555		1502	1455	
Abingdon, Peachcroft Shop	0726	-		1605	1558		1505	1458	
Abingdon, The Chestnuts	0722	-		1607	1600		1507	1500	
Abingdon, Swinburne Road	0720	-		1611	1604		1511	1504	

(1) Time at this stop is indicative. You are advised to be at any stop several minutes before the times shown

BB2 – Berinsfield to Wallingford to Didcot	To School	To Home	
Calling at....	Mon - Fri	Mon – Thurs	Fridays
St Birinus School	0815	1529	1429
Didcot Girls' School	0825	1537	1437
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Greenmere	0806	1548	1448
Wallingford, Hithercroft Road	0801	1553	1453
Wallingford, Market Place	0758	1558	1458
Crowmarsh Gifford, Church	0752	1602	1502
Benson, Marina	0746	1607	1507
Shillingford Bridge Roundabout	0741	1610	1510
Dorchester, Memorial	0734	1615	1515
Berinsfield, Health Centre	0721	1624	1524
Berinsfield, War Memorial	0726	1626	1526
Burcot, The Chequers	0727	1630	1530
Clifton Hampden, Post Office	0713	1633	1533

Note

As an alternative to the BB2 students are able to use the X2 bus from Wallingford Market Place that drops off at the Orchard Centre or Station Road. There are similar return routes from these bus stops.

BB4 Buses – Hanney / Wantage to Didcot	To School	To Home	
Calling at....	Mon - Fri	Mon – Thurs	Fridays
Didcot, St Birinus School	0816	1524	1424
Didcot, Didcot Girls' School	0822	1532	1432
Milton Heights Turn*	0804	1540	1440
Rowstock Corner Garage	0800	1543	1443
East Hendred, The Plough PH	0754	1548	1448
West Hendred, The Hare*	0750	1550	1450
Ardington Turn*	0746	1553	1453
Wantage, Market Place	0740	1601	1501
Wantage, Seesen Way	0734	1634	1534
Wantage, Health Centre	0730	1606	1506
Grove, Mayfield Avenue	-	1611	1511
Grove, Brereton Drive	0723	1625	1525
Grove, The Green	0721	1624	1524
East Hanney, Black Horse	0713	1617	1517

* - Time at this stop is indicative. You are advised to be at any stop several minutes before the times shown

BB5 Chilton and Harwell to Didcot	To School	To Home	
Calling at....	Mon - Fri	Mon – Thurs	Fridays
St Birinus School	0826	1524	1424
Didcot Girls' School	0815	1532	1432
Harwell High Street	0807	1538	1438
Rowstock Corner*	0801	1541	1441
Harwell Campus, Curie Entrance*	0758	1543	1443
Chilton, Latton Close (Main Street drop off)	0753	1548	1448

* - Time at this stop is indicative. You are advised to be at any stop several minutes before the times shown

33 Bus - Sutton Courtenay to Didcot (Public Service Bus)	To School	To Home	
	Mon - Fri	Mon – Thurs	Fridays
Calling at....			
Didcot Orchard Centre (for St Birinus School)	0811	1550	1450
Didcot, Station Road (for Didcot Girls' School)*	0802	1558	1458
Milton, High Street	0749	1610	1507
Sutton Courtenay, Bradstocks Way	0745	1613	1510
Sutton Courtney, Church Street	0737	1620	1517

* - Time at this stop is indicative. You are advised to be at any stop several minutes before the times shown

We hope the above information is useful in helping you to plan your journeys to and from our schools.

Keeping Safe - When Travelling on the Dedicated School Buses

Should you decide to use the school buses from September it is important that all students help to ensure the journey into school is as safe as possible for both themselves and their fellow passengers. Below are some key points to remember:

- If you live close to school and consider it safe to do so we encourage that students walk or cycle to school. If you decide to drive your child to school, we ask that you consider dropping them off away from the school site to complete the last part of the journey on foot in order to manage congestion and safe access to school if you are able to do so. The bus services are provided should you need to make use of them however.
- Students should wash or sanitise their hands when leaving home in the morning before getting on the bus
- Students should queue in an orderly fashion when waiting to get on the bus. They should keep socially distant from students outside their year group, unless part of the same household, where possible.
- Students should sit on the bus with members of their year group or members of the same household where possible
- When arriving at school students should wash their hands or use sanitiser on arrival. Sanitiser will be available in every classroom and should be used when starting student guidance time each morning.
- We request that all students use face coverings on school buses although bus drivers will not be refusing travel if a student does not have a covering as some students may have health conditions that prevent the use of coverings (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#exemptions-face-coverings>)

Students need to follow the instructions of duty staff at the end of the school day prior to boarding the buses for homeward journeys. There will be organised queuing and boarding within year groups

Code of Conduct for Pupils who use Home to School Transport

We want you and all other passengers to stay safe and travel in comfort, so expect all passengers to follow the following code of conduct. The bus operating company will contact the school if students do not respect the code and may exercise their right to withdraw the right for any student to use their transport provision.

1. Your bus pass

- Carry your bus pass with you whenever you travel to and from school
- Be ready to show your pass to the bus driver, if it can't be produced then the driver may refuse transport.
- Only use your pass to travel on the route that has been approved / is allowable through your pass.
- Do not use anyone else's pass or allow another person to use yours.
- If you lose your pass you should expect to pay a fee to replace it. You should contact Oxfordshire County Council directly if you are entitled to free school transport to arrange a replacement.

2. Your pick-up point

- You are responsible for getting to your bus's pick-up point.
- Arrive at the pick-up point before your bus is due. The bus will run to a timetable and will not wait if you are late. You are encouraged to be at the pick-up point 5 minutes before the bus is due.
- If a bus is late, be prepared to wait at the pick-up point for 20 minutes but no longer.
- Agree with your parents what to do if the bus does not arrive (e.g. return home or go to a friend's house to organise alternative transport).
- Wait sensibly, well back from the road. Always stay safe and do not play near the road whilst waiting.

3. Keeping safe when getting on and off the bus

- Queue sensibly, well away from the edge of the road. Wait for the bus to stop before you move towards it.
- Allow passengers leaving the bus to get off before you try getting on.
- Get on and off the bus in an orderly way so you don't hurt yourself or other passengers.
- If you need to cross the road once you have left the bus, make sure the bus has been driven away so you can see other vehicles and their drivers can see you.

4. On the bus

- Stay in your seat once you are on the bus and use a seatbelt if one is provided.
- If the bus breaks down or is involved in an accident, remain seated. Follow any instructions given to you by the driver quickly and without fuss.
- Be respectful of other people's property.
- Do not put bags on seats which prevent or discourage others from sitting. Do ensure aisles are kept clear – bags are safer under the seats, on the parcel shelf or on your lap. Make sure you have all your belongings as you leave the bus.
- Do not distract the driver unless there is an emergency.
- Do not stand in front of the driver or on the stairwell.
- Do not use emergency exits or doors unless the driver instructs you to or if there is a genuine emergency.
- Do not throw items, leave litter or damage the inside or outside of the bus. If damage is caused the police will be contacted and the cost to repair the damage may be pursued by the bus company.
- Always behave politely and with respect and consideration for other passengers on the bus. Any incidents of foul, abusive language or bullying will not be tolerated.

- CCTV recording is used in many buses and footage may be used as evidence if there are reports of poor behaviour, if drivers or passengers are hurt or if the bus is damaged.

Note – School duty staff are present at the start and end of school to assist students.