



BE ALERT TO BE SAFE

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The school bus is a very safe way for your child/ren to travel to and from school. However, as with any form of transport, there are certain risk areas that need constant attention, especially the time before a student boards the bus and immediately after they leave the bus.

Students are vulnerable to being hit by oncoming vehicles as they cross the road. Accidents can occur when children cross the road in front of or behind the school bus and when motorists fail to take appropriate care and reduce their speed when approaching a stopped school bus.

It only takes a minute to wait until the bus has pulled away and it is safer to cross.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) and Bus Éireann include advice on school bus safety in communications to parents and guardians each year. We are doing so again this year and will be issuing a revised code of conduct for students.

Our drivers and those of school bus contractors are regularly reminded of the importance of safety. We are asking for your continued support in emphasising the key safety messages to your child/ren, particularly around crossing the road.

If you are dropping children off in a car, or picking them up, please find the safest place to pull in to do so. Even if it is a little further away, it may avoid them having to cross the road.

When driving, always slow down around a school bus and be aware of pedestrians around schools.

We are asking you to please discuss the importance of safe behaviour when travelling to school and especially when crossing the road with your child/ren and include some key points below.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Miriam Flynn
Chief Schools Officer
Bus Éireann

Before boarding the school bus:

- Give your full attention to the road
 - Remove earphones / headphones when crossing the road
 - Never look at your mobile phone when crossing the road
- Horseplay increases the risk of accidents. Queue for the bus in an orderly fashion
- Wear something reflective like an armband or clothing with reflective strips



On the bus:

- Take your seat as quickly as possible
- Wear your seat belt
- Never distract the driver
- Don't interfere with emergency exits and keep them clear



After you get off the school bus:

- Do not cross the road either directly in front of or behind the bus
- **Always wait until the bus has left the stop and is at least 100 metres away before crossing the road. Remember that approaching motorists may not have a clear view of you. If you can't see the approaching vehicle, they can't see you**
- **Look both ways before crossing**
- **Pay your full attention to the road**
 - Remove earphones / headphones when crossing the road
 - Do not look at your mobile phone when crossing the road
- Wear something reflective like an armband or reflective clothing
- Walk, never run, to cross a road