

ISTAS Independent School Transport Charter

A voluntary commitment for schools seeking safer, more accountable, inclusive and well-governed pupil transport.

Our Commitment

We recognise that school transport is not simply an operational function, but an important part of safeguarding, duty of care, inclusion and school governance.

By signing this Charter, our school confirms its commitment to treating pupil transport as a managed, accountable and continuously improving area of school responsibility.

We commit to working towards transport arrangements that are safe, properly governed, inclusive, clearly communicated and subject to regular review.

Charter Principles

1. Safety First

Pupil safety and wellbeing will be central to transport decisions before, during and after each journey.

2. Governance and Accountability

Transport will have clear leadership responsibility and appropriate visibility within school governance and risk management.

3. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Transport arrangements will align with safeguarding expectations, including checks, conduct standards and reporting routes.

4. Inclusion and SEND Provision

The needs of pupils with SEND, medical needs, mobility needs or other vulnerabilities will be considered and supported where required.

5. Reliable Operations

The school will maintain oversight of routes, vehicles, passenger lists, communication arrangements and emergency procedures.

6. Responsible Third-Party Provision

Where external operators are used, the school will retain appropriate accountability through due diligence, expectations and monitoring.

7. Evidence and Improvement

Transport arrangements will be reviewed regularly, with incidents, concerns and actions recorded and used to improve practice.

Our Approach

Signing the ISTAS Charter is a starting point, not a declaration that every element is already complete. We commit to identifying gaps, strengthening oversight and making visible progress over time.

School Declaration

On behalf of the school, we confirm our commitment to the ISTAS Independent School Transport Charter and its principles.

Signed on behalf of the School

School Name: _____

Name: _____

Role: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signing the ISTAS Charter is a voluntary, non-binding commitment and does not create any legal obligations for your school. It simply reflects your intention to review and improve pupil transport over time, not a requirement to meet a fixed standard at the point of signing.