Why take the bus?

School buses improve traffic conditions - Buses can transport up to 120 primary school students. That’s a lot of cars off the road, resulting in a positive effect on congestion and parking issues around the school.

School buses offer economic advantages for families - Parents may not realise how much petrol they use driving to and from school, until their child takes advantage of the school bus for a while.

School buses are good for the environment - While buses do cause pollution, they cause less than all of the car exhaust emitted when families individually use vehicles for drop off and pick up of children.

Taking the school bus promotes organisation - Having a deadline to get ready in the morning (or else they will miss the bus) will teach your children organisation, responsibility and time management.

School buses are safer - Statistics show students are about 20 times more likely to arrive at school unharmed if they take the bus than if they are driven to school. Students who walk or ride to school face risk of injury. Taking the bus means students only walk a short distance before boarding, giving you peace of mind for their safety.

Bus passes

The School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) provides subsidised travel for eligible school students to school. School students are eligible for subsidised transport if they:

- attend infants school (Years K-2) irrespective of distance from home to school; or
- attend primary school (Years 3-6) and reside more than 1.6 km (radial distance), or 2.3 km (walking distance).

A new application must be completed when a student enrolls in kindergarten; and progresses from Year 2 to be an eligible student in Year 3.

Some students may be eligible for subsidised travel for other reasons (parents should apply in writing to Transport NSW for consideration of eligibility on these grounds) including:

- students whose parents have joint custody
- students with disabilities
- students who are unable to walk to school due to a health condition
- where the walking route to school is considered unsafe either temporarily or permanently.

Guidelines for determining the safety of a walking route to school can be found at:
http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/content/guidelines-determining-safety-walking-route-school. For example, as a general rule it is not considered safe for students to walk along any portion of a road such as road shoulders.

Did You Know: There are currently around 260 bus passes issued to Point Clare students. Bus services are reviewed annually. Bus routes are determined on the basis of issued bus passes.

Bus behaviour

All students are to behave in a manner that ensures both their comfort and safety and the comfort and safety of other passengers. The Bus Code of Conduct can be found on the Transport NSW website at www.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts.

Point Clare has bus monitors to monitor behaviour. Bus passes can be suspended for inappropriate behaviour.

If you are concerned about bus travel, speak to the office about arranging a bus buddy for your child.

An initiative of the Point Clare Public School Council’s Traffic Management & Road Safety Committee.