

Health, Safety & Child Protection

Quarterly Newsletter- 2022-23

Editorial Board: Udayakumar K Volume 22, Dec 2022



Views from the School Leaders

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Vinod Sharma

Chief Marketing Officer &

Edunation Services Pvt Ltd

Business Head,

School Transport Safety -Need of the hour

Globally, road traffic is the number 1 cause of death for children between the ages of 15 to 19, and the number two cause of death among children aged 5 to 14. Sadly, around 180,000 children die annually because of traffic accidents.

In that context, it is not surprising that every single parent worries about the safety of their children when walking to or from school. This is when kids are at their most vulnerable. School transport has been the most preferred mode of transport for parents for safety and convenience while some use private transport (12%) and 11% walk to school.

In our school safety is not merely a slogan but a culture. School Bus is the most preferred and safest form of transport in the world. There are numerous benefits of using school buses- Reduction in traffic, environmental safe- reduced pollution, keeps student punctual, helps parents track their children, buses are equipped with safety

features, is economical compared to private vehicles are some of the many reasons you should choose school transport over other forms. School transport enables transportation service providers to offer students on-time, responsive, safe, and comfortable transportation where visibility into transportation also services is provided. This feature allows school parents. teachers, and administrators to manage maintain the transportation services quality.

Some of the other initiatives which can help in the overall creating safer roads can begin at school which will have a far reaching impact on the community and the country at Large-Gamification of good and bad behaviour on roads should make its way into the regular curriculum in every class with increasing levels of difficulty for student. Parents can play a key role in inculcating good driving habits, adherence to rules and voluntary submission of traffic violations to demonstrate effectiveness and periodic driver assessments can help us manage the overall situation better.





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Views from the School Leaders



Vivek Kuttickal Assistant Manager - HR Edunation Services Pvt Ltd

Be Vigilant than regret -Importance of Back ground and Police Verification of Outsourced staff.

Despite the clear importance of school bus driver background checks, headlines continue to draw attention to schools and third party companies that fail to yet their drivers thoroughly. recent example comes out is the incident occurred at Bhopal in the school bus where two including persons, woman attendant, were arrested in connection with the incident in which

three-and-a-half-year-old girl was sexually abused in a school bus. The incident has taken place because the school authorities failed in doing proper back ground checks for both driver and attendant.

To stop the any kind of assault's happening in the buses and to ensure a safe environment for the students, we are doing the police verification for all the sourced staff at all our schools. We have taken step ahead with the help of Health Safety and Child Protection (HSCP) to control the same by not only proposing the background checks to school management but also by making it practical in our schools, by which we have created trust in parent's mind that their wards are 100% safe during the travel in the buses. This also makes our transport user learners safe and secure during the journey. The process of staff background checks is a key safeguard against costly legal liability for school regarding the attendant hired by the transport service providers. The process also helps to identify the criminal history, sex offenders, driving record infractions, and drug or alcohol abuses, prevent lawsuits or public relations disasters for school districts, and much more.







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Student's Dispersal @ JGS, Mallapur



Raghavendra Kulkarni, HSCP Coordinator Johnson Grammar School, ICSE, ISC & IBDP. Mallapur, Hyderabad.

At JGS have the dispersal Policy in its place. A dedicated team to monitor the dispersal of the students. Instructions regarding the, responsibilities, reporting time and location is clearly communicated to the team. Review meeting are held every fortnight to discuss on the feedback and decide the future course of action by the heads. During special events such as PTM, Parent Orientations, the plan of action is informed to the team in prior. The student dispersal is also being monitored by the Heads. We take feedback from students and parents at random. The dispersal plan of the students is as follows:

Staggered Timings

PP - 2:00 pm Grades 1 & 2 - 3:15 pm Grades 3 to 5 - 3:20 pm Grade 6 upwards - 3:30 pm

Parking of vehicles in ground

Vehicles are parked at allotted places

2 Wheelers - 3 rows

3 Wheelers - 1 row

4 Wheelers - 4 rows

Huge vehicles - 1 row

Safety & Security

ID Cards are issued to -

· PARENTS - Consists of photos and details of the parent, guardian and the child (till grade 8)

PRIVATE VEHICLE DRIVERS -

Consist of photo, license number, Aadhar number, vehicle number, vehicle type, list of students with class & section.

Dispersal Team

- Team of 22 members are placed at the allocated positions.
- · They monitor the orderly dispersal of the students to their respective private vehicles.
- The team members remain in their positions till all the students are dispersed.







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Student's Dispersal @ JGS, Mallapur

1) SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Transport Manager keeps the Security Girls of the respective routes informed about the students who leave early during the day due to – prior pickup by the parents, ill health and any other reason.

2) PARENT PICKUP

Parent ID card is checked at the entrance

The students from grades 1 to 8 Teach are escorted to their respective again route school bus by the

Teachers check the ID card again (Grades 1 to 8)

in case of any concern

Students are handed over

- Routed to the class Coordinator
- Call to the parent to take the confirmation

Students board the buses

Attendance is taken

Security Girls

Buses are dispersed from the school at 3.40 pm. from school





3) PRIVATE TRANSPORT

All the students are brought down from the classes (Grades 1 to 8) Junior Wing. Junior Wing students are made to sit in the ground floor. Senior Wing students directly go to the vehicles. Drivers / Parents ID Cards are checked (Grades 1 to 8)

Students are handed over





The student's list with the driver is randomly checked with the students sitting in the vehicle by the dispersal team



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School Bus Monitor: Role and Lessons Learned



Vehaaan A Gurumurthy Grade 9A Tattva School Bangalore

It's a great responsibility for school bus drivers to navigate the roads on a mission to safely deliver students to their schools and homes. While school districts rely on bus drivers to safely operate vehicles. The biggest safety challenge for transportation operators may be the students who disobey rules, bully other passengers, or act out with violence. Our Bus Student Monitors support drivers and attenders to ensure they effectively manage student behavior and support a positive riding experience in our school transport.

Role of School Bus Monitors:

- · Monitoring the expected Safety Practice adherence by Transport Staff
- To demonstrate ability to conduct emergency bus evacuation.
- Maintain knowledge about first-aid procedure dispatch emergency services for serious situation

 Bus monitor is responsible for supervising students in coordination with the bus driver, ensuring safe transport service for everyone. They are In-charge of monitoring the behavior, assisting students with mobility issues, maintaining order, checking regular attendance and enforcing safety rules and policies.

- During schools or field trips they support teachers in handling attendance sheets to execute roll calls to
 ensure no one is left behind. Moreover, there are also times when their assistance is required coordinating
 with school administrators when addressing or resolving student conflicts
- Bus monitors are expected to report any incident or conflicts on a real time basis and support the School committee members by providing accurate and unbiased versions of incidents.
- Bus Monitors inspect Buses every fortnight and share outcomes of the inspections during Bus monitors meeting with HSCP Coordinator and Administrator
- Monitors conduct of students on school buses to maintain discipline safety.
- Direct loading of students on buses to prevent congestion and unsafe conditions.
- Participates in school bus safety drills.

Abilities:

- Identify complex problems and review related information to develop and evaluate options and implement solutions.
- · Ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

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School Bus Monitor Checklist for Implementation

Sr No	BUS CHECKPOINTS	DATE:		
		YES	NO	REMARKS
1	Drivers and Ayahs are always in uniform and wear ID card			
2	Driver/Ayah do not shout /hit any child in the bus (if yes, please mention the name of the child)			
3	Driver does not use a mobile phone while driving			
4	Ayah helps students to board and deboard bus			
5	Ayah locks the bus door when the bus is moving			
6	Ayah checks the ID cards of Parents/Guardian at the drop points			
7	Driver does not Overspeed up the vehicle (If overspeeding observed, please indicate the location/area)			
8	Ayah takes a head count of Students once the engine is on/ before the ride			
9	Driver/Ayah does not chew/smoke tobacco in the bus			
10	Driver does not apply brakes rashly/suddenly very frequently			
11	Bus interior is always clean			
12	No students consume food on the buses			
13	No students in the buses bully/tease/fight with others			
14	Bus Ayah/Teachers marks attendance on the bus every day			
15	Bus drivers wears a seat belt			
16	Driver / Attendant in uniform			
2.Fre	t a tick in the column Yes' or "No' as per your feedback equency of conducting this feedback fortnightly once and over the filled form to the HSCP Coordinator after filling it.	-		



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Analysis of National study on safe commute to School

Form the HSCP **Editorial Desk**

The latest (2020) data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) reveals that 11,168 children below the age of 18 lose their lives to road crashes, contributing to 7.4% of all crash deaths. In addition, 13,185 people die near schools/colleges/educational institution areas. Factors like poor road infrastructure, relatively unsafe vehicles, limited enforcement, and bad road-user behaviour contribute to the everyday risks faced by school children while

commuting. Such risks are faced in both school affiliated and private transport.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court had passed a judgement on 16-12-1997 that includes guidelines for safe plying of school buses and ensuring safety of school children during their commute. In consideration to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement, CBSE included guidelines (dated 23-02-2017) to be scrupulously followed by all CBSE affiliated schools as per provision under CBSE bye-laws. For any lapse in this regard, school heads and management are to be held responsible, which would invite appropriate action including the disaffiliation of schools. While there are national policies that specify the standards for school buses, there is a compelling need to include other modes as well. For example, States like Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have inclusive policies that cover Vans and Auto-kickshaw.

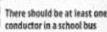
GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL BUSES

The Supreme Court has issued these rules but they are flouted largely across the country

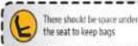


'School bus' must be prominently written on the back and front of the van/private bus

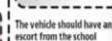




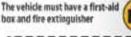




If it is a hired but or van, the words 'On school duty' should be prominently displayed

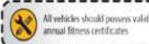


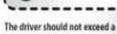




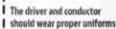
horizontal grills













speed of 50 kmph



The name of the school and its telephone number must be written on the bus

The doors of the bus should be fitted with reliable locks

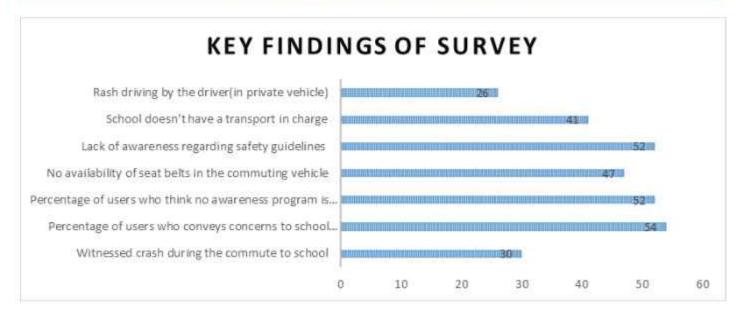


The driver should have a valid licence, and at least five years' experience for a heavy vehicle In 2021 a study "National Study on Safe Commute to School" was conducted by Save LIFE Foundation, an independent, nongovernmental organisation committed to improving road safety and emergency medical care across India, entered into a partnership with Mercedes-Benz Research and Development reviews the existing status of school transport and identifies gaps. and challenges and offers suggestions to make the commute safer. The study was conducted in a total of 14 cities with high road crash fatality rates including 5 Tier -1 (Bengaluru, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) and 9 Tier-2 cities (Pune, Bhopal, Patna, Jamshedpur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Vijayawada, Ahmedabad, Jaipur). The quantitative surveys comprised of a sample of 11,845 respondents including parents of school going children (Class 1 to 12) and children (class 6 to 12) to understand the nature and magnitude of the issue. Additionally, In-depth interviews were conducted with child road safety experts, traffic police officials, school authorities, parents of school going children.



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HSCP Activities / Initiatives around our Schools



The detailed study and findings of the survey is providing insights to various transport safety concerns. Every school management has to be focused on the same to ensure the safety of the students, which includes;

- 1. Transport service provider evaluation (in aspects of safety) prior to selection.
- 2. Back ground checks of the transport staff.
- 3. Availability of all bus documents.
- 4. Uniform and ID cards of the staff.
- Availability of speed governors, CCTV, GPS, fire extinguisher, first aid box and panic button installed in the buses.
- 6. Training and awareness programs for transport staff.
- 7. Breath analyser check prior to start of each bus trip.
- Periodic transport safety checks by the school authorities.
- 9. All bus users are informed about incident reporting procedures.
- 10. Availability bus monitors for each vehicle and feedback mechanism.

Ref: NATIONAL STUDY ON SAFE COMMUTE TO SCHOOL ©SaveLIFE Foundation, 2021



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HSCP Activities / Initiatives around our Schools

School Health Safety Management System(SHSMS) Certification

Starting from this Academic year we have engaged an external agency named Bureauviratas for validating the Health Safety and Child Protection process and standards established in the school. It was a 2 Man day audit. Auditor from the agency has validated 6 pillars of HSCP which include Compliance Management, Management commitment, Operational management, Transport management, HR management and Infrastructure management. The audit checklist covered school confirmation to 100 check points of these 6 pillars. Two of our schools which have undergone the audit in the month of Nov - 2022 have successfully achieved green rating with **PLATINUM(Score =>95%)** Standards kudos and congratulations to the team for achieving this milestone of achieving **SAFE SCHOOL** Certificate.









POCSO awareness session in school

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012 strengthens the legal provisions for the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Act provides protection to all children under the age of 18 years from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. The awareness program on POCSO was done in our schools during the period where the staff members, retainers and contract labours are sensitised about stringent punishments which have been graded as per the gravity of the offence.









Safe and Unsafe Touch -Awareness Program for Learners

Sensitising our learners of all grades about private body parts, personal space and boundaries, safe and unsafe touches and reporting incidents to trusted adult was a mandatory awareness program conducted in the school. The students understood the concept about safe and unsafe touch which was explained to them in a simplified manner by showcasing the movie 'KOMAL'. They also were made to realize that it is important to take the responsibility of themselves and their body to understand about their private body parts and what would be safe and unsafe touch. The goal was to made them recognize and handle any difficult situations that life puts their way. The workshop also dwelled on the urgent need to empower young children to report any abuse.



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HSCP Activities / Initiatives around our Schools

The session was delivered either by a resource person from a competent external agency, school counsellor /HSCP coordinator.









Fire Fighting and First Aid programs

Annual fire and first aid training was held in many of our schools. This was to enable our community to handle any fire and first aid emergency situations. Staff mainly from admin team, support staff members and students of the school participated in this training programs. All of them were awarded with certificates of completion of the course









Health Check-up camp in Schools

Medical Health check-up campaign was held in our schools during this period. All our learners, staff, support staff have undergone this check-up. Medical examination included general examination, Physical Examination, Systemic Examination, Dental, Vision analysis.









Fire Evacuation Mock Drill

Fire evacuation mock drills were conducted in the schools during this period. This was the first mock drill held in the school post Covid-19. Prior briefing with the Fire wardens and Emergency Response team and floor vigilance officers were done to ensure smooth evacuation procedure without any mishaps. Team



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HSCP Activities / Initiatives around our Schools

could completely evacuate entire people in the building within a span of 3 mins. Drill evaluation forms was completed to identify the gaps to prepare for the future occasions.









Emotional Wellbeing Programs

Few of our schools participated in the emotional wellbeing workshop program that was conducted by Fortis Hospitals. Sessions on various topics like Mental toughness learning from sports, Good touch and Bad touch, Be A Buddy, Not A Bully, psychological first aid were included in these sessions and delivered at school by the resource person from Fortis School mental health team. The sessions were very insightful to our learners and the teachers and gained very positive feedback.









Menstrual Hygiene Session

Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) is essential to the well-being and empowerment of women and adolescent girls. Some of our schools organised an awareness program on MHH for our learners. These sessions were focussed on important movements to make hygiene products available to girls and women, and erasing period stigmas The sessions were very insightful to our learners and the teachers and gained very positive feedback.













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HSCP Activities / Initiatives around our Schools

Parent Audit in the School

As a drive to include every stakeholder in school safety, we have implemented parent audit of the school safety system. Accordingly, Safety Inspection was conducted through parent committee members of HSCP team in various schools during this period. The parent-auditors were assisted by the School HSCP coordinator whilst undertaking risk assessment. Schools have attended to the audit observations so as to eliminate them in a time bound manner.





Anti-bullying Training Program & Committee Meeting

Term Anti-Bullying Committee (ABC) meeting was held in all the schools during this period. The key agenda of this meeting was discussions on prevalence of bullying in school, outcome of anti-bullying campaigns, suggestion box feedbacks, future programs & way forward actions to eliminate bullying in school. Schools also organised training program to raise awareness on "Be a buddy not a bully."



















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Certifications and Achievements



Building safety certificate of Jaipur School



Building safety certificate of Bavdhan School



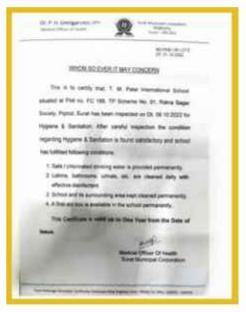
Body Safety workshop participation certificate for JGS School



Fire NOC-Hinjawadi School



Hygiene and sanitisation Certificate Amanora



Hygiene and sanitisation certificate Surat School





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Parent Feedback Corner



Ms. Usha Parent of Grade 6 'A' -S Rinivas, Tattva School

HSCP is one of the important things for students. My children's have been studying in tattva from 8 years in Tattva. The hygiene in Tattva is one of the things which highlights the school. Tattva has HSCP AND ANTI-BULLYING Captains and Vice captains were the cabinets also ensure about the safety. During the pandemic period Tattva ensured a lot of safety measures for students and also had vaccination camp in school.

I'm happy with the safety measures of school, we even receive regular circulars and alerts by HSCP.

Mr. Suchindra Siddhi Parent of Supritha Siddhi, Grade 1 K, JGS Habsiguda

Transportation service provided by JGHS is really good. Firstly, the bus tracking option is most helpful as we can check the movement of the bus real time. Apart from this, the bus has a lady support staff helping the children board the bus and maintains decorum. We have observed the bus is neatly maintained and on time for most of the days. Unlike auto/van which are generally cramped for space due to over boarding of children and bags, thanks to the school bus, our children commute comfortably and come home less tired. Overall, we are highly satisfied with JGS transport service.





Mr. Hari Krishna Parent of M.Sree Vaishnavi - 11-D, JGS Mallapur

Kudos to the HSCP & CERT team of JGS!!!

As a parent, we would like to express our gratitude for your efforts.

We are very happy with the way you are taking care of Child safety and sensitizing the students on Good touch and bad touch. I hope your effort definitely reaches the student to face the situation without causing any anxiety.

We thank the Counsellor for the timely interaction with students and session. It helps the student to grow healthy and boost their confidence. We appreciate the team for conducting a session on Mental health awareness.

Hats off to your entire team and Leaders were standing on their toes and monitoring student discipline at the time of student arrival and dispersal.

Thank you once again for conducting useful sessions for students.





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Parent Feedback Corner



Ms. Sunita P Parent of Ms. Anwita Grade II, Dombivii School

Safe and secure environment is very important for a child's growth. As a parent we are always concerned about our daughter's safety when she is away from home. Dombivli school has given that assured and comfort through various step implemented in their school a HSCP protocol such as training program for the staff as well as children. Lady attendant in all the buses, CCTV facilities in campus and buses. Mandotory parent ID

for every visit and child pick up, Sanitary hygiene in school 24x7 nurse availability any emergency or several other measure. Further we have received HSCP protocols circular every week on going viral infection and related precautionary measures to be aware off. The school has not only the HSCP protocol but also created awareness among the parents.

The School has become a second home for our daughter to learn and grow.

Ms. Sonal Gupta Parent of Ashi Gupta, Class - V A, Amanora School

Health and safety is an important consideration in any school. I am very much satisfied and happy with all the majors taken by Amanora school in regards to health and safety of the students. For example

- Classrooms are well equipped with comfortable sitting furniture and cubbies(storage) for the students which are in good condition.
- Corridors and washrooms are always clean and smells good.
- Easy access to infirmary.
- 4. Fire extinguishers are installed on every floor.
- Systematic dispersal is taken at utmost care. Kids can never be handed over to any stranger until and unless the guardian is having parent ID card with him or her.

So, overall I really appreciate the health and safety measures taken by Amanora School.



Ms. Payal Kandelwal Parent of Kavish Kandelwal, Grade IV, TM Patel International School

My son is studying in this school since the inception of the school (2016).

I want to tell everyone that by sending him to this school. I am rest assured re

I want to tell everyone that by sending him to this school, I am rest assured regarding the safety and security of my child.

Starting from the school premises, there are cctvs everywhere which saves the footage

so that it can be viewed later on. I have used this once. There are regular checks done by picking up random students and asking them about how they feel in school. Recently, I came across one very important policy of school to not give any medicine without prescription. They call the parents before hand to take the kids and if required send the kids directly to hospital via ambulance. Without parent id card, the child is not released even if parent(mother or father) has come to pick up. We have to fill up the form so that if anything wrong happens later on, proper tracking can be done. Even the bus did does not release child at the drop point without parent id card.

Regarding bus, the best part is speed limit and alcohol test of drivers every day. We have seen the empty bus running at allowed speed on roads.

I am extremely satisfied and happy about my child going to TM Patel International School.





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Leveraging Technology - GPS (global positioning system)

A number of safety issues faced by students travelling to the school by buses. The Supreme Court of India has directed a measure to mitigate this by making GPS and CCTV fitting compulsory in all school buses. GPS has been declared compulsory by Central Board of Secondary Education as well. GPS (global positioning system) is a network of satellites and receiving devices used to determine the real time location of the object (moving/non-moving) on the earth. GPS system installed in school bus helps mainly in real-time tracking of the school vehicle location & alerting over-speeding or route deviations by the driver /bus.



Infographics: school bus GPS tracking updates at various stages.

With GPS tracking smart features we can ensure a smooth & safe commute of the students. School administration team also receives real-time location updates. Parents can track the status of bus and driver details from the App. Parents receive timely notifications about ETA, Pick-up and Drop-offs. School admin can monitor real-time location of all buses, across multiple branches. For unplanned routes, over-speeding or unnecessary halts.

Courtesy: astiinfotech





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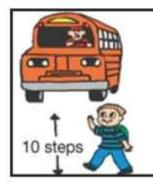
Nurturing Engagement - Safety rules for School bus users



Use the bus handrails and get on one rider at a time



Obey the bus driver and the school safety patrol.



Cross at least 10 steps in front of the bus so the driver can see you.



Don't rush to the bus stop. Get there at least five minutes early. Stand well away from the road.



Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before getting off.



Remain seated and keep the aisle clear.

Doga do Billioga d

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Nurturing Engagement-Quiz Section:

- 1) When waiting for the school bus, which one of the following should you NOT do?
 - A Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop
 - B Play tag and run around to pass the time
 - C Check out your surroundings
 - D Talk, even with a family member or trusted adult
- 2) Breath analyser is a device used to?
 - A To check fuel in the bus
 - B To check speed of the bus
 - C To check alcohol consumption level of driver/staff
 - D To check bus maintenance due dates
- 3) Identify the safety material which you cannot find in bus?
 - A Fire Extinguisher
 - B First Aid
 - C CCTV
 - D Metal detector
- 4) School bus colour should be?
 - A Yellow
 - B White
 - C Blue
 - D Red
- 5) School Name and Telephone No. must be written on the Bus
 - A True
 - B False



Wish You Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2023

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