

Dear Students & Parents / Guardians

Re: Bus Safety & Safe Ridership

The safety of each child who rides the school bus depends on the cooperation and skills of many people, including other students, parents, and school bus operators. Such conduct makes it possible for the driver to give full attention to the roadway and other drivers.

Student behaviour while entering, riding, and leaving the bus contributes in many ways to safe ridership and transportation. The bus driver will report any inappropriate or unsafe behaviours to the school, including the names of all students involved. The student, school staff, parents, and the driver will work collaboratively to find solutions.

Dependent on the seriousness of the behaviour, students involved may be provided a warning, or have bus privileges suspended temporarily or in full. In the event of either, parents will be informed. In the event a student is suspended from riding the bus, the parent or guardian shall be responsible for transporting the child to and from school.

Please review the attached information with your child concerning student conduct on the bus. The primary purpose of rules and procedures on the buses are for the safety of all students. Your child's cooperation in following all rules and procedures is expected by the bus operators and the school.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact administration.

Sincerely,

Tanya Hill
Vice: Principal Elementary

Kirsten White
Deputy Head

(Please sign this portion of the letter and return it to school with your child)

My child and I have read and discussed the bus expectations. We are aware and understand that unexpected behaviour while riding the bus could result in a warning or a bus suspension.

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Parent's/Guardian's Name


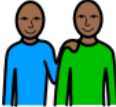

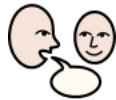




Parent's/Guardian's Signature

2. School Bus Code of Conduct – Primary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 5)

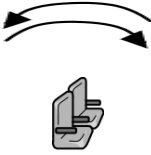



EXPECTED BUS BEHAVIOUR

If you follow these expected behaviours, you are helping to keep the bus a calm and safe environment. When you follow these expectations, the bus driver is able to safely drive you to and from school.

Musts

	I sit in junior student area of the bus (K to 5)		I sit with a partner, or say 'yes' if someone asks to sit with me.
	I sit in my seat facing forward.		I use a quiet inside voice to speak with my seat partner.
	I stay in my seat while riding the bus.		I always and immediately follow the bus driver's instructions.
	I throw my garbage in the trash.		I know the bus is not a play space.

Mays

	I may change seats if the bus is completely stopped.		I may wear headphones to use my own device.
	I may open the window if the bus is stopped.		I may eat a snack or have a drink.

If you have any questions about the bus, please speak with Ms.Hill and/or Ms. White













2. School Bus Code of Conduct – Primary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 5)

UNEXPECTED BUS BEHAVIOUR

You have a responsibility to be a safe rider. The following behaviours are unexpected and not safe actions when riding the bus. It is your responsibility to **not** take part in these behaviours; you are not to police other riders.

If you are taking part in these actions, you may receive a warning by the Bus Driver or the school. These behaviours could also result in a temporary or in-full suspension from riding the bus.

Will Nots

	I will not ignore the bus driver's instructions.		I will not tease other bus riders, in a joking or insulting way.
	I will not hit or be physical with another bus rider.		I will not shout when speaking or raise my voice to other bus riders.
	I will not treat the bus like a playground.		I will not stand on the bus or sit with my legs sticking into the aisle.
	I will not tell other bus riders what to do.		I will not litter my garbage on the bus.
	I will not hang my head or my arms out the window.		I will not throw items out the window.

If you have any questions about the bus, please speak with Ms.Hill and/or Ms. White.



2. School Bus Code of Conduct – Primary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 5)

HOW DO I BEHAVE WHEN OTHER RIDERS ARE ACTING UNEXPECTEDLY?



Each rider is responsible for their behaviour . The Bus Driver is responsible for the other riders, and they will speak to students directly who are not following expected behaviours. It is **not** your responsibility to *police* another rider, or tell them what to do.

IF ANOTHER STUDENT’S BEHAVIOUR IS BOTHERING ME, WHAT CAN I DO?



When the bus stops to pick-up or drop-off students, change to a different seat on the bus. When you leave the bus, either tell the Bus Driver why you changed seats, or speak to Ms.Hill or Ms.White once at school.

SHOULD I SPEAK TO THE OTHER STUDENT MYSELF?



No, your main responsibility when on the bus is to yourself and your own safe ridership. By moving yourself while riding and later reporting the behaviour to the Bus Driver or Ms.Hill/Ms.White, you are helping the Bus Driver remain focused on safely transporting you to and from school.

HOW WOULD I RECEIVE A WARNING, OR BE SUSPENDED FROM THE BUS?



If you are following expected behaviours, neither of these actions would occur.



If you take part in unexpected behaviour, you may receive a warning from the Bus Driver directly, or from Ms.Hill/Ms.White. Repeated behaviours may lead to a temporary or full bus suspension.



Students involved in acts of violence or aggression may be issued an immediate bus suspension. This means you would not be able to ride the bus to school for a set period of time.

If you have any questions about the bus, please speak with Ms.Hill and/or Ms. White.

2. School Bus Code of Conduct – Junior / Senior Students

School Bus Code of Conduct

You have a responsibility to be a safe and respectful rider. It is your responsibility to follow these expectations; you are not to *police* other riders. When you follow these expectations, the bus driver is able to safely transport you to and from school.

If my behaviour is compromising the safety of other students, the bus driver and/or myself, I may lose the privilege of taking the school bus.

Expectations

I will...

- Respectfully follow the Bus Driver's instructions
- Respect other students' belongings and personal space
- Use school appropriate language at all times (i.e., no swearing or mature topics)
- Remain seated with my feet on the floor unless I am entering or leaving the bus
- Sit with a partner, or share my seat if someone asks to sit with me
- Keep the bus clean of my litter and garbage.

I can...

- Sit in the Junior/Senior reserved area of the bus, or choose to sit in the Kindergarten to Grade 5 section
- Open or close windows if the bus is stopped
- Eat a snack or have a drink
- Use my electronic device; headphones are advised

I won't...

- Hang or throw objects outside the bus windows
- Tease other bus riders, in a joking or insulting way.
- Shout or yell on the bus, or out of the window of the bus
- Be aggressive or use violence against the Bus Driver or other students
- Police other students' behaviour
- Litter my garbage on the bus

If you have any questions about the bus, please speak with Ms.Hill and/or Ms. White.

2. School Bus Code of Conduct – Primary Students (Kindergarten to Grade 5)

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