



CASTERTON
SEDBERGH PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

CSPS BUS & UNACCOMPANIED WALKING HOME POLICY	
Version	2024.1
Effective from	September 2024
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Policy Owner	Headmaster
Governor	Operational N/A
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Circulation	Parents and Staff
Publication	Website

1. The bus service is an optional service of convenience. The charges for this service are listed on the School’s website and are costed according to distance travelled and number of trips per term.
2. A term’s notice is required if parents wish to begin / discontinue the service so that we can adjust our provision fairly.
3. On the bus, the School’s ‘Code of Conduct’ rules will apply. The School is responsible for pupils while they are on the bus only. Drivers are instructed not to leave the bus unattended while there are pupils on board.
4. At their parents’ discretion and having completed the appropriate form available from the School Office, pupils may bring a device, such as a phone or tablet, onto the bus but must hand that device into the School Office, immediately upon arrival. They should collect their device only at the end of the School day and should not otherwise have it on their person.
5. Car seats are not provided by the School. If your son or daughter is in Reception or below and uses a car seat in family vehicles, then please provide an appropriate seat for use in School minibuses. Please liaise with your child’s driver about this matter if needs be.

6. The School is under no obligation to deposit pupils at home, etc., but to drop off at pre-arranged collection/drop off points on main thoroughfares.
7. It is the responsibility of the parent to organise collection from the drop-off point. If the individual collecting the child is not the parent, then the School must have prior notification in writing. If the parents wish the pupil to walk home unaccompanied from the drop-off point, please see Point 9.
8. A parent should be present at the collection / drop-off point, two minutes before scheduled arrival.
6. The bus will not wait for more than two minutes, since delays will be inconvenient and cause alarm to other parents waiting along the route, as well as being unfair to the pupils who have furthest to go, and who set out earliest.
7. If a parent is unavailable at the point of drop-off, then the child will be retained on board the bus and returned to the School, at the expense of the parent. The parent will then be contacted to collect their child from School.
8. The School reserves the right to withdraw the bus service from a parent if repeated delayed collections or drop-offs are impairing the service to other parents.
9. If parents would like their children to walk home unescorted or unsupervised, either from School or the drop-off point, then the parents must return Appendix I: Permission To Walk Home Unaccompanied Form.
However, the School reserves the right to judge each authorisation on a case-by-case basis before agreement.
10. The service is primarily for day pupils and they will have priority where demand exceeds the current capacity.

SCHOOL WORKING POLICY – BUS CODE

The School

- Is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for pupils travelling to and from the Prep School.
- Will ensure that drivers are police checked and approved.
- Expects pupils to understand that normal School expectations and standards of behaviour apply throughout the journey.
- Will impose sanctions on pupils whose behaviour distracts the driver or places others at risk or is disruptive to other pupils.
- Reserves the right to refuse access to pupils whose parents are unable to meet their obligations for delivery/collection.
- Will wait for a maximum of two minutes at a collection drop off point for either the pupil or the parent collector. In the event of failure to connect with the normal collector, the child will be retained on the bus, and returned to the School. The parent will be contacted as soon as possible.
- Will assess requests for children to walk home unaccompanied on a case by case basis.

Pupils

- Will adhere to School rules concerning behaviour.

- Will sit in allotted seats and wear safety belts.
- Will remain seated throughout the journey.
- Will not make excessive or undue noise.
- Will behave courteously towards the driver, other passengers, parents, other members of the public outside the bus, and to fellow pupils.
- Will obey instructions given to them by a member of staff or the driver.

Failure of a pupil to adhere to this code of conduct may result in the School not allowing the pupil to use the service.

Parents

- Will provide a term's notice to the School if they wish to use / discontinue the bus service.
- Should be ready at the collection/drop off point, on the relevant route for at least two minutes before scheduled arrival. The driver needs to see the parent before letting the pupil off the bus.
- Will be responsible for the collection of their child from the School in the event of non-pick up.
- Will notify the School Office **and** the relevant driver if the arrangements for their child deviate from the norm.

APPENDIX I: PERMISSION TO WALK HOME UNACCOMPANIED FORM

In certain circumstances, parents may request permission that their child walk unaccompanied to their home or to their parent's place of work. However, we ask that you carefully consider the points made below and, if in agreement, sign and return the permission slip to the School Office for entry onto our records. The School will acknowledge permission by email.

Criteria for permission from the School:

1. If walking as an individual, the pupil must be at least in Year 6. Pupils wishing to walk without an adult in Year 5 or below must be accompanied by a sibling in Year 7 or above.
2. Parents must be satisfied that their children are competent at crossing and walking alongside the roads on their route in all weather and light conditions.
3. Parents must be satisfied that their children can access their house or place of work and potentially be unaccompanied until such time as the responsible adult returns.
4. Parents must be satisfied that their children are competent to de-register themselves with the member of staff on duty and accept that the staff will not question this, even if parents have separately instructed their children to wait at School.
5. The School will not be held responsible for any accident or misadventure which might occur to the child as a direct result of their walking alone to their home or their parents' place of work.

CSPS UNACCOMPANIED WALKING PERMISSION SLIP

I hereby request permission for my child(ren) to walk home or to my place of work unaccompanied during their time at Sedbergh Prep School.

I understand the criteria for this permission to be granted as set out in this document.

Child(ren):

Parent name:

Signed:

Date: