

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ON BUSES

It is every student's responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers. This includes:

BEHAVING APPROPRIATELY

- ✓ respect the needs and comfort of other passengers (e.g. no use of offensive or racist language, fighting, spitting, placing feet on seats, throwing things in or from the bus, eating or drinking—except water— unless the bus operator gives written permission)
- ✓ give up seats to all adults and disabled passengers
- ✓ adhere to the law that bans smoking on buses
- ✓ obey reasonable directions from the driver (e.g. where to sit or to remain in the bus)
- ✓ keep arms, legs and heads inside the bus
- ✓ refrain from attracting the attention of the driver except in the case of emergency

RESPECTING PROPERTY

- ✓ protect bus property
- ✓ ensure that buses are not vandalised
- ✓ report any vandalism e.g. graffiti and window etching

HOLDING PASSES

- ✓ show travel passes or tickets to the driver on boarding and when requested
- ✓ use the travel pass only for its intended purpose
- ✓ 'swipe' or 'dip' passes in ticket readers if available when boarding
- ✓ Keep your pass for your own use—you should not lend your pass to other students or borrow one from them.

Disobeying these rules may lead to the withdrawal of school bus travel passes and/or prosecution.

What are the consequences of inappropriate behaviour?

- ✓ If a student misbehaves on a bus, the bus operator concerned will contact the parents and the school.
- ✓ Depending on the gravity of the offence, students may be required to give up their school bus travel pass or may be refused travel on the bus for a period of time determined by the bus operator.
- ✓ Heavier penalties may apply to students involved in group misbehaviour.
- ✓ School principals have the right to take additional disciplinary action against a student under the school's discipline code or student welfare policy for any breach of the Code of Conduct.

The bus operator must provide written notification to the parents, guardians or carers before a student's school bus travel pass can be withdrawn.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR such as using offensive or racist language, disobeying reasonable directions from the driver, smoking, spitting, damaging property, eating on the bus, distracting the driver with persistent noise and failing to show the travel pass

May lead to the loss of subsidised school travel privileges for up to two school weeks for a second offence, and up to ten school weeks for subsequent offences. Permanent suspension of school travel privileges or banning from travelling on buses may apply for repeated offences

DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR such as seriously bullying or harassing other passengers, fighting, letting any part of your body protrude from the bus, throwing objects inside or outside the bus, using matches and lighters, carrying dangerous items and group misbehaviour

May lead to lead to the loss of subsidised school travel privileges for up to four school weeks for a first offence and up to ten school weeks for subsequent offences—or if group misbehaviour is involved, permanent loss of school travel privileges. Permanent suspension of school travel privileges or banning from travelling on buses may apply for repeated offences.

HIGHLY DANGEROUS BEHAVIOUR such as interfering with safety equipment, pushing students out of the doors or windows, assaulting the driver or other passengers and destruction of bus property

May lead to the permanent loss of subsidised school travel privileges, and possible court action or police prosecution. Students may be banned from travelling on buses.