

Advice to parents regarding the use of taxis for bring pupil to and from school

Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board recommends that the following statement be issued to parents as part of the annual dialogue between schools and home.

“There may be occasions when pupils need to travel between their school and home in a taxi. Although many taxi firms and taxi drivers are careful to ensure the safety of young passengers, children can be very vulnerable when travelling alone. Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board does not recommend that pupils of Primary school age are routinely allowed to travel to and from school in a taxi when unaccompanied. Where this is a necessity school should be made aware of this arrangement by completing the form below to inform school that such a journey will be made and what the frequency of such journeys may be. BSCB also recommends that other pupils who are vulnerable but who are not of Primary school age should not travel unaccompanied in a taxi and a similar agreement should be signed by parent, guardian or carer. The expectation placed upon parents, guardians or carers is that children should be dropped off and collected at school by a responsible adult. This would mean that pupils who need to travel by taxi are accompanied on that journey by a parent, guardian or carer. If a pupil travels “occasionally” in a taxi, we would expect school to be notified by phone to allow the school to ensure that the pupil arrives safely and when expected.”

BSCB believe that failure to act responsibly and in the best interests of the young person should result in a letter from the school or academy re-stating the expectations with regard to travel in taxis and if necessary a formal meeting with school staff will be held to discuss the possible associated safety concerns. BSCB also feel obligated to state that children travelling in cars or taxis should be seated on an appropriate car seat or booster seat to ensure their safety when travelling.

When schools send pupils in a taxi, BSCB believe that staff should write down all the details from the badge of the taxi driver and note the name of the firm and the registration number of the vehicle.

There may be occasions when pupils need to travel between school and home in a taxi. Although many taxi firms and taxi drivers are careful to ensure the safety of young passengers, children can be very vulnerable when travelling alone. Blackpool Safeguarding Children Board and (insert school name) do not recommend that pupils of Primary school age (or insert as appropriate) are routinely allowed to travel to and from school in a taxi when unaccompanied.

By signing this agreement you acknowledge that school has informed you of the associated risks when a young child travels unaccompanied in a taxi. As part of this you agree to inform school when a journey by taxi will be taking place and that you will inform the school when the pupil has reached their intended destination safely.



Signed _____ Print name _____ Date _____