

GEORGE STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL

Scholars Bus

Student Code of Conduct

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Welcome

The Scholars Bus is a valued service that gets our students to and from school safely every day. This Code of Conduct sets out what we expect from every student who travels on it, and what students and parents can expect in return. Please take a few minutes to read through it together at the start of the year, so everyone knows what a safe, pleasant journey looks like.

Students who travel on the Scholars Bus should follow these expectations at all times:

- Students should sit down and remain seated for the whole journey.
- Students standing need to stand quietly, and not push or move around the bus.
- Drinking and eating is NOT permitted.
- Students must not throw objects inside or out of the bus.
- Students should use acceptable language when talking to other students and the driver.
- Students must NOT harass, bully or abuse other students or the driver, either verbally or physically.
- Students should respect other students' property and not interfere with it.
- Students should listen to and follow the instructions of the bus driver and the teacher on duty at all times.
- Students are NEVER to engage in any behaviour that could put other students, the driver, or themselves, at risk.
- Students should respect the bus property (standing on seats or vandalising/causing damage are NOT acceptable actions).
- Do NOT smoke.

Safety Matters — Getting on the Bus

- Wait back from the road (stay on the path).
- Wait until the bus has stopped before attempting to get on the bus.
- Carry your bag in front of you to avoid getting it stuck in the door.
- When seated, put your belongings on your lap, allowing another student to sit next to you.
- If there are no seating places, stand and place your bag on the floor and hold on to a seat-back or handrail.

Safety Matters — Getting off the Bus

- Wait until the bus has stopped.
- Carry your bag in front of you so it does not get caught in the door.
- Get off the bus carefully without pushing.
- Wait back from the road until the bus has moved away.
- If you need to cross the road, wait until the bus has moved away and you can see up and down the road before you cross it.

What Happens If a Student Behaves Unsafely or Inappropriately?

When students behave in an inappropriate or unsafe manner the school takes steps to manage this behaviour. This could include requesting and viewing CCTV footage from the bus company in order to investigate any reported incidents or complaints made by the driver, students, parents or even members of the public.

The consequences of not meeting the expected standards of behaviour are:

- Losing their place on the bus temporarily.
- Losing their place on the bus permanently.
- In case of damage, costs will be passed on to parents/guardians.
- Potentially, the student could be prosecuted by the police if the bus provider presses criminal charges.
- School sanctions (detentions, Internal Exclusion). In extreme situations, the school may choose to issue a Fixed Term Exclusion or Permanent Exclusion from school.

Parents & Carers

You play a big part in making the Scholars Bus service work well. Please:

- Discuss this Code of Conduct with your child before their first journey, and remind them of it regularly.
- Make sure your child knows their pick-up point, drop-off point, and approximate times.
- Let the school know in advance, where possible, if your child will not be travelling on a particular day.
- Contact the school as soon as possible if you have any concerns about your child's journey.

Lost Property

If your child leaves something on the bus, please report it to the school office as soon as possible. The school will liaise with the bus company on your behalf to try to locate it.

Contact Us

- For timetable changes or general service queries, contact Nexus on 0191 2020 747.
- For anything relating to student conduct, welfare or safety on the bus, please contact the school office directly.

Remember

Your Responsibilities

- Always respect others, including other pupils, drivers and the public.
- Always respect vehicles and property. Always be polite.
- Never drop litter.
- Always obey the law.

Your Safety

- Always behave well when travelling.
- Always follow the driver's instructions when travelling.
- You must not distract drivers.
- Always cross the road safely and sensibly.
- Always travel by a safe route.

Your Rights

- To be safe when travelling.
- To be treated fairly and with respect.
- To tell someone if somebody or something is causing you problems.
- Not to be bullied or picked on.

“A bus journey should be a pleasant and safe journey!”