

16 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: School Bus Expectations

We have recently received reports that the behaviour by some students on the school bus routes has been unacceptable. I am writing to thank students whose behaviour and conduct meets the expectations we have of all members of the Darton Academy community. Most students demonstrate our core values of respect towards others at all times whilst travelling to and from school on the school buses and public transport.

Unfortunately, a small minority of students' behaviour has not been acceptable and, as a result, sanctions detailed within Care, Support, Guidance and Behaviour policy along with bus bans have been put in place to deal with this poor conduct. Although pupils may not be on the school premises, they remain subject to the Care, Support, Guidance and Behaviour policy while travelling to and from school and ultimately parents and carers are responsible for their behaviour. This is a reminder to all students that behaviour, which is unacceptable, disruptive and/or dangerous may result in students being banned from the bus for a temporary period. Vaping/smoking on the bus is also prohibited as it is in school, and sanctions will be put in place to help rectify this behaviour. It is imperative that we recognise that riding the school bus is a privilege granted to our students and not an inherent right. The safety and well-being of all passengers must be our top priority.

I urge students to report poor behaviour of any kind, including vaping and smoking, on the bus routes to help keep students safe on their journey to and from school - any information will be received confidentially and followed up by the Pastoral Team within school. Any reports of poor behaviour can be made via the 'Report It' button on the school website or by emailing:

info@dartonacademy.org.uk

I must make it clear that transport arrangements and costs during the period of any ban would be a parental responsibility. Where damage has been caused to a vehicle, the school will support the operators – Globe and Stagecoach – in recovering repair costs from families.

Prior to a student's bus ban being removed, further criteria may be instigated, for example, students and parents may be required to sign a behaviour contract or students may need to sit in an allocated seat in the vehicle. The school may also impose additional sanctions in school following the Care, Support, Guidance and Behaviour policy.

We expect all students to adhere to the rules and regulations without exception. It is vital that we maintain a strict standard of discipline on our school buses for the safety of all passengers. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter and trust that we can count on you to support our efforts to maintain a safe and orderly transportation system. Please take the time to speak to your child about their behaviour on the journey to and from school. I want to make it explicitly clear that failure to comply with the established rules and regulations governing behaviour on the school bus will result in the immediate revocation of bus riding privileges. This is not a decision we take lightly, but it is essential to ensure the safety and orderliness of our school transportation

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system. Revocation of bus riding privileges will place a significant burden on families, and we hope it will not come to that.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Howell', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Mr R Howell

Vice Principal