

DRURY SCHOOL: Policy 5.15 – School Bus Transport

Rationale:

Every child is deemed to be eligible to obtain, and have access to, free education at a state school. Transport assistance is therefore made available by the government to achieve this.

Purposes:

1. To provide free access to education for pupils who, because of distance, age or disability, cannot reasonably be expected to make their own way to school.
2. To ensure the safety of all pupils through the appointment of a school bus controller to maintain close liaison with parents, bus contractor and school.
3. To consult with the Rosehill Transport Network aspects of the bus route and operations.
4. To inform parents of 'conditions' of the service and to keep them informed of any changes.
5. To provide the necessary reports to the Government Servicing Contractor (Rosehill Transport Network), and Ministry of Education, as required.
6. To acknowledge that while Government Transport assistance is available and free to pupils, the final obligation rests with parents to provide transport.

Guidelines:

1. The rules and regulations for bus transport assistance are set by the Education Act 1989.
2. Rosehill Transport Network administers the service in contact to the Ministry of Education. The final decision regarding changes, extension, etc., rests with their office.
3. Procedures and routes pertaining to the bus service are to be included in the School's Information booklet.
4. The Principal will negotiate with the network over any changes to be made to the existing schedule.
5. Eligible pupils are those who:
 - live at least 3.2km from the school
 - are disadvantaged through physical disability.
6. Eligible pupils are normally required to make their own way up to 1.6k to the bus stop.
7. The Principal, in liaison with the school bus controller, is responsible for:
 - Liaising with parents and the local bus contractor.
 - Informing the network of extensions required or deletions, to the bus route.
 - Arranging bus lists of eligible pupils at the commencement of each school year.
 - Dealing with, and informing the parents of any complaints regarding the service, or conduct of pupils.
8. The Health and Safety programme will include aspects of bus safety.

9. The BOT takes the view that final responsibility for acceptable conduct of pupils on the bus rests with parents. However, the Board reserves the right to withdraw any child from the service who continually offends. This applies also to those children travelling to and from manual training classes. Continual offending will also be subject to the Disciplinary Policy.
10. Conditions pertaining to the service will be reviewed annually. Parents will be consulted in this process if there are any changes.
11. Parents under certain circumstances may pay for an extension to the existing route. This payment is negotiated first with the network. Final approval rests with them.

Conclusion:

All children have access to education.