



Our Ref:

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Dear Parent/Carer

Administrative Changes to Behaviour Management on 'Orange' School Buses

The Public Transport Authority (PTA) would like to inform you of some fundamental administrative changes concerning how student behaviour is managed on 'orange' school buses.

As you may be aware in the past, School Principals ('Coordinating School Principals') were actively involved with managing student behaviour issues on 'orange' school buses. This stems from the fact that while school bus contracts were transferred from Department of Education (DoE) to the PTA in 1995, a number of administrative roles remained with DoE. For many reasons, DoE over the past few years has worked proactively to dissolve these formal arrangements of responsibility, one of which was the additional workload placed on principals.

Consequently, from the start of 2013 the management of student behaviour on 'orange' school buses has now become the sole responsibility of school bus contractors and their drivers. The newly revised and now released Behaviour Management Guidelines not only provides consistency for managing the various categories of student behaviour incidents, but also provides valuable information on the administrative framework for parents/carers.

Contractors have been provided with a training DVD and comprehensive guidelines relating to student behaviour management to ensure that there is fairness and consistency across the State when they are dealing with student behaviour management.

While these formal arrangements are now in place, you may find in a number of small rural towns and communities the local principal may still be willing to assist school bus contractors with the management of student behaviour. Where this occurs the PTA and contractors will work with these principals on an ongoing basis. However, parents/carers should understand that these arrangements are fluid and may not continue with a new incoming principal when the current principal moves to another school.

Therefore, the PTA encourages all parents/carers (and their children) to be fully aware of the 'Code of Conduct' for children travelling on school buses, and to understand the Behaviour Management Guidelines relating to the management of incidents of poor behaviour.

Under these new arrangements the PTA asks parent/carers to offer their full support to bus operators who are now required to manage student behaviour on 'orange' school buses.

Please visit the Parents page at our website www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au to obtain more information relating to behaviour on 'orange' school buses and to view contents of the 'Code of Conduct' and the 'Behaviour Management Guidelines'.



John Bailly
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