

Karcultaby Area School Based Preschool Bus Policy

Summary

Karcultaby School Based Preschool's bus policy and procedure has been developed in conjunction with Karcultaby Area School bus policy. We aim to provide a consistent and safe bus service for children and educators that supports families who require assistance with transporting their children to and from preschool.

To ensure the safety of children and educators, planning and protective measures have been taken. These include:

- Daily routine and procedure – staff member present when children embark and disembark on the bus.
- Supervision and ensuring meeting educator/child ratio (1:6 where possible)
- Risk Assessment – principal to complete risk assessment for each child using s school bus service each year.
- Transportation Record
- Families are required to supply a booster seat on the bus, which meets the legislated rules and Australian standards.
- Written authorisation from a parent/family member (who is on enrolment form) must be given prior to transportation.

Eligibility and consent forms

Preschool children are permitted to travel on department provided school buses subject to the following:

- The child must reside out of the town limits
- Individual approval is given by leadership staff of Karcultaby Area School
- There is available room on the bus. Permission can be withdrawn if the bus becomes full of primary and secondary students.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS: Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety

Standard 2.3.1- Children are adequately supervised at all times

Standard 2.3.2 Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards.

Fire:

If the school is aware of an external fire in the vicinity of the bus routes, the buses will remain at school. Parents will be notified to collect their children from school.

If there is an external fire mid transit, the driver will ensure the safety of the children and return to school as soon as possible.

Buses will not run on catastrophic days.

Bus Ratio:

Due to staffing ratios for 2023, one staff member can accompany and collect children from the bus. In the event of an emergency, staff members from Karcultaby Area School will assist staff.

Bus Fire:

- The driver will evacuate the children via the door or emergency evacuation windows
- Use the fire extinguisher if it is safe to do so
- The driver will follow the breakdown procedure.

Grievance Procedure:

If a parent or child has a concern regarding bus routes, drivers or any other bus related inquiry please contact the Principal of Karcultaby Area School.

Publication date:	Term 2, 2023
Managed by:	Jane Forrest
Endorsed by Governing Council:	23/08/2023
Review date/ updates:	August 2025

Karcultaby School Based Preschool Bus Procedure

Morning bus run:

Before the bus arrives at Preschool, the bus driver is responsible for:

- Assessing the condition of roads/weather to determine if a temporary change of routes is required
- Completing a visual safety check of the bus inside and out
- Ensure they have a first aid kit
- Carry the UHF for emergency use
- Collecting children from designated points
- Ensure children's bags and equipment is safely stowed
- Ensure all children are seated and restrained in seatbelts (it is recommended that preschool parents provide a booster seat which meets Australian Design Rules).

When the bus arrives at KAS, a nominated educator is responsible for:

- Assisting children to get off the bus
- Signing in the children on the transportation record – time, date and signature
- Supervising children as they wait for all buses to arrive
- Walking children safely to Preschool- following road safety rules

Afternoon bus run:

The nominated educator is responsible for:

- Preparing the children for the bus trip- ensuring all belongings are secure in the children's bag
- Ensuring they take the transportation record sheet and mobile phone to the designated bus area
- Conduct a roll call prior to leaving Preschool grounds to ensure all children are accounted for
- Walking children safely to the designated bus area – using road safety rules
- Assist children with getting onto their correct bus (only if driver is present) and ensuring they are in their designated seats and seat belt properly restrained.
- Signing out children on the embarking and disembarking recording sheet

Once the educator (s) are off the bus and back at Preschool, the bus driver is responsible for:

- Ensuring that every child remains seated and restrained whilst travelling
- Supervising the children
- Ensuring the children are dropped at designated points and that guardians are present to collect children
- When all children have disembarked the bus, the driver must ensure the bus is completely empty by walking back to front and visually checking including underneath seats
- Bus is cleaned

Parent/Guardian Responsibility:

- Every parent/guardian with a child utilising the department bus service to and from preschool is to complete an Application and Authorisation for Transport form and contact Karcultaby Area School
- Parents need to notify the bus driver of any absences or changes to pick up or drop off arrangements
- Parents are to notify the Preschool/KAS front office of any changes or cancellations
- Be on time to catch the bus and collect the children
- Inform the bus drivers if there are any medical conditions
- Parents must buckle their own child into their booster seat on the bus.

Emergency Bus Procedure

Bus breakdown or accident- Driver must:

- Stay with the bus and ensure the safety of the children
- Contact school by radio or phone/ call 000 if necessary
- Notify parents
- Liaise with the bus manager who will determine a suitable course of action.