

Making safe choices when travelling to and from school by bus

For school years 9-13



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHĪ

New Zealand Government



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June 2010

NZ Transport Agency

ISBN 978-0-478-36443-9 (print)

ISBN 978-0-478-36442-2 (online)

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The NZTA acknowledges the generous input of Newlands College, Wellington and Newlands Coach Services.



Message to motorists

Each day, thousands of New Zealand children catch a bus to school - a total of 53,500 urban students and 49,900 rural students.



These children are at greatest risk after the bus has dropped them off and moved away. This is where you, as a passing motorist, can make a difference and help keep our children safe.

Motorists need to be extra careful when passing a stationary school bus where children are getting on or off. Always reduce your driving speed to 20km/h when passing the bus. Keep an eye out for children who are walking to catch the bus, or leaving it.

Avoid all distractions that will take your eyes off the road ahead and never use your mobile phone while driving.

Message to parents and caregivers

It is likely your teenager has been travelling on the bus to school for a while now. They'll probably know the basics. Some of these are covered here, along with new tips to help keep your children safe.

If you are picking your teens up from the bus stop, meet them on the same side of the road that the bus uses.

Have an alternative plan in case you are running late.

Always reduce driving speed to 20km/h when passing a stationary school bus.

It's always good to reinforce the messages in this pamphlet by regularly discussing them with your children. Check the Safe Choices Together Contract at the back of this pamphlet. Discuss it with your children, sign it together and agree to review it at a later date.



Be safe on your journey in the school bus

Travelling to school on the bus can be fun and safe. It's a great time to catch up with your friends, even do some work on your laptop. You can easily help make the journey safe for everyone on the bus.

When you are waiting for the bus, stand well back from the road.

Do not text or listen to music through your headphones. You need to concentrate on the road, the traffic and everything else that is happening around you. Listening to music can drown out important things you need to hear.

When texting, you can't concentrate on your surroundings, such as traffic. Wait until you are on the bus, or home, before you use your mobile phone or listen to music using headphones.

Wait until the bus has stopped and then walk on in a single line. Don't push and shove each other.

Let the younger children go first.



Take care that your bag doesn't get caught in the door.

On the bus, stay seated and put your bag under your seat or on your knees.

If you have to stand, put your bag on the floor and hold on to the back of a seat, or the handrail. Do not put your bag in the middle of the aisle.

Listen to what the driver or bus monitor is saying. They are looking after you and keeping you safe.

Always stay behind the driver. The driver has an important job to do and needs to concentrate to get you to and from school safely.

Get off the bus carefully, using the front door. Avoid pushing and shoving - stop and think before you act.

If you are older than some of the others on the bus, respect their right to be safe, look out for them and cool things down if you notice any trouble brewing. The driver and bus monitor will appreciate your help.

After getting off the bus, wait as far away from the edge of the road as you can until the bus has moved away. Do not use your mobile phone or listen to music on your headphones until you are home. You need to concentrate fully on keeping yourself safe around traffic.

If you need to cross the road, wait until the bus has driven past and is out of sight, and you can see clearly up and down the road before crossing. Always use the kerb drill to cross.

Stand well clear of the bus if it is turning or reversing.



Kerb drill

- 1** Find a safe place to cross.
- 2** Stop one step back from the kerb.
- 3** Look all ways and listen for traffic wherever it may come from.
- 4** If there is traffic coming, wait until it has passed, then look all ways and listen for traffic again.
- 5** When there is no traffic coming, walk quickly straight across the road, looking all ways for traffic.



The contract

This contract between you and your parents or caregivers reinforces the importance of everyone committing to being safe on the school bus. Reviewing it regularly between you will help everyone remember the safety tips.



We will make safe choices together

Student

I (name)

will always:

- stand well back from the road when waiting for the bus
- avoid playing by the side of the road. I won't push and shove others
- let the youngest children go first
- stay seated on the bus and put my bag under my seat or on my knees
- listen to what the driver or bus monitor is saying
- always stay behind the driver
- avoid texting or listening to music through my headphones until I am on the bus
- respect the rights of others on the bus, look out for them and cool things down if I notice any trouble brewing
- wait as far away from the edge of the road as I can until the bus has moved away
- keep my music or mobile phone switched off until I get home
- always use the kerb drill to cross.

Signature

Parent or caregiver

I (name)

will always:

- park on the side of the road the bus uses
- reduce my driving speed to 20km/h when passing a stationary bus
- be a role model for safe behaviour
- regularly discuss the points in the pamphlet with you.

Signature



Stay safe, have fun...

Ensure your trips on the school bus are enjoyable and safe for everyone.

You must remain aware of everything that is happening around you, so turn off your mobile phone or music until you are on the bus, or home safely.

Our contact details

For general enquiries and contact information for the NZ Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

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