

School Bus Travel Information for 2010

The following provides general information on school bus travel with McHarry's Buslines, and answers some of the commonly asked questions that parents and students may have in relation to school bus travel around Geelong & the Bellarine Peninsula.

Fares & Passes

There are 3 main types of school bus passes which may apply: -

Pass Type	Description	Application Process	Cost
Conveyance pass (coastal regions)	These are available when the nearest appropriate school is more than 4.8km as the crow flies from your home	Via the respective school who in turn approve the conveyance pass. McHarry's Buslines are notified of approved students and issue the passes to the family	Nil
GTS bus pass	These are for students who travel to and from school on the Geelong Transit System and do not want to pay on a daily basis. The pass provides unlimited travel within the GTS area until the expiry date shown. These students also need to purchase a Public Transport Concession Card	Applications & passes are available from the Geelong train station or via the web at www.myki.com.au and are for either 6 or 12 month periods	\$173.00 for 6 monthly pass or \$330.60 for a yearly pass.
Victorian Student Pass	These passes are for students who travel to school from the Geelong or Bellarine Transit System areas. The pass provides unlimited travel on all metropolitan trains, trams & buses, on all regional town bus services, and all V/Line services operating wholly within Victoria until the expiry date shown. These students also need to purchase a Public Transport Concession Card	Applications & passes are available from the Geelong train station or via the web at www.myki.com.au and are for either 6 or 12 month periods	\$213.50 for 6 monthly pass or \$410.00 for a yearly pass.

Students travelling without a pass are entitled to a concession fare, but students 17 years and over need to present a Public Transport Concession Card to obtain this concession. Applications are available from Geelong Railway Station or via the web at www.myki.com.au. These cards may be purchased for \$9.00. Please note that school photo identification does not satisfy the Government's requirements for a Public Transport Concession Card.

All students without the appropriate travel pass will be charged full fare.

Bus Stop Locations and Schedules

Make sure to check with your school or McHarry's Buslines about the timetables and stop locations for buses which are relevant to you. Sometimes more than one bus will service a particular run. This means (in some instances), that if a bus drives past students at a stop another bus may follow soon after.

Passenger Loads

All our buses are operated according to their legal seating and standing limits. Whilst not required by law, McHarry's Buslines also have a policy of 'no-standees' in 100 km/h speed zones. As the school year kicks off, we find that passenger numbers vary considerably for the first few weeks. This makes it difficult to ensure that everyone gets a seat every time; however this is closely monitored and resolved within the first few weeks of school term.

Student Behaviour Expectations

Travel on a school bus is essentially an extension of the classroom and requires students to behave as such. To ensure the safety of all travellers, students are not to: -

- distract the attention of the driver by engaging in any "horseplay" such as yelling or playing pranks
- fight on the bus or at any bus stop
- harass the driver or any other passenger on the bus
- use foul or abusive language
- vandalise the bus
- throw litter, food or any other object, in or from a bus
- allow any part of his/her body to protrude from a bus
- smoke on the bus
- breach any law relating to bus travel as set out in the Transport Act.

The driver is required to report behaviour issues to the company who in turn will contact the school for follow up.

Bus Travel Safety

Apart from the onboard safety issues mentioned previously, other important safety issues to be aware of are: -

Crossing the road in front of buses – never cross the road from the front of a school bus, always attempt crossing from the rear. This allows adequate vision for both motorists and the student to cross safely

Approaching moving buses – never attempt to board a bus whilst it is still in motion. Students have been seriously injured by this practice.

Staying behind safety barriers where installed – many schools have safety barriers installed to separate students and buses. Please stay behind safety barriers until buses have come to a complete stop.

Wearing of seat belts – it is the responsibility of the student to wear a seatbelt where fitted on the bus

If you have any questions in relation to this information, feel free to contact McHarry's Buslines by phone on (03) 5223 2111 or via email info@mcharrys.com.au.