



Macarthur Anglican School

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Macarthur Bus Policy and Conditions of Travel

Macarthur Bus Policy

Macarthur Anglican School buses are provided predominantly for:

- Students who live in more distant outlying areas from the school who are not currently serviced by a reasonable public transport option for school travel, and are unlikely to be serviced by one in the near future.
- Students who are international students under the direct care and/or guardianship of the School.

Macarthur does not aim to provide a bus services to students who live in areas relatively close to the school, even if such areas are currently unserved.¹ Further, Macarthur does not offer a bus service for students to nearby destinations *en route* to an outlying area even if space is available on a Macarthur bus service.²

The bus services are provided so that the opportunity for an affordable, accessible, independent, Christian school education is available to those students living in outlying areas, and for students from an international background. Students in these designated areas and international students will have priority over any student wanting to use a Macarthur bus service on a casual basis.

All students who wish to travel on a Macarthur Anglican School bus may only do so if parents agree to the Conditions of Travel outlined in this policy.

¹ It is not an economically viable option for Macarthur to provide a bus service to all families who desire such a service. Further, Macarthur does not desire to establish local bus routes in competition with other private or public transport providers, nor remove the incentive for such companies to establish new bus routes to and from the school.

² Macarthur buses naturally transit through local areas. There are simply too many students for the service to operate according to their intended purpose if spare seats were allocated to local children.



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Conditions of Travel

The conditions of use set out below are designed to guarantee the safety of students who travel on a Macarthur Anglican School bus service. It is very important for families who would like to use the service, and for their parents, to accept the Conditions of Travel outlined below:

- Parents must pay the required annual fees for their child to access a Macarthur bus as it falls due.
- Parents are asked to contribute to the smooth running of this service by informing and reminding their own children of the Conditions of Travel.
- All students who access the service are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that would bring credit to their family and to Macarthur Anglican School.
- Students must be delivered or move promptly to their bus pick-up point in the mornings and afternoons so that departure times are not delayed. Buses will not wait beyond timetabled departures for late students.
- Students are to remain seated, with the seatbelt fastened throughout the bus journey. At no time should students be standing when the bus is in motion, nor should any part of a student's body protrude from the bus.
- Students should not distract the driver with needless questions or unsatisfactory conduct. The driver should be able to focus their attention on driving safely at all times.

The following will not be tolerated on a Macarthur School bus:

- Distracting the bus driver in any way
- Student movement when the bus is in motion
- Not wearing a seatbelt
- Swearing
- Littering
- Throwing rubbish or objects from the bus,
- Calling out loudly to other students
- Calling out or gesturing to other road user
- General misbehaviour.

- For safety reasons, the driver is under instructions to stop the bus if the need arises to deal with any form of unsatisfactory behaviour. This will lengthen the journey and inconvenience other users. Any such incident will be reported to the Dean of Students or Deputy Headmaster for further action which may include temporary or permanent suspension from bus travel.
- It is the expectation that senior students will set an example of responsible behaviour for younger students. By being thoughtful, older students can be of service to the driver and the parents of younger children by looking out for their safety, help with applying seatbelts and assist wherever necessary boarding and alighting from the bus.
- It is the expectation that small children (T-4) will be met in the afternoon by their parent/carer at the designated time of the bus' afternoon arrival. In the circumstance where a parent/carer of a very small child fails to collect their child, the School reserves the right to return the child to School and if necessary, admit them to the Exploring Tree Child Care Centre for a parent/carer to collect. Parents will be liable for any costs that such actions incur.
- Parents should refrain from asking the driver to make additional stops or detours to fit their personal circumstances. The bus makes a limited number of stops along a set route so that the journey time is kept to a minimum.
- It is the responsibility of parents to contact the driver on the driver's mobile phone (call or text) if their child will be absent from the journey to or from school. Parents should not ask their child to give the driver a message in place of a call/text.
- Should any child be found to be responsible for any damage to the bus or its fittings, parents will be required to pay for any necessary repairs.
- The School reserves the right to cancel the place of any student on the bus if any of the above conditions of travel are not met to a satisfactory standard.

Casual Users of the Macarthur Bus Service

From time-to-time students may wish to make use of one of the services on a casual basis. A casual user of a Macarthur bus service is a student who uses the services of a Macarthur bus for no more than three journeys per term.

For casual bus users (eg students visiting a school friend after school), a letter or email from a parent seeking permission to use the service must be given to the School Receptionist at least one day prior to the requested journey. Final approval rests with the Dean of Students or Deputy Headmaster.

Permission will be subject to availability of a seat on the bus, with priority always given to regular users of the service.

If casual travel is approved the relevant bus driver will be informed by the the School Receptionist.

The usual Conditions of Travel that relate to student conduct will be applicable to casual student users of a Macarthur Bus Service.

This Policy and the associated Terms and Conditions of Travel were last updated in September 2020.