

## HARLANDS WALKING BUS - General Information

### **What is a Walking Bus?**

A Walking Bus is an organised group of children who walk to school by an agreed route under the supervision of at least two trained adults - a 'Driver' and a 'Conductor'. The Driver leads the Bus and the Conductor walks at the rear. Additional volunteers are positioned along the Bus as required by the number and ages of the children. The Harlands Walking Bus also has the support of members of the Police and Fire Services who accompany the Bus each week.

### **What is the Walking Bus route?**

Harlands currently runs two Walking Buses that operate on a 'park and stride' basis. Parents walk or drive their children to the start point. All children wishing to walk with the bus join at the start; there are no additional stops en route to school. The 'Sainsbury's' route starts on the path adjacent to Sainsbury's car park and travels to school via Barnmead. The 'Dolphin' Bus starts on the path by the Olympos Dolphin Leisure Centre and travels to school via Turners Mill Road.

### **When does the Walking Bus operate?**

The 'Sainsbury's' Bus operates every Tuesday morning. The 'Dolphin' Bus runs every Wednesday morning. We may be able to add additional days in the future but this will depend on parental support. Both buses depart at 8.20 am. The Harlands Walking Bus operates every week of the school year.

### **Do I have to walk with my child?**

No, you don't need to walk with your child on the bus. However, you are encouraged to volunteer to help supervise the children on the Bus if you can. The more volunteers we have the less often each person is needed.

### **Does my child have to use the Bus every week?**

Your child will be registered to travel on the bus every week.

### **Do I have to pay for my child to walk with the Walking Bus?**

No, the Bus is free! Another bonus is that your child will get valuable extra exercise, develop essential road safety awareness and independence skills, and have the opportunity to chat to friends before settling down to learn at school. In recognition of their efforts the children periodically receive incentives such as stickers, special school events and sponsored outings to local places of interest.

## **How has safety on the Bus been considered?**

Safety on the Bus is of paramount importance:

- The Walking Bus travels along an agreed route that has been risk-assessed by West Sussex County Council.
- All volunteers on the Bus have received training from West Sussex County Council and from members of the Police and Fire services.
- All volunteers must hold a current CRB check.
- We always meet or exceed to recommended ratio of adults to children.
- Road crossing procedures are agreed and followed at all times.
- All walkers on the Bus are issued with high-visibility jackets that must be worn at all times.
- Children must follow a Code of Conduct while on the Bus.

## **How do I register my child?**

If you would like your child to join the Walking Bus please complete an Expression of Interest Form at the back of this pack. They are also available from the School Office. Your child will be allocated a space if one is available, or added to a waiting list.

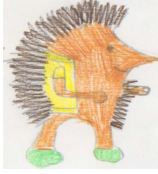
## **How can I help?**

When you register your interest you will be asked to indicate how often you can volunteer to walk with the Bus and supervise the children.. The more volunteers we have the less often each one will be called upon to help. If you would like to get more involved in setting up or running the Walking Bus you may like to join the Walking Bus Team and attend the meetings.

## **Who can I ask for further information?**

If you have any specific questions or would just like to discuss the Walking Bus with someone, please send an e-mail to [khenshaw1@wsgfl.org.uk](mailto:khenshaw1@wsgfl.org.uk) or leave a message in the School Office. A member of the Walking Bus team will contact you. Or you can talk directly to a member of the Team, the parent members currently are:

Joy Ashcroft  
Paul Callan  
Karen Edwards  
Maxine Field  
Kate Henshaw  
Anna James  
Jenny Netley  
Gillian Smibert



## HARLANDS WALKING BUS - Expression of Interest Form

Please complete this form and return it to the School Office if you would like your child to join the Walking Bus. We will contact you to confirm whether your child has a place or has been added to the waiting list.

### Your contact details

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Details of places required

- I would like my child to join the **Sainsbury's** Walking Bus each **Tuesday**
- I would like my child to join the **Dolphin** Walking Bus each **Wednesday**

Preferred start date (if possible): \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of child 1** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Class name \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of child 2** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Class name \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of child 3** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Class name \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of child 4** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Class name \_\_\_\_\_

## Volunteer register

We hope that parents will volunteer to help supervise children on the bus occasionally. All volunteers must hold a current CRB check. Parents with responsibility for a pre-school child cannot be counted as volunteers though they may walk with the Bus if they wish.

### I am able to volunteer on the Bus:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every Tuesday  | <input type="checkbox"/> Every Wednesday         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every other Tuesday  | <input type="checkbox"/> Every other Wednesday   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Tuesday per month  | <input type="checkbox"/> One Wednesday per month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to volunteer as I have responsibility for a pre-school child |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to volunteer due to other commitments                        |  |

### Please tick one:

- I have a current CRB check certificate
- I have submitted a CRB check form and am awaiting a certificate
- I have not yet made a CRB check application

## Additional information

My usual mode of transport to school on a Tuesday/Wednesday is:

- Car
- Walk
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## Any comments

*Please give any additional information below or use this space if you have any questions. If suggesting a new route for a Walking Bus please include a potential start point.*

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*Please return this form to the School Office and we will contact you as soon as possible. Please note that you must wait for confirmation of a place before your child can join the Bus. Thank you.*