

Review: Feb 24
Update: Feb 25



Cornerstone Academy Trust

Transport Policy

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A. Introduction

The aim of this Policy is to help the Trust provide a safe, effective, and efficient service. Anyone who drives or operates the car or minibuses to carry passengers has a duty to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that they are operated safely. The Trust must comply with all relevant legal requirements, the advice provided in the Highway Code, and take all other reasonable measures to protect the driver, the passengers and other road users from accident and injury risks.

B. Risk Assessment

Risk assessments including the use of all trust vehicles should identify:

- Hazards.
- The likelihood of a hazard occurring.
- The likely severity of any injury or property damage resulting.
- Who might be affected?
- Existing safety measures.
- New safety measures that might be needed.
- How safety measures are implemented.

For regular or frequent journeys, it is not necessary to conduct a separate risk assessment for each trip. Although the risk assessment for regular trips should be periodically reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate and that it is being followed properly.

However, an individual risk assessment should be conducted, in advance for every unusual or non-routine journey, or when passengers have special needs.

C. Vehicles

Every vehicle must:

- Be correctly licensed and taxed.
- Be adequately insured.
- Be well maintained.
- Have a valid MOT certificate.
- Have a valid Section 19 permit where necessary.

The following records need to be kept by the Trust:

- All documents relating to the vehicles.
- Operating log, including booking the vehicle in and out.
- Accident / incident book, including faults reported and rectified.
- List of authorised drivers.
- Training and re-training forms.
- Medical check details.
- Emergency equipment form.
- Contact names and details (including out-of-hours details).
- Maintenance / safety checks.

These records are an essential part of the safety management system. It is important that they are kept accurate and up-to-date and that any changes recommended following reviews are implemented.

Minibuses

Under the Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations 1994, minibuses carrying children to or from Trust must display a prescribed 'School Bus' sign to the front and rear of the vehicle. The driver may use hazard warning lights when the vehicle is stationary and children are entering or leaving the vehicle. Every minibus must carry a British Standard fire extinguisher of water, foam, halon 1301 or halon 1211 type, with a minimum test rating of 8A or 21B. The regulations also specify that a suitable, clearly marked first aid box is kept readily available and in good condition. The driver should check all the items are present before each trip. Every time an item is used the driver should inform the Trust who should ensure the item is replaced or re-filled as appropriate.

E Bikes

The Trust owns a fleet of E Bikes, stationed at each of the Exeter schools.

Staff wishing to use the bikes to travel between sites must book one out via the e-bike Channel calendar in the School Organisation Team within Microsoft Teams.

The key can be obtained for the key safe at the main reception of the school where the bike is parked. Each bike is numbered and fitted with an RFID tag so its location can be monitored.

Staff must complete a simple online form when the bike is borrowed. The form will guide you through a simple safety check prior to departure.

Helmets and Hi-Viz jackets are provided and must be worn at all times. These are stored within the provided pannier bags on each bike.

When staff arrive at the destination school the bike must be locked up in the designated bike rack and the key returned to the main reception desk of the destination school should it be needed by another staff member or needs to be moved.

Ideally, you need to return the bike to the school it was first borrowed from, however the site team will relocate bikes if required to ensure that they are distributed across each site following any one-way journeys. Staff must post in the e-bike Channel stating if they have left it at another site because it is a one way journey.

Site staff will be responsible for regular safety checks and there will be regular servicing of the bikes to ensure they are roadworthy. They will be washed periodically too.

Any issues with the bike or any accident that occurs whilst riding the bike or any damage that happens to the bike whilst in the care of a staff member who has borrowed it must be reported immediately to the Trust Business Manager and CEO.

Any journey not booked via the e-bike Channel calendar and without a completed form will be deemed to be a misuse of Trust property and could result in disciplinary action being taken, in line with the relevant policy, against the staff member.

The bikes cannot be borrowed for personal journeys unless authorised by the CEO. If used for personal journeys any damage or in the vent of it being stolen the liability for repairs or replacement will rest with the staff member.

The bikes must not be used unless the staff member is able to ride a bike confidently.

The bikes must not be used for off road biking or with bike riding lessons with children.

D. Drivers & Passengers

The vehicle drivers

The Trust needs to ensure that every driver has the appropriate license entitlement to drive the minibus and car and undergoes an initial and then periodic re-assessment of their ability to drive a minibus. That he / she understands their responsibilities, has a clean driving license, and is medically fit to drive.

The Trust has overall responsibility for ensuring a safe service is provided. However, every driver is personally responsible for ensuring that their vehicle is roadworthy before they take it out onto the road. It is also the driver's responsibility to ensure the safety (including the use of seat belts by young passengers) and welfare of all passengers.

Before any journey, and every time a minibus or the car is used, the driver must:

- Plan the journey so that it can be completed safely and comfortably in accordance with the passengers' needs.
- Ensure the minibus or car is suitable for the passengers being carried.
- Conduct a pre-drive vehicle safety check.
- Be fit and able to drive.
- Ensure the vehicle phone is charged and ready to use with staff and child contacts.

The driver should complete the online check forms, provided by the Trust, to show they have conducted the necessary checks.

After the journey, the driver should conduct a post-trip vehicle check, inside and outside the vehicle and record any visible damage or faults, any emergency equipment that has been used and any incidents that have occurred during the journey. Any faults should be reported to the Trust as soon as is practicable, and the vehicle should not be used again until the fault is rectified.

Passenger care

Drivers must make certain that all passengers have boarded, are safely seated, and are wearing properly adjusted seat belts, if fitted, before moving off. The doors must be properly closed, but not locked, before the driver moves off. Equally, they must make sure that all passengers have left the vehicle and are clear of the doors before moving off. They should be aware of the danger of passengers' clothes becoming trapped in a door.

Drivers should only use suitable, agreed, drop off points. They should ensure that passengers do not exit from doors opening into traffic. When collecting or dropping off passengers from / to premises on the offside of a one-way street, the vehicle should stop on the nearside and the passengers be escorted across the road when it is safe to do so. Places where passengers are picked up and dropped off should be pre-arranged. Consideration should be given to the safety of passengers waiting for the vehicle to arrive and boarding and leaving the vehicle at these places. Children should not be left alone at a drop-off point if their parents or carers have not arrived to collect them.

Passengers should be aware of the behaviour expected of them. Children in particular should be briefed before the journey begins so that they understand why boisterous behaviour is inappropriate.

The trust will advise parents if their child/children's behaviour is unacceptable on one of the trust vehicles. Should the behaviour continue, then the trust will advise the parents/carers that they will become responsible for transporting their child to and from school. Passengers should be aware of the time when they must return to the vehicle after rest stops, or for the return journey. Drivers should also know what to do in the event of passenger illness. This will require the driver to have details and a contact number for the relevant persons and understand how to deal with the safety of other passengers whilst dealing with the unwell passenger.

Duty of care towards passengers

- The vehicle is suitable for the needs of the passengers, including any passengers with disabilities.
- The vehicle is roadworthy.
- All drivers are properly trained and regularly re-assessed.
- All passengers have a seat and a seat belt.
- Journeys are properly planned with adequate rest stops.
- Drivers know the emergency procedures.
- All luggage and equipment is safely stored.
- The doors are closed, but not locked, before moving off.
- Journey details are left with a nominated person.
- Aisles and exits are clear.

E. Seat Belts & Booster Seats

It is important that seat belts and child restraints are correctly adjusted for the wearer to maximise their effectiveness. The basic points to note are:

- The belt should be worn as tight as possible.
- The lap belt should go over the pelvic region, not the stomach.

Booster seats should be used in the car for children aged 3 and above, until they reach either their 12th birthday OR 135cm in height in the front seat.

In the Rear Seat of the minibuses the child must use the correct restraint, where seat belts are fitted. Nursery aged children can be transported in the buses with the correct booster seating and / or correct restraint.

There are three exceptions where there is not a child seat available. In each case the child MUST use the adult belt instead. They are -

- 1) in a licensed taxi or private hire vehicle.
- 2) if the child is travelling on a short distance for reason of unexpected necessity.
- 3) if there are two occupied child restraints in the rear which prevent the fitment of a third.

In addition, a child 3 and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available.

It is the driver's legal responsibility to ensure that the child is correctly restrained.

F. The Minibus Service

Collection

For children that are taken home via our bus service, they must be collected by an adult with a printed card. Parents must email their name and contact details, and a photograph, of each adult permitted to pick up the child to the school. This would include friends, or other parents.

The parent is the default collector and if one of the other nominated people will be collecting a child, the school must be advised in advance. (please refer to the 'Collection of Children Policy.'

Before setting off on a journey

1. Allow sufficient time for the journey.
2. Conduct the online pre-drive safety check and electronically sign the Driver's declaration.
3. Never allow passengers to board until the vehicle is at a complete standstill and safely parked.
4. Passengers should enter the vehicle from the pavement.
5. Ensure the children are supervised when boarding the vehicle.
6. Make sure everyone is sitting and that seat belts are secure.
7. Make sure there is a complete list of passengers being carried with a note of any special medical or other needs. Check that children have any necessary medication with them.
8. Check that no bags or clothing are caught in the doors and check all mirrors every time before moving away in case latecomers are approaching the vehicle.
9. Check all luggage is secured, and that gangways and exits are clear.
10. Know the height, width, length and weight of the vehicle, and the position of the exterior fuel cap.
11. Check you have the correct bus or car mobile phone and that the contact details are synchronised. Check you have the fuel card and insurance details.
12. Fix the phone to the dashboard of the vehicle in the correct holder.

At the end of the journey

1. Ensure that children are supervised when leaving the vehicle.
2. Never allow passengers to leave until the vehicle is at a complete standstill, and safely parked by an adjacent pavement or other traffic-free area and the hand brake is engaged.
3. Always park so that passengers step onto the footway and not onto the road.
4. Do not leave children alone if no one has arrived to collect them. Ensure you know what to do if a child is not collected.
5. Report any problems or incidents that occurred during the trip to the Trust.

School Bus Agreement

By signing this agreement below you agree to the terms therein. If you break these terms you will be given two warnings. If you should further break the terms, your contract with the school in relation to the bus will be terminated and your child will not be able to use the service. Please note that whilst you will be given two warnings for any break in this contract, there is NO warning for number 4 of this contract and should you break this, your child will be suspended from the bus immediately:

1. I agree that I (or one of my other nominated adults) will be at the designated bus stop before and after school at the time given to me by the school and no later.
2. I agree that I will not keep the bus waiting.
3. I agree that should I have to take a car to the bus stop I will park this in a safe manner, not blocking any driveway or parking in such a way as to cause a nuisance.
4. I agree that under no circumstances will I be offensive, rude or derogatory to any school bus driver or member of staff assisting with such service and that should I have a problem I will contact the school office to take it further.

Pupil's Name

Signed (Parent/Carer)

Date

Bus Process for parents

1. Parents can book and pay for the minibus service using Wisepay via the school website. The donation is calculated at £1 per journey and multiplied by the number of weeks in the term. This charge goes towards the running costs of the busses.
2. There are 6 bus routes, collecting children from around the Pinhoe area, Cranbrook, and the newly developed Tithebarn Estate. Parents can select a place on a bus for each morning of the week and for each evening of the week. If a parent wishes to use the bus service every day, they will need to select all 10 journeys and put them in shopping basket. Priority is given to existing users.
3. If parents book a place on the bus, they will need to complete and sign the bus use agreement form that outlines the expectations we have for its reasonable use.

Cancellations: The commitment is to 1 term, and this is not refundable. We cannot refund individual journeys missed either. If we in the rare occasion are unable to run the service, we will not make refunds for that missed journey either. If parents at some point in time want to swap to a different bus stop or route, if seats are available on that route we will make these changes. If parents purchase a place on a bus that we are unable to then offer, we will refund the money and let parents know swiftly.

Route Timetable

Bus Routes					Version: 1/9/23
Annual commitment, termly payment terms					
	Morning			Afternoon	
1a	Depart BCPS		1a	Depart BCPS	3.30
	Harringtons	7.20		Drop off/pick up at WCPS	3.40
	Pinhoe Station	7.35		Drop off/pick up at MCPS	3.50
	Drop off/pick up at MCPS	7.45		Clyst Honiton	4.05
	Drop off at WCPS	7.55		Cranbrook	4.15
				Return to BCPS	4.30
1b	Depart WCPS	7.55	1b	Depart BCPS	4.30
	Cranbrook	8.10		Cranbrook	4.45
	Clyst Honiton	8.20			
	Drop off/Pick up at MCPS	8.30			
	Drop off/Pick up at WCPS	8.40			
	Drop off at BCPS	8.55			
2a	Depart BCPS		2a	Depart BCPS	3.35
	Parkers Cross	7.30		Parkers Cross	3.50
	Langaton Gardens	7.35		Langaton Gardens	3.55
	Pinhoe Station	7.45		Pinhoe Station	4.00
	Drop off/Pick up at MCPS	7.55		Return to BCPS	4.15
	Drop off/Pick up at WCPS	8.05			
	Drop off at BCPS	8.15			
2b	Depart BCPS	8.15	2b	Depart BCPS	4.15
	Langaton Gardens	8.25		Drop off/Pick up at WCPS	4.25
	Pinhoe Station	8.30		Parkers Cross	4.30
	Po Lee	8.35		Langaton Gardens	4.35
	Drop off/Pick up at WCPS	8.40		Pinhoe Station	4.40
	Drop off at BCPS	8.55			
3a	Depart BCPS		3a	Depart BCPS	3.30
	Pinhoe Station	7.20		Drop off/Pick up at WCPS	3.45
	Tithebarn Minerva	7.30		Drop off/Pick up at MCPS	3.55
	Drop off/Pick up at MCPS	7.40		Tithebarn Minerva	4.05
	Drop off/Pick up at WCPS	7.50		Pinhoe Station	4.15
	Drop off at BCPS	8.00		Return to WCPS	4.25
3b	Depart BCPS	8.00	3b	Depart WCPS	4.30
	Pinhoe Station	8.20		Drop off/Pick up at MCPS	4.40
	Tithebarn Minerva	8.30		Tithebarn Minerva	4.50
	Drop off/Pick up at MCPS	8.40		Pinhoe Station	5.00
	Drop off at WCPS	8.55			

subject to change depending on demand