

# Minibus Seat Belts Policy

This document sets down both the legal position and the School's policy on the wearing of seat belts when traveling in the School's minibuses.

## The Law

The law as it relates to minibuses states that the driver, front seat passengers and passengers in the rear below age 14 must wear seat belts and it is the driver's responsibility to ensure that this is obeyed.

For rear seat passengers over age 14 a seat belt must also be worn but the responsibility for this rests with the passenger.

Each passenger must occupy an individual seat – seat sharing is no longer legal.

## Aldenham School's Policy

- Drivers of and passengers in School minibuses must at all times comply with legal requirements on the wearing of seat belts. In addition it is the School's policy that seat belts will be worn by the driver and all passengers on its minibuses during every journey.
- The driver must make all passengers aware of the requirement to wear a seat belt during the journey.
- The driver must, before setting off, take reasonable action to ensure that all passengers are correctly wearing their seat belts.
- During the journey the driver's primary responsibility is the safe driving of the vehicle. If however he/she becomes aware that a passenger may have unfastened a seat belt then an instruction should be given to refasten the belt and the vehicle should be stopped at the first suitable opportunity for the driver to check that this has been done.
- In the case of staff, failure to comply with the requirement to wear a seat belt will result in disciplinary procedures being invoked.
- In the case of a pupil, a failure to comply should be reported to the Senior Master who will decide on and impose the appropriate sanction.
- In addition to other sanctions, failure to wear a seat belt is likely to result in an individual being banned from traveling in a minibus for a period of time.
- If there is a second adult traveling in the minibus the driver may, for the purpose of this policy, delegate the checking responsibilities. Such delegation cannot however absolve the driver from his/her legal responsibilities.