



## A guide for parents and students for safe school bus behaviour

Every day more than 56,000 Western Australian students arrive at school by bus. Most of these students are responsible and well behaved. However, some students misbehave on the bus.

The actions of these students may affect the ability of drivers to concentrate, and may affect the quality of your child's trip. Naturally this is of concern to the Department for Planning and Infrastructure as the safety and comfort of your child is very important to us.

To address this issue a 'Code of Conduct' for students and parents has been developed with key stakeholders.

### What is the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct is a set of behavioural guidelines for students to follow when travelling on school buses. It forms the basis of the bus rules developed to manage student behaviour.

### Who does the Code apply to?

It applies to all primary and secondary school students who use contract school buses to travel to and from school.

### How does the Code benefit your child?

By following the Code, your child will be helping to ensure a comfortable, pleasant and safe ride for all passengers.

### What will happen to the existing bus rules?

In most areas across the State, effective behaviour management arrangements are already in place and will continue, where these are consistent with the principles of the Code.

### What happens if students do not follow the Code?

If a student does not follow the Code, action may be taken. This may range from a caution, to refusal to travel, depending on:

- the threat to the safety of passengers on the bus and the nature of the incident;
- the age of the student;
- whether the breach was the first time or one of a number of instances where the student has already been cautioned; and
- how much the breach distracted the driver.

It is important to note that a student will only be refused travel after discussion between the bus operator, school principal and parents/carers. In cases where there is a serious threat of danger to students, a student may be refused bus travel while the school and/or Police are investigating an incident.

If you wish to discuss any action taken against your child, please talk to your school principal who will, where necessary, consult with the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

### What responsibilities do bus drivers have?

Bus drivers are responsible for providing a professional and courteous service.

All drivers must treat students with respect. This includes not using abusive or offensive language, not leaving the bus while students are on board, and generally maintaining personal standards of behaviour in keeping with other professionals who are responsible for the care of children.



## Code of Conduct for contract school buses

### Behaviour and examples of how to meet the Code

#### Respect other people and property.

- Respect other people and their possessions.
- Follow the bus driver's directions without argument.
- Do not interfere with bus property, equipment, shelters and signs by marking or damaging them.

#### Wait for the bus in an orderly manner.

- Wait well back from the bus until it stops and allow other passengers to leave the bus first.
- Stand quietly without calling out or shouting.
- Do not push other people in the line.

#### While on the bus, behave yourself.

##### *Students must*

- always follow instructions from the driver
- show their bus pass, ticket or ID when requested
- sit properly on a seat if one is available (in an allocated seat if directed by the driver)
- if standing, remain in the designated area
- store school bags under the seat or in appropriate luggage areas
- speak quietly and not create unnecessary noise

##### *Students must not*

- bully other students
- place feet on the seats
- fight, spit or use offensive language
- throw any article around or from the bus

- consume food or drink, or play music without the permission of the driver
- smoke
- allow any part of their body to protrude out of the bus windows
- stand forward of the front seat

#### Use approved bus stops.

- Students will only be allowed to get on or off the bus at the approved bus stop.
- It is the responsibility of students to get off the bus at their correct bus stop.

#### When leaving the bus, do so in an orderly manner.

- Wait until the bus stops before standing to get off.
- Leave the bus in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Never cross the road in front of the bus. Wait until the bus has moved away and it is safe to cross the road.

#### In case of an emergency or a breakdown, follow the driver's instructions.

- Wait until the bus stops before standing to get off.
- Leave the bus in a quiet and orderly manner.
- Wait in the area indicated by the driver.

*Please note that this list of examples is not intended to be exhaustive.*

#### How can parents/carers help?

The behaviour of students is primarily the responsibility of parents/carers. Please discuss this with your children so that they fully understand what they should and should not do.

For further details regarding behaviour management please contact your school principal.