

Effective January 2021

Code of Conduct for School Students Travelling on Buses

Information for Schools

School staff are concerned about student safety and play a key role in advising students about the Code and the consequences of bus misconduct (which can include refusal of travel for a period of time).

They liaise closely with bus operators and are part of the collaborative team of stakeholders ensuring safe bus travel and managing student misconduct on buses.

School principals play a pivotal role in maintaining positive partnerships with bus companies. This collaboration can help to establish effective communication strategies and provide a link between the school's behaviour management plan and the Code. In this regard schools can talk to parents/carers and students about the Code and provide information about its requirements in student enrolment information.

Schools' role

To promote bus safety and collaborate in the management of student bus safety.

Schools' rights

- Safe and comfortable travel for their students.
- To be consulted and to receive accurate information about their students' school bus behaviour.
- To be respected.

Schools' responsibilities

- To collaborate with stakeholders and communicate respectfully during the implementation of the Code.
- To support bus operators in the application of the Code's procedures and processes.
- To reinforce safe bus travel and the Code's messages in school-based processes.
- To facilitate effective communication between bus operators and students/parents/carers.

Schools' expected behaviours

- To provide information on the Code to parents/carers.
- To support the bus operator in implementing consequences for school students who breach the Code. (which can include refusal of travel)
- To collaborate with bus operators and parents/carers in relation to their students' behaviour on buses.
- To ensure a suitable level of supervision at school bus collection points, where appropriate.
- To reinforce with students the need for safe and responsible behaviour on buses and the expectation that a fare is paid.

What are the possible consequences for not following the Code*?

Category 4

The behaviour is immediately life threatening:

- Refused bus travel for a defined period (school weeks) plus behaviour agreement (agreement period up to one school year).
- Permanent refused travel.

Category 3

The behaviour is dangerous/destructive and highly likely to cause immediate harm to property and others:

- Refused bus travel (maximum 10 school weeks) plus behaviour agreement (agreement period up to one school year).

Category 2

The behaviour is unsafe where there could be harm to property and others:

- First report – refused bus travel (maximum five school days).
- Repeat report within 10 school weeks – refused bus travel (maximum 10 school days) and/or behaviour agreement (agreement period up to 10 school weeks).

Category 1

The behaviour is irresponsible but not likely to cause harm:

- Report of single incident – written caution considered.
- Report of repeat of incidents in single journey – written caution and/or one to two days refused travel.
- First repeat report in 10 school weeks (repeat incidents across multiple journeys) – written caution and/or one to two days refused travel.
- Second repeat report in 10 school weeks – maximum five days refused travel and/or behaviour agreement for up to 10 school weeks.
- Third repeat report in 10 school weeks – maximum 10 days refused travel and/or behaviour agreement for up to 10 school weeks.

** In some circumstances an alternative consequence may be considered appropriate.*

