



# BUS SAFETY



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# BUS SAFETY

The school bus is one of the safest modes of transport. This document is a guide for parents that have children using a school bus. These tips cover traveling to and from the bus stop (whether that is walking, cycling, via scooter or in a vehicle), being safe at the bus stop and what good safe behaviour on the bus looks like.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### ! PICKING UP OR DROPPING OFF

- Always wait on the same side of the road as the bus stop if you can do so safely.
- Park your vehicle well away from the bus stop and other children.
- Teach your children about safe bus behaviour – and practice it with them.
- Encourage children to wait quietly at the bus stop and to keep away from the road or the space where the bus pulls in.
- **NEVER** park or stand across the road from the bus (in their excitement a child may forget to be safe or to look both ways and run straight towards you).

### ! MAKING THEIR OWN WAY

- Teach your child the safest route from your house to the bus stop. Walk with them and model the behaviour you want them to use, until you and your child feel confident).
- Choose the route with the fewest road crossings and the least traffic.
- If they have to cross the road after getting off the bus, teach them to wait until the bus has moved away and they can see up and down the road clearly.
- **TIP:** An easy measure for children is to wait until the bus has moved at least 3 power poles away in rural areas, or 3 streetlamps in urban areas).

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- Dress them in bright coloured or reflectorised clothing so they can be easily seen by drivers.
- **In rural areas**
  - Pedestrians should always walk facing oncoming traffic (and walk on the outside of corners)
  - Listen for vehicles as they are often traveling at high speeds
  - If a vehicle is coming, step back and wait for the vehicle to pass before carrying on
- **Have a back-up plan in case you are running late (and your children know the back-up plan).**

## WHAT TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

### ! WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait at the nominated bus stop area.
- Keep well away from the edge of the road (in rural areas keep away from the space the bus pulls into).
- Limit interaction to talking – avoid playing games where you may end up running onto the road or chasing something onto the road).

### ! WHEN GETTING ON THE BUS

- Form a single line.
- Wait until bus is completely stopped before moving towards the bus.
- Let the younger children on first.
- Be patient and let those in front get on without any shoving or pushing.
- Carry your backpack or school bag as it may get caught in the door if you wear it.

### ! ONCE YOU ARE ON THE BUS

- Quickly choose a seat and sit down.
- Put your bag on your lap or under your seat and keep the aisle clear.
- Stay seated in your seat until the bus has stopped. Do not kneel on or stand up on your seat.
- Follow the instructions of the bus driver or bus warden.
- If there are no seats available and you have to stand, place your bag in the overhead storage, under the seat beside you or on the floor beside a seat to try and keep the aisle clear. Hold onto a seat back or handrail.
- Talk to your school to see if they could establish a bus warden system.

### ! WHEN GETTING OFF THE BUS

- Wait until the bus has fully stopped before standing up.
- Be patient and let those in front of you get off without any pushing or shoving.
- Watch the step down from the bus.
- After you get off the bus, move well back from the bus, away from the edge of the road and wait patiently until the bus has moved away.
- If you need to cross the road, wait until the bus has moved at least 3 power poles/streetlamps away from the bus stop so you can clearly see up and down the road before crossing.

## DRIVING NEAR BUSES

- **ALWAYS** drop down to 20km per hour when passing a school bus that has stopped to pick up or drop off children.
- If there is a bus ahead of you on the road/street, just be more alert as there could be children in a rush getting to or from the bus and may try to cross the road without checking.