

USE OF SCHOOL BUSES BY PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN

In partnership with Riverton Primary School and Riverton and District High School, Riverton Kindergarten can offer a school bus service for children enrolled in pre-school sessions.

This is available for all children who reside more than 5km via the shortest practical route to the Riverton Kindergarten.

Use of the bus to travel to and from the preschool will be under the following conditions:

Approval for each child must be sought in writing from the Pre-school Director and the Principal of the school controlling the bus (RDHS).

- There must be sufficient room available on the bus.
- The bus cannot deviate from their agreed route to collect any pre-school children.
- The child must be deemed to be mature enough to travel safely on the bus, without causing difficulties to the driver or other passengers. This is determined by the Pre-School Director and the Principal.
- In the case of small children a child may not be able to travel safely because of their size (i.e. seat belt cuts across their throat). Before travel can be authorized, parents may need to provide an appropriate booster seat which meets the Australian Design Rules. The driver of the bus cannot be required to ensure that the child wears a seat belt or is appropriately secured if a booster seat is being used. This may impact on whether approval to use the bus is given.
- The child must be met by a responsible adult at the designated set-down point(s). If the adult is not present, the child will remain on the bus and be returned to the Pre-school. The parent will then be required to collect the child from there.

Once permission has been granted, the child must be enrolled and then is allocated to a bus. Parent / Caregivers will need to provide:

- Bus passenger information form – providing pertinent information about the child, including medical and emergency contact details.
- Permission to Travel form -

You will then be provided with information about the bus that has been allocated, the stop the child will use and times for drop off and collection each day. Some details about the bus service, expectations of behaviour and bushfire information will be made available to you.

Using the bus service

Your child must be at the bus stop 5 minutes before the allocated time and is then delivered directly to the Riverton Kindergarten. They will be met by the Pre-school educator who will escort them into the Preschool and support them to prepare for the day.

At the finish of the day, the Pre-school educator will assist the children to pack up their belongings and accompany them to the bus seat to await the arrival of the buses. The educator accompanies the child to the bus once it is stationary, ensuring their name is marked off the roll by the driver.

Changes to bus travel arrangements

If your child is enrolled on a bus, they are expected to be travellers each day they are allocated to a Pre-school session, unless you make other arrangements. Please notify the driver and the Kindergarten if there is a change, i.e. you are collecting them that day or they are absent due to illness and therefore will not need to use the bus that day. If your child does not arrive on their expected bus and the Kindergarten has not received notification of absence or changes of arrangements, parent/ caregivers will be contacted to verify the child's whereabouts.

Duty of care

While your child is enrolled into a school bus service and is travelling on that bus, the school principal is responsible for their welfare and safety during bus travel. Whilst at Riverton Kindergarten, waiting to be collected by the bus service, they remain under the care of the Pre-school Director. At the bus stop waiting for collection and drop off, the parent / caregiver has responsibility for the child.

Use of a booster seat

The principal and preschool director are responsible, in liaison with parents and drivers, for determining whether a smaller child can travel safely on a bus. If the child cannot travel safely because of their size (i.e. seat belt cuts across their throat), then appropriate action must be taken before travel approval is given. In these cases, parents will be invited to supply a booster seat. It is the parent's responsibility to provide a booster seat which meets Australian Design Rules. Refer to the following website for further information regarding suitable booster seats. www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/design/index.aspx

Drivers of school buses are not required to ensure that children wear seat belts or are appropriately secured if a booster seat is in operation.

Permission may be withdrawn under the following conditions:

- If the bus becomes full with Primary and Secondary students, eligible for bus travel.
- There are instances of inappropriate behaviour putting the child, other passengers and / or the driver at risk.
- The child is not met at the designated set-down point.