



College Bus and Minibus Policy

Approved by:	PWG	Date: 13 th June 2023
Last reviewed on:	24 th April 2020	
Next review due by:	May 2024	
SLT Lead:	Sam Guyer	
Signed:		

1. INTRODUCTION

“An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of Catholic schools.” Pope Francis

- 1.1 St George Catholic College is in the Trusteeship of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth and maintained by Southampton City Council Local Authority. Our school leaders and governors are entrusted by the Bishop with the ministry of school leadership and will always act in recognition of the love of Christ for all members of our college community and one another.
- 1.2 We share a vocation for the common good in our world and we are committed to working together as a family. All of our policies and procedures are formed to enable all members of our St George family to be safe and cherished, feel happy and fulfilled and be treated fairly in a positive environment founded on mutual respect and shared values. This policy is part of the foundation that enables everyone to **aspire to be all that God has created us to be.**

2. AIM

- 2.1 To create a safe environment for pupils to get to and from college. Parents/carers are encouraged to read this policy with their children which is available on the website under the transport section. Students will also be briefed in assembly and information will be in student planners from September 2020.

3. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 Saint George Catholic College contracts 5 services with 'GoSouthCoast/Bluestar'. The buses arrive at college at approximately 8:20 am every morning except for Year 7 induction day and college Inset days. Buses will depart at approximately 15:15 each school day from the top of Leaside Way. The college also runs three mini bus services which collect pupils from the Nursling, Hamble and Netley areas.

4. SERVICE DETAILS

- 4.1 The college bus service is offered to those who live more than 3 miles from the college. Priority is given according to age then distance, with youngest pupils first and then pupils living furthest away from the college. The same priorities are applied to the waiting list for all services. This will enable your son/daughter to have a trouble-free journey to and from college. The advantages of this transport are:-
- a) Cost-effective and ease of transport in all weathers
 - b) Safety and convenience of one bus direct to the college gates with no changes
 - c) Guaranteed no late mark should the bus be running late due to weather/traffic
 - d) A dedicated number/email for help and complaints (printed on the reverse of your child's bus pass)
- 4.2 Fees for the academic year 2023-2024 are £995. With 190 teaching days, that's a daily rate of £5.24 return.

5. PAYMENT PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Pay online at www.scopay.com/stgeorge-soton using the personal link code supplied by the college.
- 5.2 In full by Cash or Cheque, cheques payable to "Southampton City Council" and sent into the Student Services office.
- 5.3 a) 10 monthly payments of £99.50 via Scopay, cash or cheque starting 7th September 2023 – 7th June 2024.
- 5.4 b) 12 monthly payments of £82.91 via Scopay, cash or cheque starting 7th September 2023 – 7th August 2024.
- 5.5 3 termly payments via Scopay, cheque or cash due: 7th September 2023 - £380; 7th January 2024- £350; 15th April 2024 - £265
- 5.6 Failure to keep up to date with payments will result in pupils having their seat removed and offered to pupils on the waiting list. A written warning/reminder to pay within a certain time will be sent before this happens.

6. PUBLISHED ROUTES

- 6.1 Buses will pick pupils up and drop off at the pre-published bus stops. Buses will not wait for students that are late.

7. BEHAVIOUR TO AND FROM COLLEGE FOR STUDENTS

- 7.1 Students are expected to arrive and leave school in full school uniform. If the weather is poor then pupils can wear coats and jackets over the top of their school uniform. Hoodies and sweatshirts are not permitted.
- 7.2 Pupils must always act in a respectful manner to all people they may encounter on the journey to and from college.
- 7.3 If on a bus service pupils must:
 - a) Sit on an individual seat
 - b) Pupils must not stand up (if a seat is available)
 - c) Pupil must remain seated and not turn around.
 - d) Pupils must not do anything that might distract the bus driver or put other pupils in danger, this includes turning around, shouting, swearing, fighting, throwing items, spraying drinks and aerosol cans, taking pictures or filming on mobile phones.
- 7.4 Concerns of bullying or inappropriate behaviour witnessed by students on the bus or complaints from parents/carers should be e-mailed to info@stgcc.co.uk for the attention of the transport co-ordinator. Alternatively students can raise their concerns to their Progress Leader or a member of staff who is always on bus duty at the beginning and end of the day.

8. RULE VIOLATION PROCEDURE

- 8.1 a) Reports of rule violation will be investigated by either the Transport Manager or Progress Leader of the pupil of that year group. The college holds the right to withdraw bus passes from pupils who behave poorly on the school bus service. Persistent poor behaviour will result in a letter being sent home with details of the sanction. This can range from a permanent ban from all school services to a temporary ban lasting a number of weeks.
- b) Those using the Bluestar pass app and found to be sharing it with another student, may have their pass deactivated without notice by the Bluestar app monitoring team.
- c) Any unpaid fares will be passed to Southampton City Council's Debt department for collection.
- d) It is your responsibility to provide a working mobile number & email address for a QR code to be sent for activation of your child's bus pass.

9. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 9.1 On rare occasions, the college withholds the right to take back a pupil's seat once it has been offered. Oldest pupils i.e Year 11 & Year 10 will be approached first. An example of this will be a late arrival of a student who is:
- a) Looked after (in foster care)
 - b) SEN disability – physical/emotional/cognitive
 - c) Any other reason at the discretion of the Headteacher / Governors.