



Bus Behaviour Schools Policy

Updated Jan 2025

Dear Families,

From time to time inappropriate behaviours occur on our school buses. We ask that you remind your children of our expectations to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. These bus expectations have been recently updated and shared with students. Can you please discuss them with your child.

Expectations of Students are to:

1. be safe by always wearing your seatbelt
2. be safe by following the seating plan and staying in your allocated seat at all times.
3. be safe by following the directions given by the bus driver.
4. be safe by entering and leaving the bus in an orderly manner.
5. Have your named marked on the roll/ipad when entering the bus.
6. always behave in a quiet, responsible and polite way and not interfere with, or annoy others.
7. not to eat or drink on the bus (water is allowed).
8. advise your bus driver in advance, if you know you will be absent.
9. demonstrate respect for the bus, keep the bus neat and tidy.
10. listen to music on their device only when using headphones.

The driver is responsible for allocating seats and managing behaviour on the bus. It is expected that minor breaking of the rules will be addressed and if these are repeated, they will be documented by the driver and Bus Referral slips will be issued. The driver will report serious and/or repeated breaking of the rules, and any incident or concern which interferes with the safe operation of the bus to the principal or delegate of the relevant school. The bus driver has the right to stop the bus until the behaviour has ceased.

Consequences for inappropriate behaviour are as follows

Step 1: Reminder by the driver (Verbal) that behaviour is inappropriate and must stop immediately.

Step 2: First Reported Incident - Formal Warning – by bus driver or school personnel;

- A Bus Referral slip will be issued by bus driver, given to designated school bus person who will issue slip to student
- Bus Referral slip sent home; signed by parents and returned to school or copy sent by text message to parents.

Step 3: Second Reported Incident – As step 2 with parent contact reminding them that a third slip will result in a suspension from bus travel from **1 school day**.

Step 4: Third Reported Incident – 3rd Bus referral slip issued during a 10 week period will invoke a suspension from bus travel for **1-2 school days**. Home contact by school will be made and an interview will likely be requested.

Step 5: Fourth Reported Incident – Bus referral slip issued as above. **Please note that at this level of repeated inappropriate behaviour a bus suspension of 2-3 days will occur. After 2 bus suspensions any subsequent bus suspensions will be for 5 days.**

In the case of violence, serious, illegal or dangerous behaviour, Steps 1 to 4 may be omitted. Parents will be contacted, and if necessary, consultation shall take place with appropriate DfE personnel.

The bus behaviour steps apply over any 10 consecutive school weeks of the year. If a student is under a bus suspension but travels to school by bus then a school suspension will apply. A repeat of this could lead to further suspensions. In the case of a bus suspension it is the responsibility of the parent/s to have their child attend school. Repeated non-attendance due to bus suspensions will involve the Department's Attendance Officer.

Yours sincerely,

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