CIRCULAR

14th November 2024

Dear Parents of Bus Users,

SUBJECT : UPDATE ON PUNCTUALITY AND CONDUCT FOR BUS USERS

Greetings and good wishes from The Westminster School – Dubai!

At TWS we work hard to make sure we do all we can to reduce the amount of time students spend on the bus and to make the journeys as safe as possible. If students are late for the bus, it can cause significant delays for thousands of students. It is also not safe for students to move between buses and board them once the first bus has started moving, which is why we have strict policies of boarding the buses on time. **For these reasons we will not allow students to board the bus if they arrive at the bus park after 2.30pm.** Our drivers have been told not to stop allowing students to board late and our supervisors have been told to keep the gates to the bus park closed after the buses start moving at 2.30pm.

Primary students are boarded first, and their teachers ensure they are not late for the bus. Secondary students are released from their classrooms no later than 2.20pm (and often earlier) and are expected to reach the bus park by 2.30pm. It does not take long to walk to the bus park and students have plenty of time to visit the washroom and to complete their prayers before boarding. We never allow the buses to leave before prayers have finished and we have an area near the bus park for boys to pray under supervision of a teacher. Girls are able to pray in their prayer rooms which are closer to the bus park.

If a student arrives at the bus park after 2.30pm they will not be allowed to board the bus but we will always make sure they get home safely. If they are too late to board, they will be offered transport on a later bus which leaves just after 4pm. Alternatively parents may make their own arrangements for their child to be collected and students are allowed to use the school phone to contact their parents. In all cases we will provide a safe and supervised space for students to wait and contact parents to let them know their child will be arriving home late.

For the safe and efficient transport for all our bus users I therefore ask that you speak with your child about the following points:

- Gates to the bus park will be closed at 2.30pm and staff will not open them to let latecomers board the bus.
- Students have time to use the washroom and pray before boarding the bus but they must not waste time doing so.
- If students arrive late at the bus park, they will be offered transport on a later bus but this can only happen once the buses return after 4pm.
- Whilst they are waiting for the later bus students should go to the designated late pickup room.
- Students may use the school phone to make alternative arrangements to be picked up if they wish.
- Parents will always be informed if their child has missed the bus.

Contd . . 2

Whilst I am writing to you about buses, I would like to remind you that we expect students to behave well on the bus at all times. This includes following staff instructions and sitting in their seats with seatbelts on at all times. Failure to follow our bus rules is likely to lead to STS suspending students from the bus service. We will always contact parents if poor behaviour is putting students at risk of suspension.

I thank you for your continued support in making sure we provide a safe and efficient service for all of our bus users.

Kind regards,

CARL ROBERTS
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL/CEO

GEMS EDUCATION

PO Box 27016, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 (0)4 298 8333 +971 (0)4 298 8603
gemsws-ghusais.com

gemseducation.com
linkedin.com/company/gems-education
@GEMS_ME