

Bus Safety Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Management of Nicker N.S that all buses/coaches used to transport our pupils A) to school everyday B) on school trips throughout the year, meet the highest standards.

Hire of Buses/Coaches:

It shall be a condition of hire that a company hired by the school shall have available, if requested the following items;

- A written guarantee that seatbelts are fitted and in working order
- A copy of the licence of any driver intending to transport our pupils
- A copy of the insurance certificate for any bus/coach used for transporting our pupils
- A copy of the Dept. of Public Enterprise Safety Inspection Report for each bus/coach used for transporting our pupils

The Board of Management has also determined that, in the event of a bus/coach arriving without seatbelts as promised, that the trip will be postponed. We understand the upset this may cause our young pupils but feel that parents will respect our common desire to put safety above all considerations.

Use of buses:

- There must be only two children per seat

The behaviour of children while on a bus/coach must also meet the highest standard. We wish to make the following clear;

- That children must remain seated at all times
- That seatbelts must be worn at all times
- That children must obey the instructions of their teachers/driver at all times
- That children speak and communicate to all on the bus in a polite and respectful manner
- That children do not eat or drink on a bus/coach unless given permission to do so by their teacher/driver
- That children enter and exit a bus/coach quietly and in an orderly manner
- That children are mindful of other bus users

Children, who consistently disobey the above rules will not be permitted to travel with the school on trips, and/or on the school bus.

While tackling behavioural issues in regard to children who travel on the daily school route is not entirely the remit of the staff of the school, it *is* important that appropriate steps are taken for children who are being victimised or bullied by another child/children on the bus. Teachers believe that poor behaviour or bullying can cause upset and greatly interfere with children's ability to learn in school. It is for this reason that the staff of Nicker N.S have taken steps towards the prevention of behavioural problems on the school bus.

- The class teacher will discuss with all children who travel on the bus, the importance of the above rules. These rules will be established at the beginning of each term, annually.
- All children must report any incidents or issues as soon as they occur to their class teacher. The class teacher will in turn discuss the matter with the principal and other staff.
- If necessary, children will be questioned in smaller groups to determine the exact nature of the incident(s) as they occur

- If the misbehaviour continues the parents of the child/children causing trouble will be contacted and asked to meet with the class teacher and/or principal.
- If the general behaviour of this child/group of children has not improved within a particular timeframe, the bus inspector will be asked to talk to all bus going children. The inspector may also wish to talk to parents of the child(ren) involved, in order to prevent any further incidents
- Children who consistently disobey the above rules will not be permitted to travel on the school bus. This decision will be taken in consultation with staff of the school and the bus inspector.