

1. Application of Terms & Conditions

1.1. These terms and conditions apply to all privately funded Home to School Transport. Making an enquiry or booking will be deemed as acceptance of these Terms & Conditions.

2. Applications for Ryedale School Transport

2.1. All applications for up to four children must be made by a parent or guardian over the age of 18.

2.2. Once an application has been made the applicant will receive an acknowledgment of their application. This is not an offer of transport or confirmation of space on a school bus.

2.3. Once the applicant details have been received, we will respond with a confirmation and invoice which illustrates the price per child for the academic year as per the payment option selected on application.

3. Application, Pricing and Bookings

3.1. Confirmations/ Invoices for Home to School Transport are provided based on the information provided by the parent or guardian such as (but not limited to) number of seats required, boarding location/s and destination. Whilst we try to accommodate alterations whenever possible, changes to any of the above details are subject to availability and any amendment may incur additional charges.

3.2. Confirmations/ invoices for Home to School Transport are made subject to a space being available at the time the parent or guardian completes an application.

3.3. The company reserve the right to delay an offer of transport or refuse an application, regardless of completion of an application, until they are satisfied that sufficient seats are available after the allocation of prior received applications. Full refunds are provided under these circumstances.

3.4. An invoice will be raised illustrating the cost per child for the academic year with the payment option selected by parent/guardian on the application. Any requests to change payment option selected must be made in writing.

3.5. Once the application has been accepted, a confirmation email is sent followed by an invoice showing what fees are due.

3.6. A non-refundable deposit is required to secure each seat requested and is illustrated on the invoice. This must be paid along with the return of the application form.

3.7. If the non-refundable deposit is not received, your application will no longer be valid. You may be required to make another application.

3.8. The company accepts no liability for application which have been sent by the company but not received or accepted by the applicant. Applicants are solely responsible for checking their junk mail and spam settings.

3.9. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure contact is made to the company within 7 days of applying if an application has been made but not further communication has been received.

3.10. Where transport is not able to be provided on the part of the company, applicants will be placed on a waiting list. Waiting list priority will be judged by the date and time the application was submitted.

3.11. A space is not secured until full deposit payment is received. If payment is not made the company will not issue a bus pass and the child will not be able to travel.

4. Route and Time Variation

4.1. During the journey, the driver is the sole judge of reasonableness with regard to any change of route.

4.2. The vehicle will depart at the time agreed on the formal timetables which are approved at the start of each academic year.

4.3. Ryedale School Transport timetables are subject to change at any time and this will be communicated via the email address provided at the time of application.

4.4. We reserve the right to remove any stop listed in the application process if there are insufficient passengers boarding. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to arrange transport to the next nearest stop.

4.5. The Company accept no liability for loss or injury to any student who fails to join the vehicle at the agreed boarding times or if the student chooses to alight at a different stop.

5. Students and Student Code of Conduct

- 5.1. All students must remain seated with their seatbelts securely fastened whilst the vehicle is in motion.
- 5.2. The Company will not accept liability for any loss or damage incurred by passengers who fail to follow the instructions given by the driver and the school.
- 5.3. In the interests of other passengers, no musical instruments, radios or other audio devices shall be played without the permission of the driver.
- 5.4. It is strictly forbidden for any student to carry or consume illegal drugs or carry real or replica weapons on the vehicle.
- 5.5. Smoking is not permitted on any Company vehicle including the use of substitute products such as electronic cigarettes.
- 5.6. Students must not distract the driver at any time whilst s/he is driving the vehicle unless there is an emergency. Students must not use emergency exits or doors unless instructed to do so or there is a genuine emergency. Students must not stand in front of the driver or on the stairwell
- 5.7. Students must not eat, drink or leave litter, throw items inside or outside of the bus or cause disruptive or aggressive behaviour towards another passenger or the driver.
- 5.8. The driver is responsible for the safety of the vehicle and as such may remove, or prevent from boarding, any passenger whose conduct is in breach of the Public Service Vehicle (Conduct of Drivers, Inspectors, Conductors and Passengers) Regulations 1990. This includes passengers who are abusive to any person or whose behaviour is otherwise considered by the driver to be unacceptable. The parent or guardian will be responsible for the conduct of the student and for any damage caused to the vehicle by the student during the journey. All damage is reported to the school and the police will be contacted.
- 5.9. CCTV images may be recorded for the purpose of crime prevention and passenger safety.
- 5.10. Students must carry a bus pass at all times when travelling on Ryedale School Transport and must have it ready to show the driver when asked. Students are not permitted to use their pass on any other route, use another student's pass or allow another student to use their pass. Lost or damaged passes must be replaced. The current replacement fee is £5 per pass.
- 5.11. Students are expected to arrive at the boarding location before the bus is due. The company advises this be at least 5 minutes before. Parents and guardians are reminded that the times detailed on the official timetable are departure times. Students are expected to wait 20 minutes if the bus is late. All delays are communicated as soon as is reasonably practical via our social media (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MorseCoaches> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MorseCoaches>) or A C Morse Ltd Official Website: <https://www.morsecoaches.com>
- 5.12. During inclement weather, parents, guardians and students are advised to contact the office directly (01347 878969) and also consult the above social media sites to see the latest updates on disruptions to Ryedale School Transport. The company reserve the right not to serve stops which are considered too dangerous during inclement weather.
- 5.13. Students are expected to queue sensibly when waiting at their stop, stand away from the edge of the road and get on and off the bus in an orderly way to avoid hurting themselves and others. Students who are required to cross the road after disembarking should do so once the bus has driven way so that they can see other vehicles and can be clearly seen by other road users.
- 5.14. If the bus breaks down or is involved in an accident, students must follow the driver's instructions. Students should stay calm and not leave the area unless given approval by the driver. If a student is unwell or injured during the journey or know someone who is they should alert the driver when it is safe to do so.
- 5.15. The company reserve the right to withdraw transport for students who fail to comply with these rules.

6. Passenger Property

- 6.1. The Company will take all reasonable steps to avoid loss or damage to Students' personal property.
- 6.2. The Company accept no liability for loss and/or damage to passengers' property, personal items or luggage left unattended in the vehicle.
- 6.3. All items of lost property when found are labelled and held at the Company Head Office and are subject to the current Public Service Vehicle (Lost Property) Regulations. Low value items (such as hats, gloves etc.) will be kept for one month. Higher value items (such as mobile phones, cameras etc.) will be kept for three months after which all items are destroyed. If requested, items of lost property can be returned to the owner of which the charges are recoverable.

6.4. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that adequate insurance cover is sought to cover loss or damage to the students' items.

7. Damage and Soiling

7.1. The parent or guardian is responsible for any damage or soiling caused to the vehicle by the student during the journey. A minimum charge of £100 will be made if the vehicle is damaged or soiled. If the extent of the damage or soiling is such that the vehicle is out of service for any length of time the Company may charge the hirer a minimum of £500 per day or part thereof for which the vehicle is out of service.

8. Breakdowns and Delays

8.1. The Company will not be liable for loss or inconvenience caused by breakdown, traffic congestion or other delays outside of our control and no compensation will be provided.

9. Cancellation by the parent or guardian

9.1. Once transport has begun cancellations must be made in writing and are subject to charges detailed in these Terms and Conditions.

9.2. In the event of cancellation by the parent or guardian at any time during the academic year the company reserves the right to retain the full year's travel costs.

9.3. Where a seat can be resold to another student the company will calculate the pro rata amount to be refunded and refund this amount less any administration fees.

10. Cancellation by the Company

10.1. In the event of any emergency or force majeure or any event over which the Company has no control including weather and road conditions no refund will be provided.

11. Complaints

11.1. In the event of complaints about the Company's products or services the parent or guardian should write to the Company within 14 days. All complaints are acknowledged within three working days and a full response can be expected within a further ten working days. If we are unable to conclude any investigations within this time, we will ensure the complainant is kept fully informed every five working days. Our Feedback and Complaints Procedure is available on request.

11.2. Complaints should be made in writing to the company head office found at www.morsecoaches.com or by e-mail to: admin@morsecoaches.com

12. Payment

12.1. The parent or guardian is responsible for paying the full year's fee regardless of personal circumstances such as but not limited to the student leaving the educational establishment, passing a driving test or using an alternative mode of transport.

12.2. Full or part payment prior to the start of the school term is required in order for a seat to be guaranteed, regardless of application, acceptance of quotation or any other correspondence relating the application.

12.3. Standing Orders must be arranged by the parent/guardian for monthly payments. The parent or guardian is responsible for making all due and overdue payments by BACS should the Standing Order not be arranged. The full year fee is payable as detailed in section 12.1.

12.4. The Company reserves the right to refuse the payment option selected by the Parent/Guardian on application where previous agreements have been unfulfilled.

12.5. Where a Standing Order payment fails, payment for the outstanding fees must be paid within 48 hours.

12.6. Where a monthly payment is not received on time, an additional admin charge £10.00 will be applicable if The Company are required to contact the parent or guardian to collect the outstanding Direct Debit.

12.7. Where Direct Debits fail on more than one occasion, the parent or guardian will be required to pay the remainder of the fees in full by BACS.

12.8. Failure to pay the required fees will result in the removal of school transport.

12.9. Any requested deposit or initial payment must be paid along with the initial application. Invoice queries must be addressed within 7 days of invoice date and thereafter paid within 24 hours of the company's final resolution on the matter.

12.10. The Company reserve the right to refer unpaid accounts to County Court for judgement.

12.12. Payment can be accepted by BACS transfer, debit card, credit card and Standing Order

12.13. Ryedale School Transport is zero-rated for the purposes of Value Added Tax (VAT).

13. Terms and Conditions of Transport

13.1. These Terms and Conditions are subject to change without written notice.