



Bus Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct for Hunter Christian School students travelling on buses

Authorised by Malcolm East (Principal) on 16 May 2018

Student Code of Conduct – notes for Parents & Teachers

We value the safe and caring community of Hunter Christian School that we have become known for. This is something we want to teach, preserve and not take for granted. It is for this reason that we have developed this Bus Code of Conduct.

This Code of Conduct covers student behaviour for those students who are travelling;

- on public transport whilst in school uniform and not in the immediate supervision of parents/guardians
- to and from school organised events such as excursions, carnivals and mission trips
- to and from school on buses
- on buses leased, hired, owned or operated by Hunter Christian School

It is every student's responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers. Students are expected to follow these rules for the safety and comfort of all passengers, including themselves. If the rules are not followed, it may lead to the banning of students from travelling on buses run by the school or other disciplinary measures.

On the bus:

- Use appropriate language not offensive or racist language
- Fighting, spitting, feet on seats, throwing things in or from the bus is not permitted
- No eating or drinking without permission
- Offer seats to adults including people with a disability, elderly or expectant mothers
- Do not push or shove other people
- Do not bully or harass other passengers or the driver
- Avoid attracting the attention of the driver except in the case of emergency
- Do not play music at such volume that it may distract the bus driver or other passengers

Safety on and around buses:

- Obey reasonable directions from the driver (e.g. where to sit or to remain in the bus)
- Remain in your seat – do not move around the bus unnecessarily
- If standing, remain behind the front passenger seat and keep a secure hand hold at all times
- Keep bags and other items clear of the aisle
- Do not allow any part of your body to protrude out of the bus at any time
- Wait for the bus in a quiet and orderly manner – including at bus interchanges
- Stand away from the roadside until the bus comes to a complete stop
- Allow other passengers to leave the bus before stepping onto the bus in a single line
- Wait until the bus stops before moving to get off the bus at your designated stop
- Wait until the bus leaves the stop and you have clear vision before crossing the road
- Cross the road where and when it's safe to do so, use crossings/traffic lights where available

Obey the laws:

- Wear the seat belt properly adjusted and fastened, if one is available
- Obey the law that bans smoking on buses
- Ensure that buses are not vandalised – report any damage to the driver
- Do not interfere with bus property, equipment and signage
- Do not leave rubbish on the bus, or at bus stops or interchanges
- Do not share or show inappropriate materials, videos, pictures, images, games or recordings
- Do not record others on video, audio or camera
- Obey government and private bus rules

Categories of inappropriate bus behavior – notes for Parents & Teachers

To promote consistency and fairness in responding to breaches of the Code of Conduct, inappropriate behaviour has been divided into three categories.

Unacceptable behaviour	<p>This category includes minor offences, but is not limited to behaviour that may be irritating or unpleasant. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • distracting the driver by persistent noise or calling out to the driver • failing to wear the seat belt properly adjusted and fastened, if one is available • eating or drinking on the bus without permission • leaving rubbish or mess behind • using offensive or racist language • pressing the stop button continually • behaving so as to adversely affect the comfort or safety of other passengers • not offering seats to adult passengers including people with a disability, elderly or expectant mothers • playing music loudly and being a general nuisance • acting in a way that brings the school, other students, staff or the school community into disrepute
Dangerous behaviour	<p>This category includes more serious offences, but is not limited to behaviour that may cause an element of danger to individuals. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bullying, intimidation and harassment of other passengers • allowing any part of their body to protrude from the bus while the bus is in motion • stopping others from disembarking at their stop • verbally threatening the driver • standing on steps or in areas not set aside for standing and refusing to sit down • pushing and shoving when boarding or exiting the bus • swinging on bus handrails • throwing things inside or out of the bus • fighting with other passengers • causing damage to property in buses • displaying materials of an offensive, obscene, pornographic, threatening, abusive or defamatory nature on a device such as mobile phone, iPad or laptop computer • spitting or discharging other bodily fluids (including urine and mucous) • smoking a product e.g. tobacco or a similar substance, including e-cigarettes
Extreme behaviour	<p>This category includes major offences, but is not limited to highly dangerous behaviour. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pushing students out of the doors or windows • interfering with the driving controls or the emergency door release • assaulting the driver or other passengers • interfering with safety equipment • recklessly or negligently endangering the safety of other passengers or themselves • carrying a weapon (including replica weapons) or dangerous items • using matches, lighters or other flammable items. • exposing body parts

Potential consequences of inappropriate bus behavior

Notes for Parents & Teachers

It is important to remember that discipline is not a black and white process of applying actions to consequences. **All behavior takes place within a context and it is critical to consider context in any deliberation on student behaviour.** Furthermore, the same consequence can have different impacts on students with different values, interests, mental health status, life experiences and levels of maturity, so it is also essential to consider what is meaningful and helpful to individual students in any deliberation.

From time to time, the School may send an additional senior member of staff on School operated buses to observe the behaviours of students on the bus.

Unacceptable behaviour	Possible consequences may include, but limited to, depending on individual context; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning • Designated seating • Making of apology / Peacewise session • Meeting with Head of Primary/Secondary or delegate • Minor School based detention • Minor School community service • Short term ban from school operated bus
Dangerous OR repeated unacceptable behaviour	Possible consequences may include, but limited to, depending on individual context (irrespective of potential action taken by external bus operators); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of school based privileges • Medium length ban from school operated bus • Designated seating or other alternative arrangements • Meeting with parents • Major restitution • School detention or significant community service • School suspension
Extreme OR repeated dangerous behaviour	Possible consequences may include, but limited to, depending on individual context (irrespective of potential action taken by external bus operators or Police); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long or permanent ban from school operated bus • School suspension or expulsion • Other significant consequences

It is every student's responsibility to behave in a manner that ensures the safety and comfort of passengers and drivers. Students are expected to follow these rules whilst travelling on any bus in school uniform or travelling to and from school. If the rules are not followed then students will not be able to travel on buses.

Take care of others on the bus:

- Use appropriate language not offensive, sexist or racist language
- No fighting, spitting, feet on seats, throwing things in or from the bus
- No eating or drinking without permission
- Offer seats to people who have trouble standing, such as people on crutches
- Do not push or shove other people
- Do not bully or annoy others
- Don't distract the driver
- Keep your noise down and don't play music loudly
- Don't leave rubbish or mess on the bus

Be safe on and around buses:

- Follow the driver's instructions, including where to sit
- Remain in your seat
- Don't stand next to the driver
- Don't block the aisle with bags
- Don't put anything out of a window or door
- Wait for the bus in a quiet and sensible manner
- Stand away from the roadside
- Allow other passengers to leave the bus before stepping onto the bus in a single line
- Wait until the bus stops before moving to get off the bus

Obey the laws:

- If there is a seat belt then wear it
- No smoking, drinking, weapons etc.
- Don't damage the bus or any property
- Do not leave rubbish on the bus
- Do not share or show inappropriate materials, videos, pictures, images, games or recordings
- Do not record others on video, audio or camera