

What constitutes

“serious misbehaviour”?

The list below is a guide to what would lead to an instant ban or a much longer ban than normal:

- X** Vandalism
- X** Arson
- X** Tampering with CCTV equipment
- X** Bullying, both physical and verbal
- X** Carrying weapons
- X** Abusing the driver
- X** Fighting
- X** Drug or solvent abuse
- X** Using derogatory, offensive language (e.g. racist and sexist words)
- X** Anything liable to seriously endanger yourself or others

This list is not exhaustive; your school may have other ideas and we will be guided by them. Each incident reported to us will be dealt with on its individual merits.

Some final points for you to think about...

If you lose your place on the school transport, your parents/guardians are still legally responsible for your attendance at school.

So, if you lose your place on the school transport, **how will you get to school?**

How will your parents/guardians feel about taking time off to come into to school to sign a Behaviour Contract?

If you see or hear something that you know is wrong, what is the right thing to do?

Getting help

If you witness unacceptable behaviour, please ensure that you tell someone that you trust and who is in a position to help. This might be a bus prefect, teacher or parent/guardian. You may even wish to contact the School Transport team. If you do report anything to the school or to staff in County Hall, we will treat your concern with absolute confidentiality.

Below are some ways that you can contact us in School Transport:



Telephone:

Call the Team Leader on **01823 358142**

SMS Text: Text **Safebus** to **07781 482858**, followed by your message

Send an e-mail to Safebus@somerset.gov.uk

Working together for equalities



This document is also available in Braille, large print, on tape and on disc and we can translate it into different languages. We can provide a member of staff to discuss the details.



A guide to behaving responsibly



Produced on behalf of
your school by the
School Transport Team
from Transporting Somerset.

Why have we produced this short guide?

Most young people behave well on their school transport, most of the time. However, a minority can sometimes make life unpleasant for the rest. More importantly, this small number of people can actually endanger the safety of others.

Together with your school and all of the bus companies, we have decided to take a united approach to make bad behaviour unacceptable and we will take whatever action is necessary to achieve this.

This guide should give you a good idea of what's expected from you and what's not expected of you. As well as a few dos and don'ts, this guide tells you what you can expect if you don't behave responsibly.

So far...

... we have increased the number of buses with CCTV. We have also trained the drivers to deal with bad behaviour and we have increased the number of pupils who have the additional responsibility of helping to support the driver.

AND WE NOW HAVE THE POWER TO REMOVE PUPILS WHO CAN'T BEHAVE PROPERLY

What is expected of you?

Our general expectation is not difficult to achieve:

- ✓ remain seated
- ✓ wear your seat belt
- ✓ keep noise to a reasonable level
- ✓ treat other passengers with respect, and
- ✓ do as the driver says

Are there any other rules?

Yes, a few, and they are designed to keep you safe and to make the school journey a pleasant one for all:

- ✓ Don't eat and drink
- ✓ Don't smoke (this is against the law on buses and taxis)
- ✓ Don't get up and walk about
- ✓ Don't use bad language
- ✓ Don't do anything that might distract the driver
- ✓ If you need to speak to the driver, do so with as much respect as you would if you were addressing a teacher
- ✓ If you are issued with a ticket, take it on all school transport journeys



What happens to people who don't follow the rules?

We will investigate all incidents reported by the driver with your school. For a first offence, a warning will normally be issued, and this will be sent to the pupil's home. This warning will state that transport can be withdrawn in future.

If their behaviour doesn't improve, we will withdraw the place on the school bus for a period of time. If this happens, we will only allow them back on if they and their parents/guardians sign a Behaviour Contract.

In cases of persistent or serious misbehaviour, we may ban pupils for long periods of time, and without warning.

