

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Student Behaviour on Home to School Transport Policy</h2>
Person(s) Responsible:	
Approval:	Governing Body
Head Teacher:	Gary Edmunds
Policy Originator:	Gary Edmunds
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**To be read in conjunction with:** Discipline and Behaviour Policy, The Care and Control Policy, Absconcion Policy

### 1.0 Introduction

The behaviour of the majority of our students who travel from home to school on organised transport through the local authority is generally very good and does not cause any concern. However, the behaviour of a minority of our students can be unacceptable and unsafe.

If the behaviour of students is to be positively influenced then the Travel Assist Teams through the student's local authority will work in partnership with the following in order to achieve this:-

- Students
- Parents/carers including social workers
- School staff and governors
- Operators/drivers
- Travel escorts/guides
- SEND teams

Spring Hill High School require all transport vehicles to park as close to the school as possible, if there is a driveway into the school then this should be used. Some students may present significant risks and are under 24-hour supervision, or have minimal unsupervised time in their home and community, it is therefore vital that the person(s) travelling with the student, e.g. travel guide, carer, ensure that the student enters the school building and visual tracking of the student is possible at all times. When the student enters the school building they are under the legal control of Spring Hill High School.

At the end of the day Spring Hill High School has legal control of a student up until they enter the vehicle or their parent/travel guide has collected the student from the door.

The consequences of poor behaviour on home to school transport can be wide ranging. Other passengers may be deterred from using transport shared with poorly behaved school students; in extreme cases, such behaviour can cause considerable danger to other service users. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires Headteachers to determine what measures should be taken to promote self-discipline amongst students and encourage positive behaviour and respect for others, including the prevention of bullying.

Spring Hill High School will refer to the behaviour policy and will take action and decide on penalties for unacceptable behaviour, even when this takes place outside the school premises and when students are not under the legal control of the school, when it is reasonable to do so. This correlates to the view of the Department for Children, Families and Schools that this includes behaviour on school buses, or otherwise on the route to and from school, whether or not the students are in school uniform.

Persistent poor behaviour on the journey to and from school may be grounds for exclusion not only from the taxi but also from the school. It is important that students and parents/carers fully understand that behaviour which endangers other students - or indeed the driver and other passengers - will not be tolerated and will result in serious consequences if deemed appropriate.

### **1.1 Safe from Bullying on Journeys**

Bullying can make the lives of children a misery; it undermines their confidence and self-esteem and destroys their sense of security. Bullying can have a life-long negative impact, limiting the places where children and young people feel safe to go and reducing their ability to become successful, independent adults. Spring Hill High School recognises that bullying does not only happen in school; it can happen anywhere including journeys to and from school on the bus, train, cycling or walking.

Spring Hill High School and the Local Authority will work closely with transport providers, police, parents and students as bullying/harassment/intimidation will not be tolerated.

### **1.2 Summary of Unacceptable Behaviours**

Multiple or serious incidents may lead to an immediate exclusion, irrespective of the child's statutory entitlement. Some behaviour may also require the involvement of the police.

Examples of the type of behaviour, which will invoke a sanction, are listed below:-

- Bullying/harassment/intimidation (physical and/or verbal);
- Fighting/distracting the driver;
- Failure to follow instruction from the driver or the travel guide;
- Standing forward of the driver;
- Opening the car door to exit whilst the car is in motion;
- Drug misuse;
- Moving around the vehicle;
- Throwing objects inside the vehicle or out of the windows;
- Smoking;
- Spitting;
- Verbal abuse - swearing;
- Bringing unsafe objects onto the vehicles (i.e. pen-knives, cigarette lighters);

- Playing personal stereos without headphones;
- Assaulting the travel guide;
- Vandalism/damage to the vehicle (criminal damage may be reported to the Police by the Travel Assist Team or the owner of the vehicle, and parents or carers will be held responsible for any damage caused to the vehicle by their child's actions and will have to reimburse the operator accordingly).

**This is not an exhaustive list and each incident will be investigated on its own merit.**

### **1.3 Principles Guiding the Use of Sanctions**

Sanctions should be fair, consistent and appropriate to the seriousness of the incident/behaviour. The procedure by which a sanction is applied should ensure that the student is informed about the reason for its imposition and the parent/carer should also be informed. Generally a sanction will only be applied after investigation of an incident. However, where there is a serious health and safety risk an immediate sanction may be applied.

Spring Hill High School will allow the Travel Assist Teams to apply the most serious of sanctions when all other sanctions have been tried and have demonstrably failed, unless the incident is so serious that it could warrant an immediate sanction and the Travel Assist Teams could withdraw the service.

### **1.4 Factors to be considered when applying Sanctions**

Consideration may need to be given to:-

- The seriousness of the incident/behaviour;
- The impact of the behaviour on others and/or property;
- Frequency and past history of behaviour;
- Age and understanding of the student;
- Students special educational needs;
- Peer pressure;
- Was incident/behaviour perpetrated alone, or as part of a group;
- Response to interventions/sanctions used by school and/or other to modify students' behaviour

## **2.0 Training and Equalities [\(DfE guidance\)](#)**

Spring Hill High School would assume that **all** local authorities **should** ensure that all drivers and travel guides taking students to and from school and related services have undertaken appropriate training, and that this is kept up to date. It is also considered good practice for those responsible for planning and managing school transport to have undertaken appropriate equality training.

This training could consist of (but is not restricted to):

- an awareness of different types of disability including hidden disabilities;
- an awareness of what constitutes discrimination;
- training in the necessary skills to recognise, support and manage pupils with different types of disabilities, including hidden disabilities and certain behaviours that may be associated with such disabilities;
- training in the skills necessary to communicate appropriately with pupils with all types of different disabilities, including the hidden disabilities;
- training in the implementation of health care and protocols to cover emergency procedures.

### **3.0 Incident Reporting Procedures**

For some pupils who have special educational needs (SEN) there may be other contributing factors that need to be taken into account when considering their behaviour. However, where disruptive, challenging or unsafe behaviour, which may place the student and/or others at risk, or the behaviour occurs beyond that which can reasonably be expected and tolerated then the following action may be taken:

The following procedures should be followed when an incident occurs on home to school transport:

3.1 When an incident occurs, the taxi driver should take all reasonable steps to identify the student(s) involved and any witnesses. The driver should report the matter to Travel Assist Teams.

3.2 Travel Assist Teams should inform Spring Hill High School in a timely manner.

3.3 Spring Hill High School will investigate the incident taking into account any previous history of poor conduct by the student(s) concerned. Travel operators should give all reasonable assistance to the school in the investigation:

3.4 Spring Hill High School will invoke the appropriate sanction as contained in the school's behaviour policy.

3.5 Where a student's behaviour on transport is causing concern, he/she will be advised of the consequences of a failure to improve such behaviour. The parent/carer will be kept informed.

3.6 If a student's conduct/behaviour places the student or others at risk and the driver feels it is unsafe to continue en-route, he/she may wish to return the student to their home address or to school (whichever is appropriate) and the parent/carer will be notified accordingly. If the student arrives at school posing risks where reasonable force may need to be used, then the use of physical intervention can only be used where the staff members and the student are on school premises.

If the parent is travelling with their child when they present a risk while travelling, then the driver should return home with their parent.

If the carer (residential/foster) is travelling with the student when they present a risk while travelling, then the driver should return home with their carer and they should then follow their policy and protocol.

3.7 In exceptional cases where the student displays severe behavioural problems on the transport the driver should make an informed decision about the safest way of continuing with the journey and this could potentially result in the student being taken to the local Police Station; again if this happens, parents/carers will be notified as soon as the Travel Assist Teams have notified school;

3.8 In the case where the student has returned home (3.7) then parents/carers will provide an explanation of the behaviours presented in the vehicle, this absence will be unauthorised unless there is a good reason.

3.9 Spring Hill High School recognises that there may be good reasons why a student's behaviour has suddenly changed or deteriorated i.e. change of medication and the professionals involved may be able to offer guidance and support in order to resolve the problem;

