

School Bus Safe Transport Agreement.

Purpose

Mount Carmel College is committed to providing a safe, respectful and supportive environment for all students travelling to and from school by bus. This agreement outlines the expectations and responsibilities of students and parents/carers in relation to safe bus travel.

This agreement should be read in conjunction with:

- [Student Code of Conduct](#);
- [Student Behaviour and Wellbeing Policy](#);
- [SWPBS Framework](#);
- [Tasmanian Passenger Conduct Code for School Bus Services](#).

While the Tasmanian Passenger Conduct Code for School Bus Services principally applies to Department-contracted school bus services, the College and its privately contracted bus service providers adopt and apply the safety principles and behavioural expectations of the Code to all College-arranged transport services, including privately contracted bus services.

As a non-government Catholic school, the College may implement additional procedures, expectations and consequences consistent with:

- College policies and values;
- contractual arrangements with transport providers;
- duty of care obligations;
- and the specific operational requirements of College-chartered services.

The College values of respect, compassion, community and courage underpin all interactions and behaviours associated with student transport.

Scope

This agreement applies to:

- all students travelling on College-organised or College-contracted buses;
- parents/carers of students using these services;
- travel to and from school, excursions, sporting events and other approved school activities where bus transport is provided or arranged by the College.

This agreement applies whether transport is:

- operated directly by the College;
- operated by a government-contracted provider;
- or operated by a private contractor engaged directly by the College.

Student Responsibilities

Students travelling on school or chartered buses are expected to:

- follow all instructions provided by the bus driver and supervising staff;
- behave respectfully toward drivers, staff, members of the public and other students;
- remain seated while the bus is moving;
- wear a seatbelt correctly at all times where fitted;
- keep aisles and exits clear;
- use appropriate language and behaviour;
- refrain from distracting the driver;
- keep noise to an appropriate level;
- refrain from eating or drinking unless expressly permitted;
- avoid throwing objects or engaging in unsafe conduct;
- care for bus property and the property of others;
- use electronic devices appropriately and respectfully;
- follow College expectations regarding photography, recording and social media;
- board and exit buses safely and responsibly;
- wait safely for transport and follow staff directions;
- refrain from crossing the road in front of the bus;
- wait until the bus has moved off before attempting to cross the road and use traffic lights and pedestrian crossings where unavailable;
- follow all bus safety expectations;
- contribute to a safe environment for all passengers.

Students acknowledge that the bus driver and or College staff have authority in relation to safety, seating arrangements and behaviour management while students are travelling on the bus.

Students understand that unsafe behaviour may result in:

- parent/carer notification;
- behaviour management processes;
- temporary or permanent suspension from bus travel;
- or other disciplinary action in accordance with College policies and procedures.

Where required, serious incidents may also be referred to the transport provider, relevant authorities or police.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents/carers acknowledge that they are responsible for:

- ensuring their child understands and follows safe transport expectations;
- ensuring their child is capable of travelling independently where applicable;
- ensuring appropriate supervision arrangements are in place before pickup and after drop-off where school supervision is not provided;
- ensuring their child is delivered and collected on the same side of the road/highway as to which he or she boards/disembarks the bus;
- parking on the same side of the road/highway to which the bus stops where reasonably practicable;
- communicating relevant medical, behavioural or support needs to the College;
- ensuring emergency contact details remain current;
- supporting the College and transport providers in addressing unsafe behaviour.

Parents/carers acknowledge that:

- supervision may not be provided by the College outside advertised supervision times;
- Supervision outside designated College supervision times rests with parents/carers.
- students may travel independently to and from bus pickup/drop-off points;
- bus drivers retain authority regarding safety and conduct on the bus where College supervision is not provided;
- serious breaches of behaviour expectations may result in suspension of transport access.