



Rationale

To ensure that all school related bus travel is safe, for the driver, staff/accompanying adults and the students.

Bus Travel

Being distracted when driving can have very serious consequences. For a bus driver, the bus is his or her workplace and their occupation is one that has a very considerable responsibility. In order, therefore, for the bus driver to perform his or her job safely, and for the safety of the passengers, it is essential that students travelling to and from school on a bus behave in an appropriate manner.

Students need to be mindful of their situation and act in a way that does not result in the driver being distracted.

Aims

- To ensure that students travelling to and from our school by buses do so safely, and in a manner consistent with Department of Education and Training policies and regulations.
- To ensure bussing issues are dealt with effectively and efficiently.

Implementation

Student's guidelines:

1. Follow the instructions of the bus driver or bus captain(s)
2. Remain properly seated at all times and if seatbelts are available they must be worn correctly.
3. If the bus driver and or bus captains have organised a seating plan, it should be adhered to.
4. Be courteous at all times to one another, the bus driver and bus captains.
5. Volume should be kept low which means shouting to someone at a distance away in the bus is not acceptable.
6. The bus driver will determine whether or not any food or drink will be allowed onto his or her bus, and any arrangements for disposal of the litter. This may, for example, mean that the students are expected to take their waste papers etc. off the bus and deposit them in the appropriate waste or recycle bin.

Use of mobile phones and other media systems:

If deemed reasonable by the driver and captains, personal music playing systems may be used in such a way that other bus passengers are not affected by their use. This means that earphones must be used when playing music and the volume must not be at a high level (i.e.: not loud enough to be heard by anyone else).

Unless in an emergency, making voice calls is not appropriate; students should communicate by text.

Transport of bulky items on the bus

The function of the school buses is primarily to transport students and their books or equipment to and from school. There may be special occasions when larger items can be considered for transport. Examples of this are travel bags or packs if there is a camp to attend. **This is at the discretion of the driver.**

It would be courteous to enquire if it is acceptable to the bus driver for this to be allowed on, *at a minimum*, the day before this activity is planned. Other examples that the driver may deem to be appropriate may be the transportation of woodwork or art projects from school. The same courtesy should apply.

Transport of scooters and skateboards

Transport of scooters and skateboards in the bus cabin pose an unacceptable safety risk to the passengers and driver. Every effort is made to ensure that bus stops are readily accessible to students and are not lengthy distances for students to travel. Scooters and skateboards are not to be transported on school buses.

Evaluation

This policy was last ratified by School Council in **November 2023** and will be reviewed in November 2026