

Chances Transport Guidance for Parents/Carers and Students

Chances has produced a transport guide to help parents, carers and students, detailing our responsibilities and the expectations of students.

Transport arrangements and bus passes

Chances offers transport for students from a number of different, fixed, pick up spots from varying areas. In agreement with the mainstream school, some students are offered travelling assistance from these pick up spots on the Chances transport.

Transport is only offered where the student's mainstream school has agreed it for the named student only.

The journey to and from the pick up point and Chances

Chances' transport will always stop at the designated area, agreed before the student starts a placement at the provision. This means there is very likely to be a situation where students will have to be dropped to the pick up spot or may be expected to walk there. The journey to and from this area may contain a number of hazards to pedestrians. Walking the same route on a daily basis means that it is very easy to become complacent about the dangers it presents.

If you are unable to drop your child to the stop in the morning, and pick them up after school hours, please remind your child of the following to help them make the journey to and from the bus stop safer.

- Where possible, students should walk as part of a group but remember that your safety is your own responsibility, not your friends'.
- Where possible, students should wear something bright during the day and also wear something reflective when it is dark.
- The use of mobile phones or music players whilst walking will mean that students are not paying full attention to the road environment - students must be extra vigilant and pay attention when crossing the road.
- Students should use pedestrian crossings.
- When in a group students must not think it is acceptable to mess around on the roads and show off, and should always be aware of passing vehicles.

Each of us has a responsibility to ourselves to be safe on the road.

Waiting for the transport

Students should arrive at the pick up stop in good time – the transport will have to make a number of stops en route to Chances and therefore can not wait for any students running late. There may be occasions where the transport is late; students should wait before making alternative arrangements as, unless advised otherwise, the transport will still make its way to the pick up stop. Students and parents/carers are advised to call the school on 01626 864412 if they have any concerns over the transport not coming. Students and parents/carers should have a back up plan in case the bus is very late, or does not turn up, for an unforeseen reason.

For the student's own safety and those around them, students should wait sensibly for the transport.

When the bus is approaching, students must stand well back from the pick up stop and signal the transport to stop by putting out their arm.

Students must not rush for the door when the bus has stopped.

When on the transport

Students must find a seat quickly, or sit where the staff member driving the transport has asked them to sit. Students must remain seated throughout the journey.

Seatbelts are installed in the transport provided and students must wear them throughout the journey.

Students are expected to respect other passengers and the driver. Any distractions created can be dangerous and potentially cause an accident. It is very important students behave appropriately on the journey to and from Chances. Students must only open the emergency door if there is a real emergency. It is extremely dangerous to attempt to open the door when the bus or coach is moving.

In the event of an incident such as a vehicle breakdown, the staff member will determine if passengers should remain on board or leave the vehicle. Students should follow the staff member's instructions and must not leave the vehicle without permission. Any student leaving the vehicle against the driver's instruction does so at their own risk.

Behaviour on school transport / Dealing with misbehaviour

Step 1

Where issues exist, the driver will normally speak to the student(s) about their behaviour. If problems remain, details will be reported to the school. Once a student has been reported, a verbal warning will normally be given by the school's Senior Leadership team. Students may receive a consequence within school for their misbehaviour.

Step 2

Where a student is a persistent offender or commits a serious offence, a written warning will be issued as follows. Either:

- A letter will be sent home informing parents or carers of their child's behaviour, along with a warning that further misbehaviour will result in the student being banned from the transport for a temporary period.

or

- A letter will be sent home informing parents or guardians that an immediate ban from the transport has been imposed for a specified period. Students may also be asked to sign an acceptable behaviour contract before they are allowed to return to the transport.

Serious offences may also be reported to the police, to be dealt with by way of criminal proceedings.

Damage or vandalism to the bus

Parents or carers of any student who damages or vandalises the bus will be liable for any costs incurred.

More information

If you have any enquiries about school transport, please contact a member of the Chances team:

Chances Educational Support Services

Red Rock

Sandy Lane

Dawlish

EX7 0AF

email: chances@spacepsm.org

Tel: 01626 864412

Parent, carer and student views and suggestions

It is useful for Chances' staff to be aware of any views or suggestions parents, carers and students have about our school transport. If you would like to share these, please contact a staff member on any of the above contact details.

Thank you for your support.

Gary Hayes, Head Teacher

June 2019