

Code of Conduct

- Listen to the bus driver; he or she is in control of the bus
- Co-operate with the bus driver when asked to do so
- Try to speak quietly. Excessive noise, loud singing and shouting can be a distraction to the bus driver and to the safe operation of the bus
- Remain seated at all times. Sit facing forward until the vehicle comes to a stop. Students who do not sit properly in the seats may be seriously injured.
- Keep belongings, including backpacks stowed under the seat or on your lap. Do not place items in the aisle. It is important to keep the aisles clear to prevent tripping, and to allow for a safe evacuation of the bus if required.
- Do not bring large/bulky items on the bus, e.g., sports equipment
- Do not engage in the use of abusive language, profanity, yelling, throwing items (inside and out of the bus), smoking, fighting or any other activity that may interfere in the safe operation of the vehicle and/or endanger the safety of others.
- Do not engage in any activity that may interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle
- No eating or drinking. This may pose a choking hazard, or it may impact on the safety of a student with an allergy.
- Keep arms, legs and head inside the vehicle at all times
- Do not attempt to distract other vehicles on the road
- Do not willfully damage the bus in any way. Students and/or their parents will be responsible for restitution.
- Unsafe behaviour may result in loss of bus privilege
- The school bus is an extension of the classroom – all School Board policies shall be followed while travelling to and from school

Roles & Responsibilities

Your Responsibility as a Parent

- Parents are responsible for their children's safety before they board their school bus, and after they are dropped off in the afternoon.
- While on the bus, students are responsible to the school principal for their conduct.
- Ensure your child knows what to do at the bus stop in the event the bus is late.
- Be respectful to the bus driver and other parents and set an example for our students.
- Transportation privileges may be revoked if a student's behaviour creates problems; the length of suspension will vary with the severity of the incident. If transportation privileges are revoked it becomes the parent's responsibility to transport the child to and from school for the duration of the suspension.
- Parents always have the option to transport their children to and from school in cases of inclement weather or mechanical difficulty. Unless cancelled, busses will be dispatched but may be late.
- If transportation arrangements for your child needs to be changed, the Board requires 72 hours in order to implement changes.
- If your child needs to be met at the bus drop off and you are not able to receive your child, please arrange for another adult to meet your child or contact the school before dismissal and arrange for pickup at the school.
- **Ensure your child knows what stop to get off at and understands what to do in the event they do not see you at the stop to greet them.**

Your Responsibility as a Motorist

- Motorists meeting a school bus with overhead red lights flashing must stop unless on a highway divided by a median strip.
- Motorists approaching a stopped school bus must stop at least 20 metres before reaching the bus. Motorists may proceed only after the bus resumes motion, or the red lights have ceased flashing. The law applies everywhere regardless of the posted speed limit. Failing to stop can result in a fine of \$400 - \$2000 on first offence with 6 demerit points.

Your Responsibility as a Student Waiting for the Bus.

- Be at the pickup point early. Drivers cannot wait for latecomers.
- Do not abuse the privilege of waiting on or near private property for the school bus.
- Wait in single file well away from the roadway until the driver stops the bus, then board the bus in an orderly fashion.

Your Responsibility as a Student on the Bus

- The driver is in charge of the bus and must be obeyed at all times. School patrollers should be accorded the same respect.
- Sit where the driver tells you or according to the seating plan and remain seated for the duration of the trip.
- Be quiet and behave sensibly. Horseplay, fighting, eating, smoking, and foul language are forbidden.

- Keep your belongings on your lap or under the seat; the aisle must be left clear.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out the window.
- Respect the bus equipment. **Students will be held responsible for any damages to the bus.**
- Avoid conversation with and distracting of the bus driver while the vehicle is in operation.

Your Responsibility as a Student Leaving the Bus

- You may leave the bus only at regular stops.
- If you drop something under the bus, notify the driver; don't try and retrieve it yourself.
- Never cross the road behind a school bus. Cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you.
- Recognize the stop that you are to get off at and only disembark at.
- **If someone is to meet you at the bus and you do not see them, do not get off the bus; advise the driver and they will assist you.**