

Our ref: CNU/JWI

February 20th 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Bus Behaviour Reminder

I would just like to take this opportunity to write to you to reinforce the expectations we require from all students who use the school buses.

We are very fortunate that the local authority provides us with a regular, reliable bus service, and we must ensure that we show the drivers and the buses our utmost respect and gratitude.

The vast majority of our students exhibit the behaviour and values we expect whilst on the buses, but unfortunately, we do have a small minority who need reminding.

Therefore, can I please ask you to discuss the points in this letter with your child/children so all students are clear on how to conduct themselves whilst travelling on the buses.

- Vaping / smoking – Vaping and/or smoking is not permitted on the buses, as it is not permitted on any public transport. Vaping is also illegal unless you are 18 years old so no student should be vaping or in possession of a vape. As a school we have the right to search and confiscate if we receive reports that they are in possession of a vape or any smoking paraphernalia. Students who are caught smoking/ vaping on the bus will be issued with a bus ban and students will be expected to make their way to school via other means.
- Litter – We must ensure that students do not leave their litter on the bus. They must make sure that if they have any rubbish, they take it with them and pop in a bin once they have vacated the bus. One of our core values is 'pride' and we want our students to take pride in the transport they are travelling on. Under no circumstance should students be throwing any rubbish, including empty bottles, around the bus. This can be very distracting and therefore dangerous for the driver.
- Inappropriate language – students must continue to show respect to one another whilst on the bus just as they do when in school. This means students should refrain from using any inappropriate language towards each other. Students should also ensure they show respect to the driver and should use STEPS. It is a genuine pleasure in a morning when I see our students saying thank you as they leave the bus. One of our core values is kindness and that should be shown in all actions, including our interactions with others.
- Safety – to ensure that all students are safe when travelling, we need them all to remain seated throughout the journey. We must remind students that they should not stand, not even towards the last part of the journey when entering school, as this is not safe. The driver's have been instructed to stop the bus and only continue once students have taken their seats. We do not want any students hurting themselves should they fall over.
- Violence – whilst we have very few incidents of violence, it is important we remind students that any type of violence on the bus will not be tolerated. It would result in an immediate bus ban and further consequences in school would also follow. We promote kindness in school and any behaviour deemed as unkind will be addressed.
- Noise level – We have a number of bus stops that are located in front of people's houses so please remind students that the local community would appreciate them to be as quiet as they can be whilst waiting for their bus to arrive.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to go over this with your child/children.

We want to make sure that all students are safe and happy when travelling to and from school whilst also showing the bus companies our appreciation. If students fail to meet these expectations, sanctions, including bus bans, will be issued.

It is important that we teach our students integrity and that they make the right choices even when there are no adults present.

We want our students to be the very best versions of themselves, reaching their full potential and have a lasting, positive impact on their family, community and wider world.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs C Nuttall
Assistant Principal