



# Travelling by Bus

**The purpose of this PSHE/Citizenship session is to:**

- Make pupils aware that they have, and already make, travel choices
- Show that travel choices have an impact on others and the environment
- Increase awareness of responsibilities to others in terms of behaviour, and responsibility for property
- Promote public transport as a responsible travel choice

**1. Do you ever travel by bus?**

**2. Does anyone know any of the safety rules for travelling by bus?**

**3. Does anyone know how you let the driver know when you want to get off the bus?**

**4. Have you made plans about how you are going to travel to your new school in September?**

**5. How many of you think you will go by bus – either school bus or normal service bus?**

**6. Has anyone got any worries about their future journeys?**

**7. Do you know that buses often have cameras on board so that passengers behaving badly can be identified?**

**8. Where do you think the bus goes after it drops pupils off at school?**

# Travelling by Bus...

## Teachers notes

### 1. Do you ever travel by bus?

Discuss bus journeys generally, i.e. at times other than school times. Ask, for example:

- Has anyone used the 'bendy buses' to go to the metro centre/cinema etc.?
- Do they go on the bus with parents/carers, brothers and sisters?
- Has anyone made a bus journey on his or her own?
- What do they like about travelling by bus?

### 2. Does anyone know any of the rules for passengers travelling by bus?

- Stand well back from the kerb when the bus pulls up at the stop
- Don't stand too far forward on the bus or you would be next to the driver and you could distract him from his driving
- Only ring the bell when you want to get off
- Only 2 people should sit on a standard seat
- No smoking
- Don't speak to the driver while he is driving
- Do not put your feet up on the seats

Can anyone think of anything else that should be a rule?

### 3. Does anyone know how you let the driver know when you want to get off the bus?

Ring the bell ONCE after the bus has moved away from the stop before the one you want to get off at. Then the driver knows he needs to slow down and stop at the next bus stop to let you off.

### 4. Have you made plans about how you are going to travel to your new school in September?

This should generate general discussion which will allow you to find out how much thought they have given their new school journey. You could find that a number of them haven't given it much thought at all and the main purpose of the question is to help them appreciate it is important for them to make plans in advance.

You may find that some will know how they intend to travel as they have older sisters or brothers at secondary school already and they know they will travel the same way – walking, being dropped off by car, on the school or service bus.

In the case of the pupils who will be dropped off by car, could they try the bus journey? If they then decided to continue using it they would be helping to save on car journeys and also their parents' time. Or is there a chance of pupils car-sharing with a nearby family?

Could they make just part of their school journey by car? Could their parents drive them a shorter distance then drop them off so that they could continue the rest of their journey by bus? Most pupils prefer to arrive with some friends and bus travel usually results in this.

## Travelling by Bus...

### Teachers notes

They could suggest to their parents that they drop them off away from the school and then walk the rest of the way. That way they would be getting some exercise and also reducing the traffic jam outside of the school gates. Most secondary schools are real 'congestion-zones' at start and finish times!

#### **5. How many of you think you will go by bus – either school bus or normal service bus?**

Again this question reinforces use of the bus for the school journey and it will provide the opportunity to either introduce (or remind them about) the 'taster' bus journey they will be taking and the visit from the District Bus Manager to give them more information and answer their questions.

In the case of the children who DON'T intend to make their school journeys by bus - they may well start to use public transport at other times as they grow up and become more independent – e.g. going to the swimming baths or cinema with friends. Perhaps in time they may use the Metro to go shopping with friends or to the beach. So, all of this information about bus journeys will be useful for them.

#### **6. Has anyone got any worries about their future journeys?**

This allows for a discussion about what they may have heard about the school bus journey or what they may have experienced themselves on public transport. Pupils can be reassured that there are systems in place to protect them (see also question 7 below). They will be receiving information that they can keep during their time at secondary school that gives lots of useful general information about bus (and metro) journeys and explains who they can contact if they have any concerns or problems. Help is always there if they need it. It may be useful to point out that any problems occurring with:

- a) the bus itself (driver, punctuality, route, lost property, etc) should be directed to Nexus or the bus company, and contact details will be in the booklet supplied by the District Bus Manager;
- b) other pupils e.g. smoking or bad behaviour, should be directed to the Head of Year at secondary school.

#### **7. Do you know that buses often have cameras so that passengers behaving badly can be identified?**

These days buses usually have CCTV cameras fitted. This makes it much easier for people who are behaving badly to be identified - perhaps smoking or damaging the bus. The bus driver can watch the film and then contact the school to identify who is responsible.

#### **8. Where do you think the bus goes after it drops pupils off at school?**

This is to make children aware that buses are used for other routes/journeys after they are used as school buses. It costs a lot of money if they need to be taken off the road to be cleaned or for repairs after what has happened on the school journey. This extra expense can mean that fares have to be increased.