



CLOUGHWOOD ACADEMY

Vehicles Policy

Version and Date		Author	Committee Responsible	Review frequency	Approval	Next Review Due
1.0	13.12.13	Ms J Uittermark	Community	3 yearly	Approved by the Community Committee on 01.04.2014	31.03.2017
2.0	06.02.17	Mrs J Whiston	L&M	3 yearly	Approved by the L&M Committee on 28.02.2017	27.02.2020
3.0	06.01.20	Miss J Evans	LGB	3 yearly	Approved by LGB on 14.01.20	14.01.2023
4.0	18.01.2023	Miss M Duval	LGB	3 yearly	Approved by LGB on 25.01.2023	25.01.2026

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Appendix 1 - School Vehicle Pre-Drive Checklist

Appendix 2 – Weekly Checks

Appendix 3 – First Aid Box Contents

Appendix 4 – Driver Record

Appendix 5 – Vehicle Condition Report

Although this policy has been written for Cloughwood Academy staff use, external users may find its contents useful.

1. Responsibilities

The Governors of the school are responsible for ensuring any vehicles operated on behalf of the school fully comply in every respect, with all legal transport and health and safety requirements. This responsibility is delegated to the Headteacher to ensure its appropriate implementation.

The policy covers all vehicles owned by the school and leased/ hired by the school.

2. Legal Requirements

The law requires that a minibus must:

- Be adequately insured.
- Be well maintained.
- Have a valid MOT certificate (if more than one year old).
- Be taxed correctly.
- Have the correct seating with correctly fitted seat belts.
- Have an adequate first aid kit on board.

3. Management System

The Headteacher will ensure the following:

- All staff use the proper procedures for use of the school minibus and other vehicles.
- All drivers are familiar with, and adhere to, this policy.
- Insurance cover, MOT and tax are up to date.
- Vehicle registration documents are held securely.
- Vehicles must only be used for school business.

4. Drivers

4.1 Permitted Drivers

- A register of permitted drivers will be kept in the School Vehicle & Drivers file. Each entry in the register must be completed at least every 12 months (Appendix 4).
- The Licences of all drivers must be checked online with DVLA (with permission from staff) to ensure that they are permitted to drive the vehicles. This should be recorded and the check repeated at least every 12 months. Copies of the licence check will be kept on file.
- The legal requirements are that any person who is aged 21 or over, and obtained a car licence prior to 1 January 1997, may drive a minibus, provided the vehicle is not being operated for hire or reward. Anyone who passed a car driving test after 1 January 1997 will be licensed to drive category B vehicles only, which will cover vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes. An additional test and medical report will be required to gain a D1 licence, which covers minibuses. Drivers who passed the test before 1 January 1997 are automatically granted the right to drive Category D1 vehicles and will not need to take the new test.
- In respect of any insured vehicle, the school's insurance specifically excludes:
 - Drivers under the age of 21 years;
 - Drivers over the age of 70 years;
 - Drivers under 12 months experience.
- Drivers must have no more than 6 penalty points. Drivers must inform the school if they receive any further penalty points. This information will be recorded.

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- Drivers must notify DVLA Swansea and the school about any medical condition or defect that might affect their driving and restrictions applied by DVLA, including courses of prescribed medicine and eyesight.
- The Headteacher should monitor the performance and safety record of all who drive minibuses. If there is any doubt about a driver's competence, regardless of the type of licence they hold and their previous record, steps must be taken to investigate. The driver should not be allowed to drive school vehicles until any doubts have been satisfactorily resolved.
- It is the driver's responsibility to be aware of which categories of vehicle they are permitted to drive, with or without trailers.

Drivers must inform their line manager immediately if charged with any motoring offence, regardless of whether the offence was committed in their own vehicle, a School vehicle or any other vehicle. Similarly, any previous convictions should be made known to the Principal before a new/prospective minibus driver is allowed to drive a minibus.

If a driver is convicted, with the licence endorsed and penalty points imposed, the Principal must consider whether the nature and severity of the offence pose any risk to minibus passengers. It may be appropriate to reconsider that individual's position, and at the very least arrange for their minibus driving skills to be reassessed. The Governors must be consulted before a decision is made about allowing a convicted driver to continue driving a minibus.

If, on conviction, a driver is disqualified from driving then clearly they must desist from all driving with immediate effect.

On disqualification of up to six months duration, drivers may be banned from driving a School vehicle for a period of up to two years from the end of the disqualification period. They may be required to undergo minibus driver training and assessment before driving a School minibus again.

Where a disqualification is for a period of more than six months, the driver may be banned from driving a School vehicle for a period of up to five years from the end of the disqualification. They may be required to undergo minibus driver training and assessment before driving a School minibus again.

Before a disqualified driver is allowed to drive a minibus again, take care to ensure that there are not restrictions on the category of vehicle they are allowed to drive subsequent to the offence.

The imposition of these bans over and above the disqualification period is not arbitrary, but conforms to the potential pattern of re-offending for serious driving offences. Given the enormous responsibility of conveying passengers in a minibus, the School's prime concern must be passenger safety. Conviction for a serious driving offence must give cause to doubt an individual's judgement and driving ability. Such doubt can only be dispelled after a reasonable period of time has elapsed in which the driver has demonstrated that they are not likely to re-offend.

4.2 Drivers/Second Driver/Escorts

On all minibus journeys, the driver must be accompanied by an escort. On journeys outside of Cheshire, where possible this escort should be a permitted driver.

4.3 Driver's Hours & Breaks

- Drivers must take at least a 15 minute break from driving after 2 hours.
- Longer journeys must be considered as they arise, a risk assessment should be completed taking into account the length and time of the journey, the number of drivers on longer trips, safe driving hours, and regular breaks for passenger and driver comfort.
- If the trip takes place after the usual working day, special attention must be given to the issue of driver fatigue.
- Where journeys are likely to last longer than 2 hours, or the working day including driving time exceeds 8 hours, a second driver must be taken to share the work and reduce the risk of driver fatigue.

4.4 Alcohol and other intoxicating substances

Everyone driving School vehicles will adhere to the following:

- No alcohol or other intoxicating substances to be consumed during the working day.
- No alcohol or other intoxicating substances to be present in your system when driving. Be careful about consumption during the previous evening. If in doubt, do not drive.
- It is an offence to drive under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substances, including, but not limited to prescription medication, and anyone caught will face prosecution and serious disciplinary measures.

4.5 Mobile Phones

It is an offence to drive whilst using a mobile phone (for calls, satnav or music) even if the vehicle is stationary. From March 2017 anyone caught will face 6 points and a £200 fine. The Police recommend that mobile phones are kept in the glove box whilst driving.

5. Driving Procedures

5.1 Size/capacity of minibuses

- The capacities of vehicles must not be exceeded.
- The height and passenger capacity of each vehicle should be clearly stated in the vehicle.
- The "3 for 2" concession, which allowed three children under the age of 14 to share a double seat in a minibus or coach, no longer applies where seats are fitted with belts. Where seatbelts are fitted, each child must occupy one seat.

5.2 Seatbelts

- Seatbelts must be worn at all times. It is the Escort's responsibility to ensure that all passengers are wearing seatbelts properly before a journey commences.

5.3 Children in the front seats

- Children are permitted to sit in the front seats if they are over 135cm high.
- Children under 135cm high will require booster seats to travel in the front seats of a minibus.

5.4 Booster Seats

- Booster seats must be used in all vehicles for children under 135cm in height. From March 2017, backless child booster seats will only be approved for children taller than 125cm and weighing more than 22kg.
- The driver or supervisor must ensure that booster seats are available for all children who require them.

5.6 Boarding and Alighting

- The driver and escort must wear Hi-Visibility vests when escorting the boarding and alighting of children in public locations.

5.7 Reversing

- The reversing of vehicles is an important part of driving a vehicle and is potentially the most hazardous. In order to protect the driver from unnecessary accidents and for the protection of any person in the vicinity of the vehicle the following procedures must be adopted:
 - Ensure that the vehicle is fitted with reversing beepers.
 - The Escort can act as a reversing assistant. When reversing, ensure that the Escort can stand outside the vehicle at the rear and in view of the driver. A Hi-visibility vest should be worn.

5.8 Vehicle Security

- Drivers should ensure that school vehicles are securely parked and the keys held securely.
- Under no circumstances should a vehicle be left unlocked whilst unattended.

5.9 Speed Limits

Drivers need to be aware of the legal speed limits of different classes of vehicles. As at February 2017 these are:

Type of vehicle	Built-up areas mph(km/h)	Single carriageways mph (km/h)	Dual carriageways mph (km/h)	Motorways mph(km/h)
Cars, motorcycles, car-derived vans and dual-purpose vehicles	30 (48)	60 (96)	70 (112)	70 (112)
Cars, motorcycles, car-derived vans and dual-purpose vehicles when towing caravans or trailers	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (not more than 12 metres overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	70 (112)
Buses, coaches and minibuses (more than 12 metres overall length)	30 (48)	50 (80)	60 (96)	60 (96)

6. Weekly/Daily Safety Checks

- All School vehicles will carry a vehicle information file containing safety checklist forms (Appendix 1). These forms must be completed by the driver prior to any journey being undertaken. Completed forms should be transferred to the School Vehicle and Drivers folder weekly and retained for at least 15 months. In the event of a hire vehicle being used, the same safety checks must be carried out and recorded.

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- All School vehicles will carry a First Aid Box and a Fire Extinguisher at all times. The fire extinguisher must be a British Standard fire extinguisher. Contents of the First Aid Box are listed in Appendix 3.
- The vehicle information file will also contain emergency contact phone numbers for the school, along with details of breakdown and accident procedures and phone numbers. Copies of current insurance certificates should also be kept in this file.
- The Site Team will be responsible for the weekly checks/cleanliness to all vehicles owned by or leased/hired to the school (Appendix 2).
- Staff are responsible for leaving the vehicle tidy and free from litter.

7. Maintenance of Vehicles

- Staff members must not attempt any repair and maintenance which needs specialist equipment or where there is a risk of physical harm (e.g. changing tyres and wheels).
- The School Business Manager is responsible for ensuring that all vehicle documents are kept and stored for a period of 15 months.
- The Site Manager will ensure that the school vehicles are booked in for MOTs in a timely manner and that insurance and tax are kept up to date.
- All repairs and maintenance will be carried out by a professional garage.
- If a staff member becomes aware of a defect or fault, they must inform the Site Manager using Every as soon as possible, who must ensure that the fault or defect is repaired. The vehicle must not be used until the repair has been completed satisfactorily.
- Copies of invoices relating to repairs will be kept in the Vehicle File.
- All vehicles will receive a full regular service by a professional contractor.
- Oil and other consumables must be kept on the school premises.
- Site Team will be responsible for the cleanliness of all School vehicles hired/leased to Cloughwood Academy.

8. Overseas trips

- Prior approval for any overseas trips must be sought from the Governors.
- A separate risk assessment must be completed.
- Insurance must be checked prior to any overseas trip.
- At least 2 drivers per vehicle must be taken.

9. Loan of Vehicles to other organisations/individuals

- The school may choose to loan its vehicles to other community groups or individuals, however the insurance does not permit Hire or Reward. In these situations, these groups/individuals may be asked to make a wear and tear donation to the academy.
- Appendix 6 must be completed by a person in authority from the organisation loaning any vehicle from the school.
- When the vehicle is borrowed, a member of Cloughwood staff must examine the vehicle in the presence of the borrower and mark on the "Vehicle Condition Report" (Appendix 5) any defects. Both parties must sign this sheet.
- This exercise will be repeated when the vehicle is returned.
- The driver must ensure their licence has the correct categories permitted to drive (D1).
- The academy will check the driver's licence online against DVLA records and log the check in the drivers' file. Appendix 4 must be completed by all drivers.
- Borrowers have a duty to report any damage incurred to the school as soon as practicable.
- Any necessary repairs will be the responsibility of the borrower, as will any fines and court costs for parking, traffic or other offences

APPENDIX 1 - SCHOOL VEHICLE PRE-DRIVE SAFETY CHECKLIST

	Registration:
Driver:	Date:
Supervisor:	Journey Details (destination):
Start Mileage:	End Mileage:

This form must be completed before every journey. Please check the items listed below and tick if OK:

EXTERIOR	
Walk around the vehicle to check for visible defects	
Windscreen & windows clean and undamaged	
Tow bar and/or trailer secure	
Doors open and close properly	
INTERIOR	
Mirrors correctly adjusted, clean and unobstructed	
Position & function of all dashboard controls	
Position of driving seat so all pedals can be operated comfortably	
Pressure on brake pedal	
Lights & indicators are working	
Wipers & washers working properly	
Fuel level (and type of fuel)	
Seat belts are undamaged and working properly	
Visual check of safety equipment	
Change for parking	
Luggage securely stowed; aisles & exits clear	

SIGNATURE.....

Brake Checks

- Check brakes before loading passengers. With engine running, check handbrake is working properly and brake pedal is firm when pushed.
- Conduct a moving brake test, off the road, if possible. Reach a speed of not more than 15 mph check mirrors and, if safe, apply brakes fairly firmly. Brakes should work efficiently; vehicle should not pull to one side; luggage should remain secure.

If faults that might affect the vehicle's or passengers' safety are found, the vehicle must not be used until they are all remedied.

APPENDIX 2 - SCHOOL VEHICLE WEEKLY SAFETY CHECKLIST

Registration:
Date:
Mileage:
Signature:
Name: (Site Team)

This form must be completed weekly. Please check the items listed below and tick if OK:

UNDER BONNET	
Oil level	
Coolant level	
Windscreen washer fluid level	
Brake fluid level	
Ancillary drive belt	
EXTERIOR	
Cleanliness	
Lights including brake lights and indicators are clean and working.	
Tyre pressures, including spares (and inner tyres and tyres on trailer if applicable)	
Tyre tread, including spares (and inner tyres as above). At least 3 mm across centre $\frac{3}{4}$ is recommended. Any cuts and bulges?	
INTERIOR	
Clean, tidy and free from litter	
Location and contents of first aid kit & fire extinguisher(s)	
Location of relevant paperwork (permit, MOT, etc)	
Hi visibility jackets/vests (2) present	
Location of emergency warning triangle	

If faults that might affect the vehicle's or passengers' safety are found, the vehicle must not be used until they are all remedied.

APPENDIX 3 – FIRST AID BOX CONTENTS

- 10 antiseptic wipes, foil packed;
- 1 conforming disposable bandage (not less than 7.5cm wide);
- 2 triangular bandages;
- 1 packet of assorted adhesive dressings;
- 3 large sterile unmedicated ambulance dressings (not less than 15cmx20cm);
- 2 sterile eye pads with attachments;
- 12 assorted safety pins;
- 1 pair rustless blunt-ended scissors.

APPENDIX 4 – MINIBUS DRIVER APPLICATION FORM

Name:						
Employer:	Cloughwood Academy					
Position:						
Reason for driving:	Pupil Enrichment					
Are you aged over 25 years?	Yes	No	Age:		DOB:	
Do you hold a full UK driving licence?	Yes	No	Date test passed?			
Have you been driving regularly for the past 2 years?	Yes	No				
Have you obtained your licence summary from the DVLA?	Yes	No	Copy Attached?	Yes	No	
Licence categories held.	B	Yes	No	D1	Yes	No
Do you have any endorsements (points) on your licence	Yes	No	Points	Offence Code	Expiry Date	
If yes, please list:						
Are you medically fit to drive?	Yes	No	Are you taking any medication which may affect your ability to drive?	Yes	No	
Have you been involved in any accidents in the last 2 years?	Yes	No	If yes, give details			
Have you ever been disqualified from driving?	Yes	No	If yes, give details			
Have you ever had motor insurance declined, cancelled or refused?	Yes	No	If yes, give details			

If any of the above details change you must notify the school immediately

I declare that the details given are correct and that within my knowledge, there are no other materials facts that I should disclose. I agree to exercise all due care for the safety of my passengers and the security of the vehicle whilst it is in my charge. I also undertake to inform of any collision or accident that occurs whilst I am responsible for the vehicle. I undertake to advise of any subsequent illness, condition or event that might affect my suitability as a driver, including any subsequent refusal of motor insurance of any driving convictions. I understand that failure to do so and any false declaration above may render the insurance cover for the vehicle invalid and that I may then be held personally responsible to pay costs of damages. I understand that all information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Signed:**Dated:****CLOUGHWOOD ACADEMY DRIVER RECORD**

To be completed for all School vehicle drivers and kept in the staff member's Personnel file.

Driver's Name:		
Have you read and understood the School Vehicle Policy?	Yes	No
Have you completed the Minibus Driver Application Form?	Yes	No
Do you consent to the school accessing the DVLA's website to check your driving licence on your behalf?	Yes	No

Use of personal vehicles to transport pupils

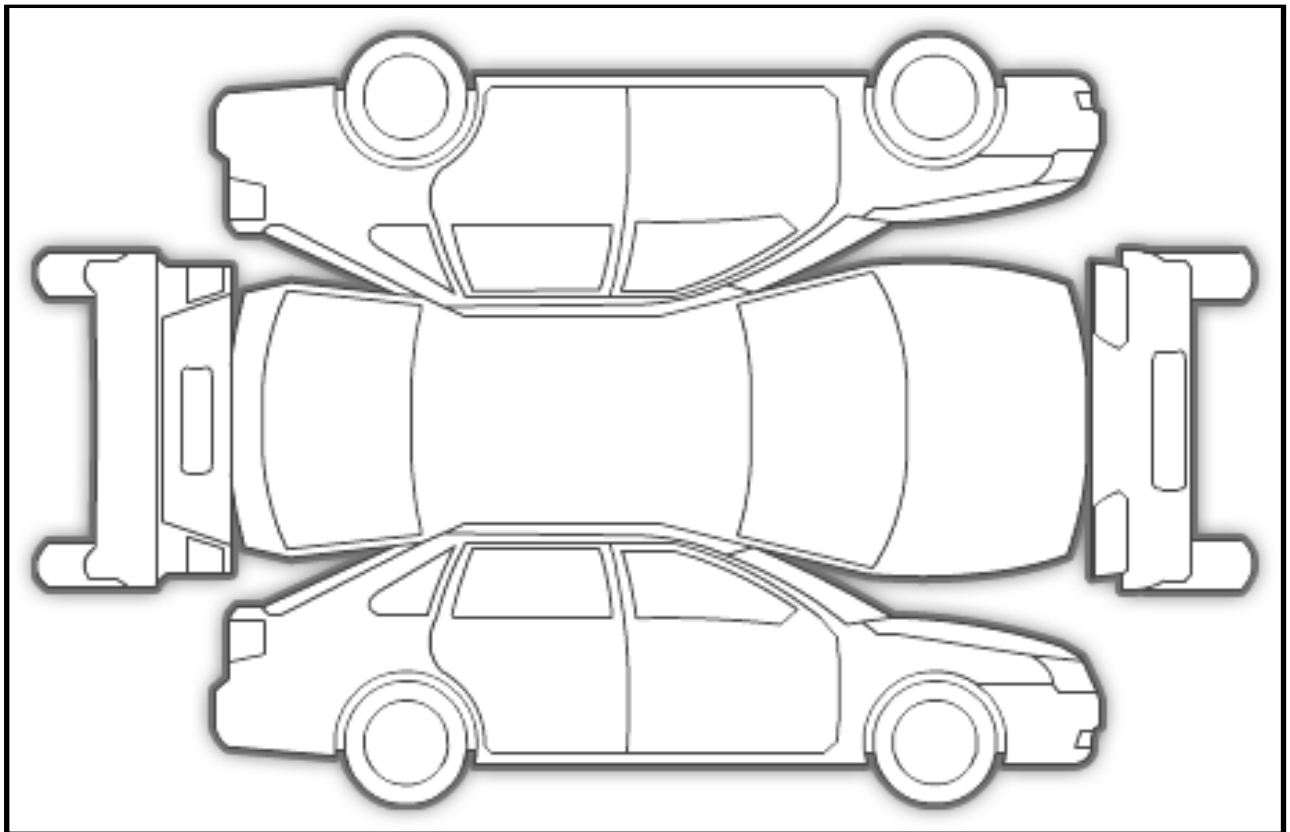
Do you have business use insurance?	Yes	No
If yes, have you submitted: - a copy of your insurance certificate - a copy of your MOT.	Yes Yes	No No

Signed:**Dated:**

For Office Use Only		
Approved to drive minibus and all documentation provided?	Yes	No
Approved to drive minibus up to 3.5 tonnes	Yes	No
Approved to drive minibus over 3.5 tonnes	Yes	No
Notes:		
Checked by (name, signature and date):		

APPENDIX 5 – VEHICLE CONDITION RECORD

Vehicle / Registration: _____.



Please make note of any visible defects on the vehicle whilst in your possession and indicate on the diagram above.

Please report any other running defects you have experienced with the vehicle (i.e. lights, exhaust).

Name:

PLEASE GIVE COMPLETED SHEET TO BUSINESS MANAGER

Signed:

Date:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Vehicle Policy

Action Taken:

Name:	
Signed:	Date:

External users of Cloughwood vehicles

Cloughwood Academy willingly allows other not-for-profit organisation to use their vehicles from time-to-time subject to the following conditions.

All drivers **MUST**:

- complete the school's Minibus Driver Application Form, at least annually or on demand;
- provide a copy of their DVLA licence summary, at least annually or on demand;
- be aged over 21 years;
- be aged under 70 years (older drivers may be covered at the discretion of the school's insurers – additional information will be required and may be subject to regular review);
- have a minimum of 2 years' driving experience;
- hold the correct full, current licence for the vehicle they wish to drive, including towing trailers;
- declare any accidents within the last 2 years;
- declare any disqualification from driving (current, past or pending);
- declare if they have ever had motor insurance declined, cancelled or refused;
- declare that they are fit to drive and are not taking any medication which may affect their ability to drive;
- declare any motoring convictions which were not already evident at the time their licence was last checked.
- have read and signed their confirmation of understanding of the school's Vehicles Policy;
- complete checks of the vehicle before and after use to assure themselves of its condition and record these checks on the appropriate form;
- advise the school of any issue arising from use of the vehicle, including but not limited to, mechanical/electrical, warning lights, fuel, tyres/wheels, seatbelts, parking fines and driving incidents etc

Vehicles **MUST NOT** be used for:

- Hire or reward
- Carriage of passengers for hire or reward
- Carriage of goods for hire or reward
- Drawing a greater number of trailers in all than is permitted by Law
- Racing, competitions, rallies or trials
- To secure the release of a motor vehicle

The school insures its vehicles under a fleet policy, the premium of which is calculated based in part on the previous 3 years claim history.

External users are obliged to indemnify the school for any additional costs incurred as a result of any incident involving any school vehicle whilst under the control of the external user, including but not limited to any increase in insurance premium for the duration of the increase; excess payment; cost of repairs to school vehicles, third-party vehicles and property, compensation claims etc.

Cloughwood vehicles remain the property of the school and the school is the primary user. At no time will an external user's need take precedence over the school's need. If the school is unable to fulfil a previously agreed loan of a vehicle(s) there will be no obligation on the school to arrange a replacement, suffer any financial penalty or forego using its own vehicles in favour of an external user.

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By signing this document, the external user agrees to be bound by the above and will be responsible for the actions of their appointed drivers. External users and drivers will exercise due care and diligence.

Signed:

Name:

On behalf of:

Dated: