



## Minibus Policy

**Responsible for policy:**  
**Chair of Directors**

**CC2 Strategy, People and Organisational Development**

*Brandon Fawcett*

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## Definitions

In this **Minibus Policy**, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions shall have the following meanings:

- i **'The Romero Catholic Academy'** means the Company named at the beginning of this **Minibus Policy** and includes all sites upon which the Company is undertaking, from time to time, being carried out. The Romero Catholic Academy includes; **Corpus Christi, Good Shepherd, Sacred Heart, Blue Sky, Ss Peter and Paul, St Gregory, St John Fisher, St Patrick, Cardinal Wiseman, Shared Services Team.**
- ii **'Romero Catholic Academy'** means the Company responsible for the management of the Academy and, for all purposes, means the employer of staff at the Company.
- iii **'Board'** means the board of Directors of the Romero Catholic Academy.
- iv **'Chair'** means the Chair of the Board or the Chair of the Local Governing Body of the Academy appointed from time to time, as appropriate.
- v **'Governance Professional'** means the Governance Professional to the Board or the Governance Professional to the Local Governing Body of the Academy appointed from time to time, as appropriate.
- vi **'Chief Executive Officer or CEO'** means the person responsible for performance of all Academies and Staff within the Multi Academy Company and is accountable to the Board of Directors.
- vii **'Diocesan Schools Commission'** means the education service provided by the diocese, which may also be known, or referred to, as the Birmingham Diocesan Education Service.
- viii **'Local Governing Body'** means the Governing Body of the School.
- ix **'Governing Body Representatives'** means the governors appointed and elected to the Local Governing Body of the School, from time to time.
- x **'Principal'** means the substantive Principal, who is the person with overall responsibility for the day to day management of the school.
- xi **'School'** means the school or college within The Romero Catholic Academy and includes all sites upon which the school undertaking is, from time to time, being carried out.
- xii **'Shared Services Team'** means the staff who work in the central team across the Company (e.g. HR/ Finance)
- xiii **'Vice-Chair'** means the Vice-Chair of the Local Governing Body elected from time to time.
- xiv **'Minibus Jurni'** means the leasing company responsible for the management of all minibuses within The Romero Catholic Academy.

## 1. Introduction

This policy has been drawn up to ensure, as far as reasonably practical, the safety of all persons using a Romero Catholic Academy School Minibus and to also ensure that expensive assets are kept in a good and safe condition. This policy applies to ALL journeys in the school minibus, leased in the name of The Romero Catholic Academy.

The minibuses must:-

- Be used on behalf of a non-profit making organisation
- Be used for social purposes (i.e. on behalf of the community)
- Not for hire or reward
- Without a trailer attached\*
- Have a maximum of 16 passengers
- Not exceed their maximum load weight of 3.5 tonnes (4.25 incl disabled ramp).

## 2. Scope

### Drivers

1. In order to be drive our school minibus the driver must meet the following criteria:-

#### ***Car Driving Licence Obtained Before 1 January 1997***

Drivers who obtained their full car (category B) driving licence before 1 January 1997 may drive a minibus in the UK because their licence included category D1. Such drivers will obviously be older than 21 years, which is the minimum age for driving a minibus.

#### ***Car Driving Licence Obtained After 1 January 1997***

- Be over the age of 21 and under the age of 70 (unless they have passed the PCV Medical Test)
  - Held a full category B driving licence for over 2 years
2. The driver's driving license should be inspected every 6 months and should be free from any conviction for drunk, reckless or dangerous driving. These can be reviewed using the DVLA's website <https://www.gov.uk/check-drivinginformation> The School is responsible for ensuring that these inspections are carried out.
  3. Every member of staff who drives the minibus must have a MiDAS (Minibus Driver Aware Scheme) Certificate of Competence before they can drive the bus. This must be renewed every 4 years or in line with current MiDAS/Community Transport Association guidelines.
  4. Must have permission from the Principal to drive the bus.
  5. At no time must the driver drive a vehicle under the influence of either alcohol or other drugs which might impair driving ability. It should be noted that there are many "over the counter" medicines which would fall within this category. Any driver taking prescribed drugs should heed any warning given with the prescription. If any driver is found to be driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs where they are recommended not to drive, they could be investigated under The Romero Catholic Academy Disciplinary Policy. The Romero Catholic Academy may also inform/liase with, any necessary law enforcement agency as required.
  6. Are personally liable for any parking or speeding fines (payment and penalties). If any member of staff is found to be driving over the legal speed limit, they could be investigated under The Romero Catholic Academy Disciplinary Policy. The Romero Catholic Academy may also inform/liase with, any necessary law enforcement agency as required. Any subsequent driving endorsements may (where necessary) be passed on to the driver.

7. Notify the Principal of any endorsements they receive on their driving licence immediately upon receipt, who must in turn notify the Central Team.
8. Immediately notify the Principal of any health conditions (or change in any health conditions) that may affect their ability to drive.
9. Are responsible for the safety and security of the vehicle whilst it is in their charge.
10. Notify the Principal of any damage or defect that occurs, or noticed whilst the minibus is in their charge. The Principal must then notify the Head of Estates.

### 3. Care of the Minibus

Employees and approved DBS checked volunteer drivers are expected to;

- Complete a checklist (**Appendix 1**) to check the condition of the vehicle upon takeover and notify the Principal of any faults.
- Check that the equipment which must be carried on the vehicle (fire extinguisher, first aid box, red triangle etc...) are there.
- Inform the office of any use of the first aid box so that it can quickly be replenished.
- Regularly check the gauges whilst driving for signs of overheating
- STOP if there is a malfunction and ring for assistance
- Leave the vehicle clean and tidy for the next user
- If the fuel gauge is less than half-full, refill as soon as possible
- When you have completed your journey ensure that the minibus is left secure before you hand the keys back
- When you have completed your journey ensure that the minibus is left clean and tidy

### 4. Safety

1. Maximum load and passenger capacity must not be exceeded.
2. Seatbelts must be worn at all times by all passengers. Staff must check seatbelts are worn at all times throughout any given journey.
3. The Highway code must be adhered to at all times.
4. On all minibus journeys outside of Coventry there must be a minimum of 2 (including the driver) staff members present. If the driver is a volunteer, there must be a member of staff supervising.
5. Pupil behaviour: pupils must be seated at all times. If pupils distract the driver stop the bus until they are settled.
6. At least one member of staff travelling on the minibus must have basic First Aid Training.
7. A file **must** be taken on every journey and contain the following;
  - a. A copy of the trip risk assessment and emergency during an offsite activity policy
  - b. Pupil names
  - c. Parental contact numbers
  - d. Medical information
  - e. School contact numbers
  - f. Minibus Useful information sheet
8. Do not eat, drink or use a mobile phone whilst driving
9. The driver must wear a high vis vest when driving the minibus.
10. Adhere to the following guidelines regarding driver hours;

	Domestic Rules	EC Rules
Maximum length of working day	16 hours	13 hours
Daily driving period	10 hours	9 hours
Time driving without a break*	5 ½ hours	4 ½ hours
Minimum length of break	30 minutes	45 minutes
Daily rest period	10 hours	11 hours
Weekly driving limit		56 hours

\*The break is a period during which the driver may not perform other work and is exclusively used for recuperation. This break may be split into smaller periods and distributed throughout the 4 1/2 hour. In this case, the first period must be at least 15 minutes, and the second period must be at least 30 minutes. With each additional driving period, the break time should be extended.

Drivers should not be required to supervise children during their break, as this would not be a rest for the driver.

## 5. Accident or Breakdown

1. In the event of an accident all normal procedures should be followed. Details of time, place, road conditions, vehicles, drivers involved, damage, injury, photos taken (if possible), must be noted. The school Principal must be notified as soon as possible. It is not advisable to tackle an engine fire. The Principal will then notify the Head of Estates.
2. If you breakdown; the recovery telephone number is on the Minibus Useful information sheet (**Appendix 2**) that can be found in the glovebox.
3. Contact the school.
4. Pupils should NOT remain in the broken-down vehicle on the motorway/dual carriageway hard shoulder but are to stand at a safe distance behind the barrier.
5. Drivers need to pay attention to the minibus, ultimately, because of the people it contains. No two incidents are the same – different passengers with different needs, road conditions, hazards etc.
6. The driver must therefore always assess the situation – in order to decide what is the safest course of action. In effect the driver is doing an on-the-spot dynamic risk assessment to decide the safest course of action
7. If a minibus breaks down on a motorway it is vital that it pulls over as far as possible to the left of the hard shoulder. The passengers should leave the minibus – by the nearside door only (unless an emergency evacuation is required) Do not allow passengers around the back of the vehicle but get them over the crash barrier and up/down the embankment.
8. However – some passengers may be in more danger if they leave the vehicle, or will be incapable of getting over the crash barrier. In which case they must stay on board – seat belts on. Make the vehicle as visible by putting on all the lights, hazard flashers etc. **DO NOT USE A WARNING TRIANGLE.**
9. On roads other than motorways, decide whether there is a safer place nearby. If you decide that it is safer for them to stay inside the minibus, make sure they keep their seat belts on, in case another vehicle collides with the minibus.
10. In all breakdown situations, keep your passengers reassured and informed about what is going on and the actions you have taken.
11. Children are to wear high vis vests (stored on minibus) in the event of a breakdown/emergency
12. Staff are not to attempt repairs. They must wait for help.

## 6. Minibus Sharing

If you lend your minibus to another school within the Romero Catholic Academy.

If you borrow a minibus from another school you should return the minibus in the same condition as when you collected it from the school i.e. with the same amount of fuel, and clean (inside and out) and tidy, any of the first aid kit that you used must be replenished.

If the minibus is returned without the fuel being replenished to the same level as when it was collected, the school borrowing the minibus will be charged for fuel and running charges for the mileage they used, **at a cost of 45p per mile plus a £5 administration fee**. This will be re-charged from your GAG funds and re-credited to the school where you borrowed the minibus from.

## 7. Admin – School

1. Ensure keys to the minibus are kept secure at all times when the minibus is not in use.
2. Ensure that the driver completes the Daily Checklist (**Appendix 1**) before starting the journey and that the mileage is completed at the end of the journey.
3. Ensure that the above checklists are completed accurately and are kept in date order available for inspection by Minibus Jurni as required.
4. Ensure that their drivers report any new license endorsements to Principal immediately. This must in turn be reported to the Head of Estates.
5. Develop a system for “booking out” the minibus, including times for routine servicing, 10 weekly safety inspections and MOTs. These schedules are shared with the School by Fleet Complete UK who manage the servicing of all Minibus Jurni vehicles.
6. Each school must nominate a dedicated person as a point of contact for the Central Team.
7. Ensure all driving license checks are undertaken as detailed above. These checks should be free from any conviction for drunk, reckless or dangerous driving. If there are more than 6 points on a license it should be referred to the Central Team for further consideration by the Head of Estates.
8. Advise the Central Team of any faults, breakdowns or accidents.
9. Any excess mileage over and above the contract of 30000miles over the 60-month term will be charged to the individual school at a rate of 4.58p per mile.
10. The school must keep accurate records for servicing by ensuring that the dealer affixes an appropriate stamp in the service book provided.
11. Arrangements for purchase and payment of fuel
12. Arrangements for cleaning the minibus both inside and out.
13. Notify the Central Team if the school minibus is lent out and returned without the fuel being replenished.
14. Schools may only charge for transport in their minibuses if they hold a permit issued under section 19 of the Transport Act 1985. In some cases, the permit exempts the school from Public Service Vehicle (PSV) operator and driver licensing requirements. A permit is not required if no charge is made in cash or kind. Schools should apply to their LA for a permit for each minibus they operate individually. Guidance on [Driving School Minibuses](#)
15. Any charges made may be used to recover some or all of the costs of running the vehicle, including loss of value. The school may not make a profit, even if it is intended to go towards the school’s other running costs or charitable purposes. Further information is available from LAs or the regional Traffic Commissioners.

## 8. Admin – Central Team

1. While the schools’ insurance contract is maintained via the Central Team, the Central Team will be responsible for ensuring that relevant insurance is in place.
2. The Central Team are responsible for applying for the relevant S19 permits.
3. Ensure all MiDAS certification for all drivers remains up to date.
4. Periodically inspect school minibus records to ensure adherence to this policy and our minibus contract with Minibus Jurni.
5. Administer all banking and payments with the contract lease company Minibus Jurni, and recharge as necessary to the schools via their monthly GAG.
6. Act as the main point of contact with Minibus Jurni and to manage the Minibus Jurni contract.

7. Re-charge any fuel costs as per minibus sharing detailed above.

## **8. Recommended Reading**

Community Transport Association - <http://www.ctauk.org/>

ROSPA Minibus Safety Code of Practice - <http://www.rospa.com/rospaweb/docs/advice-services/road-safety/practitioners/minibus-code-of-practice.pdf>

Minibus Jurni website - <https://www.jurnileasing.co.uk/minibus-leasing>

DFE - Driving School Minibuses -

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/494266/Driving\\_school\\_minibuses\\_and\\_advice\\_for\\_schools\\_and\\_local\\_authorities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/494266/Driving_school_minibuses_and_advice_for_schools_and_local_authorities.pdf)

## **10. Monitoring and Review**

The Board of Directors delegate the implementation of this policy to the Local Governing Body. This policy will be reviewed by CC2 Strategy, People and Organisational Development.



## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Minibus Driver Checklist

#### Minibus Driver Checklist

Every day the minibus is used, the driver should conduct a pre-drive safety check. This should be repeated whenever another driver takes over the vehicle. Walk around the vehicle to check for visible defects and the items listed below:

<b>Exterior Check</b>	<b>OK</b>	<b>Not Ok</b>	<b>Defect Reported to</b>
Oil Level (once only at start of the journey)			
Coolant Level (once only at start of the journey)			
Windscreen washer fluid level (once only at start of the journey)			
Brake fluid level (once only at start of the journey)			
Windscreen and windows are clean and undamaged			
Exterior mirrors are correctly adjusted, clean and unobstructed			
Lights, including brake lights and indicators, are clean and working			
Tyre pressures, including the spare			
Any cuts and bulges on tyres?			
Doors open and close properly			
Ramp works safely and is securely stowed			
Damage to bodywork (inc. location)			
Fluid Leaks			

<b>Interior Check</b>	<b>OK</b>	<b>Not Ok</b>	<b>Defect Reported to</b>
Start Mileage                      miles / End Mileage			
Mirrors are correctly adjusted, clean and unobstructed			
Position and function/purpose of all the dashboard controls			
Position of driving seat so that all controls can be operated comfortably			
Pressure on brake pedal			
Wipers and washers are working properly			
Fuel level (and type of fuel: diesel or petrol)			
Heating and ventilation systems working			
All seats are fixed and secure and all seat belts are undamaged and working properly			
Location and contents of first aid kit and fire extinguisher			
Relevant paperwork (Items a – f of section 4.6 of Minibus Policy)			
Luggage is securely stowed, and aisles and exits are clear			
Emergency Equipment (e.g. high visibility jackets, torch, warning triangle, webbing cutter, fire extinguishers, first aid kit)			
All doors are unlocked			
Interior lights are working			
Equipment for wheelchair users (wheelchair tie-downs, passenger safety belts and harnesses) is available if wheelchair passenger is present			
No warning lights lit on dashboard			

Signed .....

Date .....

Print Name .....

## Appendix 2: Minibus Driver Useful Information Sheet

### **Minibus Driver Useful Information Sheet**

**The Romero Catholic Academy Emergency Contact's telephone: 02476 451888**

**Insurance:** Zurich Insurance Policy Number KSC – 242052-7293-57

#### **In the case of an Incident**

- Report to the Head of Estates on the number above

#### **Service & Maintenance**

- 03330 918 561 – Upkeep Jurni (Maintenance)

#### **Tyres (Kwik Fit)**

- 03330 918 561 opt 3
- Mobile Fitting Team 03330 918 561 opt 4
- Kwik Fit Account Number – P3077E

#### **On - Site Servicing, MOT & 10 Weeks Safety Inspections**

- 01625 865642 – Fleet Complete

#### **Breakdown Assistance**

- 3yrs Manufacturer Peugeot LCV Assistance
- With RAC Breakdown Cover – 0800 197 7828
- Remainder of Contract (AA) – 03330 918 561 opt 2
- AA Account Number – BCASP663131

#### **In Life Customer Services**

- Minibus Jurni – 03330 918 562