



Carr Hill Primary School

Aspire-Enjoy-Flourish

**Travelling to and From School by Bus
Information for Parents**

Introduction

Many of our pupils who live further from school choose to travel by bus. The bus service (C3) is a public service, run by Stagecoach. The bus costs £1.20 each way and this can be paid in cash each day (teachers collect bus money each morning to keep safe) or by purchasing a bus pass from the bus driver. Bus passes can also be bought online if your pass has a serial number on the back.

Whilst the staff at Carr Hill has no control of the timing of the bus, we communicate with Stagecoach when necessary for updates on any incidents which may affect the service. You can also download the Stagecoach app, where you can track the bus on its journey.



We use text messaging to communicate any information to parents listed on the 'Bus Group'. Any child who is registered as using the bus will be included in this group on our system. If, for any reason, you do not receive these messages, please ensure the office have the correct numbers.

The bus supervisors have a school mobile phone which parents can use in an emergency 07824146225. If a new person is needed to collect your child, school will need to call you back to confirm that it was you who made the original call, so please call in good time. You can call the school office throughout the day, up until 4:15 pm.

The supervisors carry a register of pupils on the bus and their usual stops. Please inform school by email if there are any changes to the usual drop off stop or adults who will be collecting. It is important that parents support the supervisors in ensuring that children are collected by the correct people. Please be at the bus stop in good time and ensure that you are easily visible for the supervisors dismissing pupils from the bus.

At the end of the school day, children wait in classrooms in year groups, supervised by the bus supervisors and teachers. Once the bus arrives, teachers support the supervisors to take children to the bus and settle them safely.










Please help us to keep your children safe on the bus by talking through The School Bus Charter. This will help the Bus Supervisors maintain positive behaviour which will help the driver to concentrate on driving the bus Safely.

DELAYS/ INCIDENTS/ EMERGENCIES

In case of any delays, incidents or emergencies, school will be notified by the supervisors and will pass on information to parents via text messaging. If necessary, at least one member of the Senior Leadership Team will go to meet the bus and support in dealing with the situation.

School Bus Charter



-  Sit down where you are asked to sit by the Bus Supervisor
-  Chat quietly to the person next to you.
-  Listen to the Bus Supervisor and follow instructions straight away.
-  Keep your phone in your bag at all times.
-  Be polite to each other.
-  Safe behaviour at all times.
-  Only stand up once the bus has stopped.
-  Stay on the bus until you are asked to leave by the bus supervisor.
-  Food and drinks must stay in your bag!

COLLECTION OF BUS CHILDREN FROM THE BUS

Children (usually Y3-Y6) who travel on the bus must be registered on the bus register. This full register is kept in the office.

Morning-teachers to tick off children's name on each class bus register to record who will travel home on the bus that evening-collect purses/wallets with bus money.

3.25-Teachers check that only children on the class bus register join the bus group in classrooms.

Teachers to give out bus money in purses/wallets.

When the bus arrives, Y3 bus children will be brought to the bus by Mrs Greenwood, Y4 by Mrs Frith, Y5&6 by the designated class teacher for that day.

Bus supervisors to check off names on the bus register and check with class teachers/school office if there are any children missing, who are expected or extra children.

Collection from the bus-All pupils must be collected from the bus stop by parent/carer or designated adult (Y5 or Y6 children may be given written permission to walk home from the bus alone, which will be recorded on the Bus Supervisors' register). If the designated adult is not there to collect, the bus supervisor is to keep the child on the bus and ring Mrs Alford on her mobile, who can collect from the Bus Station and bring back to school for collection, if necessary.

Mobile Phone Contact-Mrs Frith has the school mobile phone and parents of children who use the bus have this number. If a call is received about a change of person to collect, and this person is not on the child's list of approved adults, a call **MUST** be made to school so this can be confirmed by ringing the parent/carer back on their own number.

WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BUS ALONE

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. A families' guide to the law states:

"There is no law prohibiting children from being out on their own at any age. It is a matter of judgement for parents to decide when children can play out on their own, walk to the shops or school."

Parents are legally obliged to ensure their children get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not disallow independent travel. However, as a school we are responsible for the welfare of our pupils and therefore have to consider what we believe is good practice in ensuring the safety of our pupils. We also have an obligation to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Pupils in Foundation Stage or KS1

Usually, pupils are in Year 3 upwards when they use the school bus. If your child is younger than this, please speak to the office before making arrangements for your child to travel on the bus.

Pupils in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

While there is no set age when children are ready to walk to school or home on their own, we believe that pupils in year 3, 4 and 5 should be still brought to and collected from school and this is our school policy. Therefore, as regards pupils in Year 6, we believe that you as parents need to decide whether your child is ready for the responsibility of walking to and from school alone. We recognise that some parents of children in Year 5, who live close to a bus stop feel that their children are responsible enough to walk home, where someone is there to meet them. This arrangement can be put in place using the Microsoft Form sent to parents or by contacting the office in writing: office@carrhill.notts.sch.uk

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to the school bus unaccompanied you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to their bus stop through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey.

The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Please also make arrangements to ensure that your child is contactable if there are any delays in the bus in the morning and know not to accept lifts, even in the event of a bus breakdown, without your permission.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.

- Cross in a place where they can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. Speak to your child about what they should do if this should ever happen.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?
6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they did not want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know whom best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own. If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility, then you must inform the school by completing the survey sent on Parent Pay with this policy (please ask the office to re-send if you can't find this). Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Where children walk to, or walk home from school, alone, we would expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave or arrive. On the rare occasion that a child will be leaving from, or returning to, an empty house, we would expect that this is only for a short period of time and that the child knows how, and can, access emergency adult support if needed.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS YOU HAVE MADE, PLEASE ENSURE YOU LET US KNOW IN WRITING IMMEDIATELY.