

Transport Policy



SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL

This Policy applies to Sutton Valence School (including as the context requires, the Little Lambs Nursery, the Pre-Preparatory School, Preparatory School and Senior School).

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1. Policy Statement

It is the School's policy to take all reasonable steps to manage the health and safety of those employees who drive School minibuses and School vehicles and to comply with our legal duties as an employer. The policy sets out the procedures on work-related driving (excluding grounds equipment) and details what is expected from employees, both in complying with legislation and our own standards.

In order to comply with legal transport and health and safety requirements, Sutton Valence School (SVS) has introduced policies and procedures which are to be followed by employees at all times. A Driving at Work Risk Assessment (Appendix 1) has been carried out and all approved drivers will be required to sign this before driving any school vehicle. Please ensure you read through this carefully and sign to confirm that you fully understand the risk assessment.

Section 7 of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 also places responsibility on employees to be mindful of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their activities.

2. Codes of Conduct

Vehicles

1. Each vehicle has an annual test certificate;
2. Each vehicle has a procedures pack with information what to do in an accident, breakdown or fire, which can be found in the glove compartment or in the side pocket of the vehicle;
3. Small bus permits are held by the School, which requires each minibus to conform to the Construction and Use Regulations;
4. A first aid box, fire extinguisher and warning triangle are carried in each vehicle. During the winter, snow shovels will be stored in the minibuses;
5. The School has a contract with a reputable local garage to carry out the manufacturer's recommended services;
6. A safety check and cleaning of the vehicles is carried out each week by the maintenance staff.

Drivers and Supervisors Responsibilities

1. All staff or volunteers must be over 25 years of age and have held a full driving licence with the appropriate license entitlement to drive a minibus (Category B or D1) for two years. Drivers between the ages of 21 – 25 years old may only drive the minibus with the authorisation of the Headmaster or Deputy Headmaster. All staff or volunteers who obtain their drivers licence after 1st January 1997 must obtain a Full Passenger Carrying Vehicle Licence (PCV) before being allowed to drive a 17-seat minibus. The School

does have 14 seat minibuses, which can be driven by anyone without D1 on their licence. Staff will be required to complete a Driver Declaration Form (Appendix 2) and any endorsements must be divulged to the Estates Bursar. The Estates Bursar will carry out a license check with the DVLA;

2. All minibus drivers are required to take an “Assessment of Competence” by an Approved Driving Instructor;
3. All drivers are expected to meet the minimum eyesight standard required for driving, with glasses if needed and NOT drive under the influence of alcohol, any substance or medication which may cause drowsiness or affect judgement;
4. All drivers are required to only use mobile phones or other communication equipment when the vehicle is stationary, and it is safe to do so;
5. All drivers are personally responsible for any defects the vehicle may have while it is on the road. For this reason, SVS has a vehicle maintenance system in operation. Staff are required to carry out a Pre-Journey Safety Check of the vehicle prior to the start of their journey (Appendix 3). If a defect makes the vehicle illegal, **it is not to be used. It is an offence to drive a minibus without adequate First Aid provision or a Fire Extinguisher;**
- 6 Before each journey complete the Pre-Journey Checks and fill out the form which can be found on a clipboard in the driver’s door. This form also doubles up as a mileage log, please complete the mileage and journey details before driving the minibus;
- 7 The driver is responsible for ensuring that all passengers have a seat and wear a seat belt. On no account will passengers travel standing or seated two to a seat. Seatbelts should be worn at all times by pupils and staff. Drivers are legally responsible for making sure that children under 14 years use seat belts in all vehicles including minibuses, other than in extremely large minibuses;
- 8 The driver must ensure that there is unobstructed access for every seat to the exits;
- 9 Minibuses must be cleared of any rubbish at the end of the trip;
- 10 It is prohibited to carry flammable or other dangerous substances such as paraffin, gas or petrol inside the minibus;
- 11 A maximum speed limit is imposed on all school vehicles of 60 mph on motorways and dual carriageways and 50 mph on all other unrestricted roads. Any speeding fine or parking fine is the responsibility of the driver, not the School;
- 12 All drivers **must** have had adequate sleep and rest before transporting passengers. Never drive when tired. (*ROSPA Minibus Safety – Code of Practice*);
 - You should plan to take a comfort break of at least 15 minutes every two hours. Drivers who drive for more than two hours after a day’s work are significantly more likely to be involved in an accident;

- Two drivers must share the driving time equally when the total return journey exceeds 300 miles, or when the total journey time is expected to be more than six hours;
- The maximum permitted number of hours in the working day, including driving and supervising, must not exceed 13 hours;
- In any 24-hour period the minimum period of continuous rest is 11 hours;
- **Remember** – Do not drive whilst tired and report any fault or damage as soon as possible.

3. Seatbelts in Minibuses

Minibuses carrying three or more children, aged at least three but less than 16 years, on organised trips or to and from School, are required to be fitted with forward facing seats and seatbelts. These requirements also apply to coaches, but not to buses.

The law requires either two-point (lap) or three-point (lap and diagonal) belts to be fitted. Three-point belts provide better protection in the event of an accident than two-point belts, although two-point belts are better than no belts at all.

Seatbelts should be worn at all times by pupils and staff. Drivers are legally responsible for making sure that children under 14 years use seat belts in all vehicles including minibuses, other than in extremely large minibuses.

4. Use of Private Vehicles (Staff)

The School holds an Occasional Business Use Policy to cover drivers in their own vehicles, when they are travelling on School business and claiming mileage.

Members of staff who are travelling on School business and/or transport a pupil(s) in their own vehicle must complete and sign the Private Vehicles Registration Form (Appendix 4) and provide a copy of their driving licence and MOT certificate for all vehicles requiring one.

Written permission from the parent/guardian of pupils travelling in staff vehicles must be obtained by the member of staff in charge of that activity.

Should the need arise for a member of staff to take a single pupil in a car, prior notification must be obtained by filling in a solo journey form, which is kept by the Deputy Head. If prior notification has not been given, due to emergency circumstances, this must happen within 24 hours.

The School will consider only those staff whose licence is free from serious offences.

5. Adults Other than Teachers Transporting Pupils

Parents or other adults who are qualified drivers, acting on request by a member of staff or as a volunteer, must complete the Private Vehicles Registration Form (Appendix 4) available from the Estates Bursar at SVS or the Head's Secretary for SVPS. This must be completed before using their vehicle to transport pupils on School business. A copy of their driver's licence and MOT certificate must be provided and kept with the completed registration form.

Written permission from the parent/guardian of pupils travelling in vehicles driven by adults other than teachers must be obtained.

The School will consider only those qualified drivers whose licence is free of serious offences.


Author: Julie Vicary – Estates Bursar

Policy Date: September 2023

Approval Date by Governors: November 2023

Policy Review Date: September 2024 or earlier if further updates required

Risk Assessment – Driving at Work

| Assessor: | Julie Vicary | | | Position | Estates Bursar | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| Date: | 01/09/2023 | Proposed Review Date | 01/09/2024 | Signed: |  | |
| Activity | Persons at Risk | Significant Hazards | Risk Rating | Control Measures What are we doing now? | Notes/Additional Control Measures | Residual Risk |
| Driving on School business (general) | Drivers, passengers and third parties | Potential for fatality or serious injury in the event of a road accident | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a driving at work policy. UK speed limits to be adhered to at all times. | | Medium |
| Driving School Vehicles | Drivers, passengers and third parties | Potential for fatality or serious injury in the event of a road accident | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check all driving licenses every 3 years. Drivers should only be permitted to drive School vehicles, if they hold a valid UK driving licence that explicitly covers the type of vehicle which they are required to drive. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further DVLA check. | Medium |
| Driving during Covid 19 Pandemic | Drivers and passengers | Potential to be infected with Covid-19 | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Covid-19 safety measures have been removed in accordance with government guidelines. | | Medium |

| Activity | Persons at Risk | Significant Hazards | Risk Rating | Control Measures What are we doing now? | Notes/Additional Control Measures | Residual Risk |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Driving during adverse weather conditions | Drivers & Passengers | Increased potential for road accident leading to serious or fatal injury | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicle should be maintained and ready for winter conditions. • Consider restricting vehicle use during extreme conditions. • Drivers to check weather reports before attempting long journeys. • The use of public transport to be considered. | | Medium |
| Driving for extended periods | As above | Increased potential for road accident if driver is suffering from fatigue | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable maximum driving periods to be set. • Break periods to be set (example: 15 minutes rest after 2.5 hours driving). • Drive share on long journeys to be considered (where “passenger” can also drive). • Driving is prohibited when drivers are suffering from extreme fatigue. It is the driver’s responsibility to stop and rest. | | Medium |
| Driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs | Drivers, passengers and third parties | Impaired reaction times may lead to increased risk of serious road accident | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be classed as gross misconduct. • Drivers are prohibited from drinking any alcohol in the preceding eight hours before driving. • Drivers should not drive if they are taking prescribed medication which is known to cause drowsiness. | | Low |

| Activity | Persons at Risk | Significant Hazards | Risk Rating | Control Measures What are we doing now? | Notes/Additional Control Measures | Residual Risk |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------|---|---|---------------|
| Driving a poorly maintained vehicle | As above | Increased risk of road accident or breakdown. Potential for serious or fata injury when stopped on the side of the road | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maintenance schedule for vehicle to be in place and enforced. • Spot check employees' own vehicles which are used on company business. • Pre-drive checklist to be used to spot common faults prior to journey (lights not working, tyre under inflated etc.). • Emergency procedure to be communicated to all drivers for use in breakdown. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance and MOT verification on employee's own vehicles. • Breakdown information can be found in the glovebox of each vehicle. | Medium |
| Driving when using mobile telephone | As above | Use of phone is illegal whilst driving and could distract driver leading to increased potential for road accident. | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers should not use a mobile telephone or similar device whilst driving. • Driver to stop and phone caller back when safe to do so. | | |

I am signing to confirm I have read and fully understand this Risk Assessment:

Employee Name:

Employee Signature:

Date:

Appendix 2

DRIVER DECLARATION

All those authorised to drive on behalf of Sutton Valence School must complete this declaration to confirm that they are legally able to drive the vehicles intended.

You are being asked to confirm that you are fit and properly licensed to drive the following vehicle types:

School Car, with 9 seats, 14 seater Minibus and/or 17seater Minibus

Please read the following list of health conditions which may affect entitlement to drive:

Epilepsy, fits or blackouts, repeated attacks of dizziness

Stroke including “mini strokes”

Diabetes

Cardiac implants

Heart conditions/operations

Alcohol or drug abuse

Prescription medication which causes drowsiness

Parkinson’s disease

Narcolepsy or sleep apnoea syndrome

Brain injury, brain tumour or brain surgery

Long term neurological conditions, serious memory problems or episodes of confusion

Serious psychiatric illness or mental ill health

Loss of sight in one eye, or other significant reduction in sight or visual field

Mobility or flexibility problems which affect ability to use controls or turn in the seat

Note

On return of this form the Estates Bursar will check the online driver details to:

- confirm name, date of birth and address details are correct;
- ensure that the individual has a current licence for the vehicles which they will be driving;
- check endorsements and cross-check with company vehicle insurance conditions where applicable;
- evaluate the significance of new endorsements since the last licence check;
- check for any restrictions on the licence, e.g. age, medical;
- check for renewal/expiry dates, e.g. medical due, photocard expiry.

DRIVER DECLARATION FORM

(To be used for all employees who drive at work)

A copy of this checklist will be retained confidentially for at least three years.

| Driver's personal details | | | |
|---|---------|---|--|
| Surname | | Forename(s) | |
| Date of birth | | N.I. Number | |
| Department | | Home address | |
| Have you had an insurance proposal declined, a policy cancelled, been required to pay an additional premium or had special conditions imposed by a motor insurer? | | YES/NO | If yes, please provide details |
| Driver's medical details for fitness to drive (please see the attached list) | | | |
| Do you have a DVLA notifiable condition? | YES/NO | If yes, have you reported the condition to DVLA and have you received approval to drive with no restrictions? | YES/NO |
| Do you need to wear corrective lenses/glasses for driving? | YES/NO | If yes, have you had your eyesight examined within the past 2 years? | YES/NO |
| Do you take medicines or prescribed drugs that may induce drowsiness or otherwise impair your driving? | YES/NO | If yes, are you willing to take a medical examination by a doctor to confirm your fitness to drive? | YES/NO |
| Driver's licence details | | | |
| Driver licence type and number | | Groups/Categories | |
| Valid | From: | To: | Country of issue |
| Date driving test passed | | Number of years you have held a full licence | |
| Details of any convictions (include any that are pending) in the last 3 years | | | |
| Date | Offence | Offence code | Fine/penalty points/ disqualification/pending offence |
| | | | |
| I confirm that the above information is a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge at the time of completing this form. I confirm that I have no more than 6 valid penalty points on my license. I will inform my manager immediately if these details change. I also agree to the Estates Bursar carrying out a license check with the DVLA on an annual basis. | | | |
| Signed: | | Date: | |

Pre-Journey Minibus Driver Checklist

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Registration No: | Name of Driver: |
| Date and Time of Journey: | Journey To: |
| Start Mileage: | End Mileage: |

| | YES | NO | Defect to be reported |
|------------------------------------|-----|----|-----------------------|
| Fuel level OK? | | | |
| Oil level light not on? | | | |
| Windscreen wipers/washers working? | | | |
| Lights working? | | | |
| Indicators working? | | | |
| Tyres in good condition? | | | |
| Brakes (hand and Pedal) working? | | | |
| Fully stocked first aid kit? | | | |
| Fire extinguisher? | | | |
| Seatbelts working Properly? | | | |

The vehicle is regularly checked, however you **must be aware** that legal responsibility in all cases rests with the **driver** of the vehicle.

Driver's Signature: _____

Private Vehicle Registration Form

Name:

Vehicle Make, Model and Registration No:

1. I am aware of and agree to abide by the School's Transport Policy. YES/NO
2. My vehicle is covered by a current Road Fund Licence, insurance and, if necessary, a current MOT certificate. YES/NO
3. My vehicle has been maintained and repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. YES/NO
4. I accept that I am responsible for checking that my vehicle is in good order. YES/NO
5. My vehicle is fitted with front and rear seat belts. YES/NO
6. I accept responsibility for ensuring that the guidelines relating to seat belts are implemented. YES/NO
7. I agree to notify the Estates Bursar of any endorsements to my licence that may occur in the future. YES/NO
8. I agree to provide a copy of my driving licence and MOT certificate on an annual basis. YES/NO

Signed

Date

Approved