

SAFETY ALERT



Date	25 November 2022
Affected Parties	All schools serviced by Nelson Coachlines school buses
Topic	Risk management of scooters, skateboards, bags and other items on school buses

After an internal safety review of the carriage of various items on Ministry of Education school buses, Nelson Coachlines has come to the conclusion there is a need for an updated policy to be implemented. Most importantly nothing will be carried in lockers on Nelson Coachlines School bus routes (all lockers are to be locked). Also a reminder for the safe carriage of items inside the school buses. Please ensure all items inside the bus are either stored safely under the seat in front or on the students lap.

Background:

Lockers being used to transport goods on Ministry of Education school bus runs look like the ideal place for storing scooters, skateboards and school projects to bring them to school however this poses many risks, for example but not limited to;

- The school bus driver having to leave the drivers seat and students unattended while they hop out at each stop that requires a scooter or skateboard etc to be unloaded.
- The student opening and closing the locker doors themselves poses many risks and ultimately the driver is responsible for securing their load and ensuring the lockers are shut securely and can't rely on the students doing so.

Inside the bus, our Ministry of Education school buses are designed to carry students and their school bags safely. Storing of scooters, skateboards and school projects inside the bus poses many risks, for example but not limited to;

- Trip hazards especially in an emergency when an evacuation is required
- Items not secured properly which could move/roll/fly throughout the bus depending on the situation and injure passengers or the driver

If we find the items are not being stored safely then unfortunately, we may have to eliminate the risk and ban items on the bus other than the student's bags.

Regards

Tim Cumming
General Manager
Nelson Coachlines