

THOMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Transport Information for Parents and Guardians

Supporting Safe, Respectful and Inclusive Travel

Thomond Primary School is committed to working with families, bus escorts and transport providers to ensure that all pupils travel safely and successfully to and from school.

This document provides a summary of the key expectations for pupils and parents using school transport.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are responsible for:

- Ensuring their child is ready for collection at the agreed time and location.
- Informing the school and bus escort if their child will not be travelling.
- Providing up-to-date contact and emergency contact details.
- Informing the school of any medical, behavioural, communication or sensory needs that may affect transport arrangements.
- Ensuring that a responsible adult is available to receive their child where required.

Parents remain responsible for their child until they are handed over to the bus escort each morning and become responsible again once their child has been handed over at the agreed drop-off point.

Pupil Expectations

Pupils are expected to:

- Follow the instructions of the bus escort and driver.
- Remain seated while the vehicle is moving.
- Wear a seatbelt where provided.
- Treat fellow pupils, escorts and drivers with respect.
- Use appropriate language and behaviour.
- Respect the vehicle and the property of others.
- Behave in a manner that keeps everyone safe.

Positive Behaviour

School transport is regarded as an extension of the school day and pupils are expected to follow the standards outlined in the school's Code of Behaviour.

The school recognises that some pupils may require additional support and will work collaboratively with families and transport personnel to support positive behaviour.

Parent/Guardian Conduct

Parents/Guardians are expected to communicate respectfully with school staff, bus escorts and transport personnel at all times.

The following behaviours are not acceptable:

- Verbal abuse.
- Threatening or intimidating behaviour.
- Aggressive or confrontational conduct.
- Harassment of staff, escorts, drivers or other parents.
- Use of offensive, discriminatory or abusive language.

The Board of Management has a duty of care towards staff and bus escorts and may take appropriate action where adult behaviour compromises the safety, wellbeing or dignity of members of the school community.

Concerns and Complaints

If you have a concern regarding school transport, please contact the Principal in the first instance.

Concerns relating to transport routes, eligibility, collection times or transport allocation may ultimately be matters for Bus Éireann and/or the Department of Education.

Misconduct and Safety

Where concerns arise regarding behaviour on school transport, the school will work collaboratively with families, transport personnel and relevant agencies to support positive outcomes.

Serious or repeated misconduct may be referred to Bus Éireann and/or the Department of Education.

Under the School Transport Scheme, sanctions may include:

- Verbal warning.
- Written warning.
- Temporary suspension from transport.
- Withdrawal of transport for a specified period.
- Permanent exclusion from the School Transport Scheme.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that school transport remains a safe, positive and respectful experience for all pupils.