**Home to School Transport Academic Year 2023/24**

**Anti-Social behaviour on school buses**

**Introduction**

The vast majority of students travel to and from school every day in safety and without incident. However, antisocial behaviour on school buses can occur and is normally by a small number of pupils.

**Some of the implications of anti-social behaviour are:**

**For pupils and parents -** the safety of those directly involved and other pupils on the bus and the inconvenience when buses are delayed because of antisocial behaviour.

**For Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd -** the cost of repairing damage and the loss of income while a vehicle is out of service being repaired.

**For the School -** visible anti-social behaviour may diminish the reputation of the school in the community.

**What is Anti-Social Behaviour?**

Anti-Social behaviour includes a range of problems.

**Some examples of anti-social behaviour on school buses are:**

• Fighting, bullying, intimidation of other pupils

• Verbal abuse of drivers and harassment of other pupils

• Vandalism, graffiti and criminal damage to vehicles

• Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes and vapes

• Moving around the bus, distracting the driver

• Misuse of bus passes

• Opening emergency exits on the vehicle in a non-emergency situation

• Throwing objects from the vehicle.

**What happens if anti-social behaviour is reported?**

As well as Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd carrying out its own investigations using witnesses, driver reports and any cctv footage, we would also ask the school to carry out an investigation into the incident, as they know the pupils involved. It is for the school to determine how to carry out the investigation, but it would normally involve taking written statements from pupils who witnessed the incident and interviewing individually those pupils named or identified as being involved.

Any information given is treated in confidence. The investigation will seek to establish, as far as possible, exactly what happened and who was responsible. CCTV is fitted on many vehicles. Where CCTV recordings are available, they will be shown to the school to identify those pupils taking part in anti-social behaviour. In very serious cases, Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd may call the Police, particularly if there has been damage to the vehicle. The Police may carry out their own investigation and might also wish to interview those pupils involved.

**What action is taken against pupils involved in anti-social behaviour?**

Following an investigation, any sanctions against pupils are decided by Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd. However, we will consult with the school, but our decision will be final. This is usually in the form of exclusion from transport for a defined period, although disciplinary action may also be brought by the school. The action taken will depend on the severity of the incident and whether a pupil has previously been involved in anti-social behaviour.

**However, the following can be used as a guideline:**

• For a minor incident (e.g., misuse of bus passes, moving around the vehicle) - warning letter/email on the first occasion

- on the second occasion, exclusion from school transport for 1 to 5 days

- on subsequent occasions, exclusion from transport for 5 to 10 days

• For a serious incident (e.g. bullying, physical or verbal abuse of driver or pupils, smoking, any action threatening the safety of individuals or the vehicle, vandalism or damage to the vehicle)

- Exclusion from transport for a minimum period of 5 days up to 1 term depending on circumstances and previous history. These are guidelines and the action agreed in any particular case will take into account individual circumstances and the views of the school.

Repeated serious incidents will lead to permanent exclusion from transport.

Parents are urged to contact Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd if they feel that their child has problems travelling on school transport.

**What happens if a pupil is excluded from transport?**

When exclusion from transport has been agreed, parents will normally be notified in writing via email and given details of the exclusion period. During the exclusion period, it remains the parents’ responsibility to ensure their child’s continued attendance at school.

In very serious cases, where it is considered that the safety of the vehicle and other pupils would be put at risk by allowing a pupil to continue to travel, exclusion from transport may start immediately and without written notice, even where the child has been taken to school.

In such cases, either Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd or the school would attempt to contact the parents to make them aware of the situation and arrange for them to collect the pupil from school.

**What if there has been damage to the bus?**

Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd will seek to recover the full cost of repairs from the parents of the pupils responsible. The cost of repairs must be paid (or a payment plan agreed) before allowing the

pupil back onto transport – even if the period of original suspension has been served.

**What happens when a pupil returns to transport?**

After a period of exclusion has ended, a pupil will normally be allowed to travel on the school bus again. However, Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd may require certain conditions (e.g. that the pupil must use a specified seat at the front of the bus), or the pupil may be transferred to another school bus.

**What other help is available if there is bullying on the bus?**

If there is bullying on the bus, it may be happening in school as well. The school should always be informed of any incidents pf bullying on the bus, and be involved in dealing with any bullying incident.

**Refund of unused travel costs.**

Under no circumstances are any refunds given for periods of exclusion from travel.

If you have any comments about this information or the service, it relates to or if you require further

information:

**Write to:**

Passenger Travel Solutions Ltd

The Limes,

Midland Road

Hugglescote

LE67 2FX

**Email:** schools@robertstravelgroup.co.uk

**or visit our website:** [**https://buspass.robertstravelgroup.co.uk/**](https://buspass.robertstravelgroup.co.uk/)