



# Coonalpyn Primary School



CARE RESPONSIBILITY HONESTY SELF-WORTH PERSEVERANCE

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Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As you are aware, one of the unique facets to country life is the reliance on a school bus to transport students to and from school each day. We are fortunate to have a safe and reliable bus operator in the form of Jim Davis and Coorong Coaches, contracted to us by the Department of Children's Services.

In 2006, we have decided to implement a new bus policy, similar to that of other schools in the district. Our connection to bus runs to and from Coomandook Area School mean that bus students need to remain at school for some fifteen to twenty minutes after school, supervised by a teacher on duty. In order to ensure the safety and security of those students whilst waiting for the bus and whilst on their journey home, we would like to implement a number of changes.

The following information outlines those changes;

- \* Parents will now be required to put in writing the regular days their children will catch the bus.
- \* If for any reason a student or students are not going to be on the bus trip home, a note goes in the diary on that morning or a phone call is made to the school.
- \* A Clip board/booklet is maintained in the front office (similar to the sign in and out book) that contains the names of the students catching the bus.
- \* Any variation is recorded into the book and signed by the person making the change.
- \* The teacher on duty at the end of each day checks the document for any changes, whilst supervising students in the library.
- \* When the bus arrives the school bell is rung and students move out to the bus.
- \* The teacher on bus duty goes out with clip board to the bus and tells bus driver of any changes.
- \* The bus driver will not leave until teacher and driver communicate.

The advantages to this system are;

- \* The bus driver knows who is on the bus run going home on any given day.
- \* Teachers are not required to locate students who have actually gone home with mum or dad or grandma etc.
- \* There is less likelihood of children missing the bus.
- \* There is increased communication between home and school.
- \* Tighter security means greater accountability in the unlikely event of an accident.

Initially this system will require support from parents at home, in the writing of notes in diaries, but it is felt that the advantages of both parents and the school knowing accurately, how students are to travel home outweighs the inconvenience of a quick note in the diary.

The school will support parents and caregivers with regular reminders through the newsletter and diaries as needed.

There is still scope to allow last minute changes to travel situations with the use of a quick phone call, as parents currently do, to inform us of any variations to student travel arrangements.

As stated before the primary reason for implementing such changes is to provide the safest environment for students under our care. Your support with these changes is greatly appreciated.

Karen Schilling

Brett Eagles