



Bus Safety for Students

Getting you to and from school intact means the world to your friends, family and teachers. It's probably high on your list of priorities too!

Here are some useful tips for keeping yourself and others safe around buses.

Remember that younger kids look up to you – please lead by example so they learn to behave safely.

Safety starts at the bus stop

- Leave home with plenty of time to get to the bus stop.
- Always walk on the inside of the footpath.
- If there are no footpaths, walk on the side of the road where the traffic is coming towards you as far away from the road as possible. If possible, wear something bright so that drivers can see you.
- If your bus is late don't leave the bus stop. Wait there until it arrives.
- Buses have what is called an over-hang at the front. This means that when the bus is pulling into the stop the front might come up over the footpath slightly. It is important that you:
 - stand well back from the road when waiting for the bus
 - not push or shove others when the bus is approaching the stop
 - wait until the bus stops completely before going near the door
 - get onto the bus in an orderly manner.

Bus Safety for Students

On board the bus

- Always treat the driver with respect. They have the important job of getting you and others to school safely.
- Don't be noisy or unruly. The driver needs to concentrate on driving.
- Move down the bus towards the back and take your seat. School bags should be placed under the seat or in racks provided. They must not block the aisles.
- If you do not have a seat, move down to the back of the bus and hold onto the handgrips on the seats or overhead.
- Remember nothing goes out of the window – no paper, litter, arms or heads.
- Make sure you know where the emergency exit is in case you ever need to use it.
- Always show care, courtesy and common sense while on the bus.
- Vandalism is a crime! Report any vandalism to your driver.
- If the bus has seat belts you must wear them.

Getting off the bus

- Use the signal buttons to let the driver know when your stop is coming up.
- The driver won't open the doors until the bus has completely stopped so don't push or rush.
- Once off the bus, step well away.
- Never cross the road until the bus has moved away and you can see clearly in all directions.
- If you are using headphones, please take them off before leaving the bus so you can hear what's going on around you.

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In an emergency

- Don't panic – stay calm.
- Listen to the instructions the driver gives and follow them closely. The driver is trained and will know what to do.
- If someone is hurt or sick tell the driver where they are and what is wrong with them.
- Do not move a person who is hurt.
- If the driver is hurt, leave the bus and assemble in a group in a safe place away from the bus. Dial 000. Wait for help to arrive.
- If there are smaller children on board, make sure that they do not wander away or onto the road.

If there's a fire on the bus

- Move to a safe place away from the bus (2 lengths of the bus or 100 paces).
- Assemble as a group and wait for help to arrive.
- Don't panic – stay calm and stay together.
- Do not go back to the bus for any reason.
- Dial 000.

More information/resources

- https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/school-bus-safety
- <http://www.childsafetyhub.com.au/street-smart-road-safety-school-bus-safety/>
- <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-buses>
- https://www.safekids.org/safetytips/field_risks/school-bus-safety
- https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/safe-driving-tips/school_safety