



MARITIME ACADEMY

BEHAVIOUR ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

2022-2023

Maritime Academy

Part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust

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THINKING SCHOOLS
ACADEMY TRUST

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STRENGTH - PRIDE - UNITY

MAKING EXCELLENCE A HABIT



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Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out how the free transport service will operate in the first year of the Academy opening
- Ensure that parents and students are aware of the expectations and conditions for the use of the transport
- Provide information regarding unacceptable behaviour on transport and the sanctions that will be implemented.

Maritime Academy wishes to work in partnership with parents and pupils, to ensure pupils can travel to school in a safe and comfortable manner.

Our transport and our values

Home to school transport is provided for the benefit of our students. Making sure school transport is safe for everyone is everyone's responsibility. We are united in upholding our values demonstrating strength of character to be our best selves in all areas of school life. The wearing of our school uniform identifies our students as members of the Maritime family, therefore we expect all students to be proud of their choices and how they represent our school both at the Academy and as ambassadors of the Academy when in the wider community.

An incident of behaviour that puts the safety or wellbeing of others at risk, or falls short of our expectations of our students, will be subject to sanctions in line with the policy and our whole school behaviour policy.

Code of Conduct

The following code of conduct applies to students travelling on school buses or when representing the Academy on other transport services.

Respect for others and their property

We expect our students to look after the provision that has been made for them, to be mindful of others using the transport and demonstrate respect in all circumstances.

Students must:

- Respect other passengers and their possessions.
- Follow the driver's directions without argument.
- Not interfere with the bus property, equipment or signs.



Waiting for pick up

When waiting for the bus, our students are expected to demonstrate our high expectations and are reminded that they are wearing our uniform and should therefore demonstrate our values as ambassadors of our Academy.

Students must:

- Accept their responsibility for getting to the pick up point on time – they should arrive at least five minutes before the bus is due to depart.
- Wait in an orderly queue, without blocking paths used by members of the public, until able to board the bus
- Stand quietly without shouting or calling out.
- Do not drop litter or cause any disruption to the environment/area whilst waiting for collection.
- Agree with their parents the action that will be taken if the school bus is missed

On the bus

Students conduct on the bus should reflect the high expectations we have of our community. Students are considerate of other students using the service who want a calm and purposeful journey to school. We expect our students to uphold our Maritime Manners and greet the driver/other adults in the morning.

Students must:

- Choose a seat, sit down and place their school bag on the floor between their knees ensuring not to block the seat next to them or the gangway for other students.
- Remain seated throughout the journey and use a seatbelt if one is provided.
- Engage in a quiet and calm activity for the duration of the journey to ensure the arrival to school is calm and safe for all students
- Follow the instructions of the driver/other designated adults without exception.

Student must NOT:

- Speak to or distract the driver unless there is an emergency.
- Stand in front of the driver or on the stairwell.
- Use the emergency exits or doors unless the driver instructs them to, or if there is a genuine emergency.
- Eat, drink or smoke on the bus.
- Use foul or abusive language on the bus.
- Bully, fight, spit or display any behaviours that would be in violation of our Academy behaviour policy.



- Throw items or damage the inside or outside of the bus. If damage is caused the police will be contacted.
- Change seats during the journey.
- Block the aisle or seats during the journey.
- Possess an object that could reasonably be considered dangerous or intended for use as a weapon.
- Possess, discuss or distribute inappropriate or offensive material.
- Use a recording device to obtain images, audio or video of the driver or any passengers.
- Place their feet on the seats.
- Encourage, coerce or equip other passengers to do anything that may jeopardise their own safety or that of other passengers.
- Behave in a way that will make other passengers feel unsafe or less comfortable.

Leaving the bus

On arrival to school or when disembarking at the end of the school day, our students are expected to be polite, courteous and respectful of their community. We expect our students to uphold our Maritime Manners and thank the driver for their service.

Students must:

- Wait for the bus to stop before standing to get off.
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner.
- Never cross the road directly in front of or behind the bus.
- Use pedestrian crossings where available.
- Walk to the designated line up area on the playground.

In an emergency

If an emergency occurs, students are expected to apply their habits of mind by managing their impulsivity, communication with clarity and precision and listening with understanding and empathy. Emergency situations can cause anxiety, but with a calm and considered approach all students can be supportive to keep themselves and others safe.

Students must:

- Wait until the bus stops before standing to get off.
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner.
- Wait in the area indicated by the driver.



Student must NOT:

- Interfere with the emergency equipment.

Suggested activities for the bus journey

To reflect the fact that the journey to and from school should be an opportunity to prepare, relax and unwind, the school permits students to perform the following activities during travel:

- Complete reading homework which includes a minimum of 30minutes reading each day
- Practice your basics
- Complete your reflection journal
- Debate quietly with a partner, this week's P4C topic
- Revise your Masters of Recall Knowledge Bank
- Review your timetable and revisit your previous learning ahead of today's lessons
- Reflect on your school day and use thinking hats to discuss with a partner your evaluations
- Read the latest news and discuss topical items

Parent/carer Responsibilities

Parents/carers have responsibility for the behaviour of their children and hold primary responsibility for ensuring their child attends school. Accordingly, they should:

- ensure their child understands the Code, is competent to independently travel on the school bus network, can cross the road safely
- understand the service provided this year, is complex and will not be able to meet all transportation requests
- be aware that school bus transport is primarily provided for three central pick-up and drop-off points only and to manage pupil numbers on each bus, students may be directed to travel on a designated bus
- Understand that the transport is free from the three designated pick-up/drop-off points and that it is the parent/carer's responsibility to support their child to get to these points
- Understand that if their child misses the dedicated school bus the costs associated with the student travelling to the academy will be incurred by the parents
- if requested, attend a meeting with the bus operator and school Principal to discuss their child's misbehaviour and the consequences if the child's behaviour has breached the Code
- contact the Academy to discuss matters regarding their child's school bus travel (it is not appropriate for parents/carers to discuss these matters with bus drivers);



- recognise that if their child is refused travel, they will need to make alternative travel arrangements and meet any costs for such transport
- understand they may be required to afford restitution in cash to cover costs incurred by damage to bus property, equipment, shelters and signs
- understand that parents/carers are not permitted to travel on school buses
- understand that bus drivers and buses may change school routes due to operational requirements
- ensure that a backup plan is established with your child should they miss the bus to ensure that they arrive at school (NB. missing the school bus is not an acceptable reason for missing school)
- understand that bus operators may review images captured on security systems such as Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), to substantiate claims of breaches of the Code
- realise that a record of a student's misbehaviour will be kept on file.

Sanctions for Unacceptable Behaviour

As part of its commitment to providing a safe environment for the transport of children and young people to and from school, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) reserves the right to revoke a Free School Bus place if a student's behaviour is deemed unacceptable.

Withdrawals or exclusion from home to school transport will be:

(a) temporary; or

(b) permanent at the discretion of the Principal having regard to the circumstances of the pupil's behaviour where this has been serious or in persistent cases of misbehaviour.

Each case will be considered on its own merits. Where the provision of home to school transport is withdrawn it will be the responsibility of the parent/carer(s) to pay for travel costs between home and school.

'Temporary' shall be for a specified number of weeks and 'permanent' shall be for the remainder of the school year or longer, if justified by the circumstances.

In the case of applying a permanent or temporary exclusion, you will be advised by letter and be given a minimum of five days' notice from the date of the letter. In the most serious of cases, transport will be withdrawn immediately. An example of a serious case would be considered as one where the safety of other passengers and/or driver had been put at significant risk.

Failure to respect the travel guidance and deliberately placing risk on fellow students or the bus driver will result in an instant ban from the school bus.

Any complaint from a member of public about the conduct of our students will be treated very seriously and the behaviour policy and other sanctions will apply.