

Keeping safe while using school buses

INFORMATION FOR CAREGIVERS

Travelling by bus is the safest way a child can get to school. [Waka Kotahi's research](#) shows that travelling as a bus passenger is the safest mode of road transport.

Here's some information about how you can help keep children safe when they are travelling to school.

What can I do to keep my child safe on the bus?

The most important thing you can do is make sure your child understands how to behave and keep themselves safe before, during, and after the school bus journey.

The highest risk is when a child gets off a bus.

To prevent children running across the road to or from the bus into the path of passing traffic, you should:

- Walk them to the bus stop in the morning.
- Meet them as they get off the bus, on the same side of the road that the bus stops.

Remember, the speed limit is 20km per hour when driving past a stationary school bus from either direction.

Safety and behaviour tips for students

Getting on the bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wait in the designated place – well back from the road • Wait until the bus stops before approaching • Carry your bag in front of you so it doesn't get caught in the door • If there is a seat available, sit down straight away and remain seated for the whole journey
On the bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all instructions from the bus driver • No eating, drinking, smoking or vaping • Bullying and harassment of any kind will not be tolerated • Don't shout or in any way distract the bus driver • Respect the bus company's property • Respect other passengers • When seated, wear a seatbelt (if available) and put your bag on your lap or under the seat in front of you • If standing, stay behind the bus driver
Getting off the bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the front door if possible • Wait well back from the road until the bus has moved away • Only cross the road when there is no traffic in either direction

Students are expected to comply with the behaviour guidelines above and any code of conduct or conditions of carriage issued by the bus operator.

If a student's behaviour is disruptive or poses a safety risk, the school will take appropriate steps to manage this behaviour, and the student could lose their place on the school bus. If the bus driver judges that it is no longer safe to continue the route, the school or the Police will be contacted to remove the student from the school bus.

If a student loses their place on the school bus a Conveyance Allowance will not be paid in this situation.

More information

- Bus safety: [Waka Kotahi's website](http://www.transport.govt.nz) (www.transport.govt.nz)
- [Ministry of Education website](http://www.education.govt.nz) (www.education.govt.nz)