



# Portesham C of E VA Primary School

'Putting children first'

[www.Portesham.dorset.sch.uk](http://www.Portesham.dorset.sch.uk)



Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents

Following on from your feedback we have been working in collaboration with Dorset County Council alongside Bluebird Coaches and Dorset Community Transport to ensure that the school transport provision systems are more efficient and adhering to safeguarding procedures, outlined by Dorset County Council.



All children who are allocated bus seats, it will be assumed, travel on the bus each day unless contact has been made **with the bus companies**, informing them otherwise. Whilst school continues to work hard to ensure that this process is seamless, it must be noted that once the children leave the school with the transport team, the arrangements are the responsibility of the parent/ guardian and the bus companies themselves.

Dorset County Council produce a home to school transport entitlement policy for children attending mainstream school. It is with policy in mind that as a school we have had to put the emphasis back on the bus companies and ultimately Dorset County Council to take responsibility for the service they provide.



As a parent of a child who uses this service you have the legal right to request an audit if you are unhappy with the safety of your child's route to school. This includes pick up and drop off points. The relevant sections are:

Section 1.6.10 - Safety of the route between Home and School

Section 2.3 - Pickup and Drop off points



I have read the policy very carefully and section 2.3.2 states; *parents and children are responsible for being at the pick up point in good time to access the service.*

However, there is no provision within the policy to address the situation when a parent isn't at a designated bus stop. I have taken this up with Dorset County Council but as a non parent my complaint has been disregarded. I suggest as parents of children who travel on Dorset County Council School transport you question what the procedure actually is.



Copies of the policy are available from the school office.

This process will be active as of **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**. If your child is sick and absent from school you will need to contact the relevant bus company and the school to inform them of the absenteeism. If your child falls ill whilst at school and you have collected your child early you will need to contact the relevant bus company to inform them so they can adjust their register.



Acting Headteacher: Mr C. Brown

Winters Close: Portesham: Weymouth: DT3 4HP

Telephone/ Fax: 01305 871283

General enquiries Email : [office@portesham.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@portesham.dorset.sch.uk)

Please find below the relevant contact details for the bus companies: I suggest you enter these into your mobile devices and stick a copy on the fridge for quick reference.

**Bluebird Coaches**

01305 782 353

Office@bluebirdcoaches.com

**Dorset Community Transport**

01258 287 980

Dorset@ectcharity.co.uk

We do hope that this will clarify the school's situation with regards to transport safeguarding and provision. Dorset County Council have the ultimate responsibility for all school transport. All enquiries should be directed towards the Dorset County Council School Transport team. You can contact them at the website address below.

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/school-transport>

Yours Sincerely

Mr Brown

Acting Headteacher