

Dear Parents / Carers

Incident on JM02 Much Marcle Bus

Before school this morning a number of students reported to sick bay complaining of nausea, headaches and dizziness following their journey to school on Herefordshire Council's Education Transport bus, the JM02 service from Much Marcle.

We immediately put out a message to all form tutors asking all students who travelled on the bus to meet us so that we could check they were ok, understand the extent of the situation and deal with it effectively.

Students who presented themselves with health concerns were immediately seen by a first aider and then by Dr Hiley, our Chair of Governors and local GP, who happened to be visiting the school and provided fantastic support.

We contacted both the NHS emergency and urgent care services (111) and Herefordshire A and E who gave the same guidance that students who had complained of feeling unwell as a result of the journey should be seen in A and E within 6 to 8 hours as a precautionary measure.

We immediately prioritised these students and ensured they were given appropriate attention and support. Their parents were phoned and asked to collect the children.

The next stage of advice was then followed and we contacted the remaining students on the coach to ensure that they were feeling well. All those travelling on the coach this morning were seen by a trained first aider who asked a series of questions provided by the medical advisor at Hereford Hospital A and E department.

1. Do you feel OK?
2. Is your breathing OK?
3. Have you got any pain?
4. Do you have any palpitations (fluttery heart beat)?
5. How are your eyes?
6. Do you have any underlying health problems, e.g. asthma?

Any student who reported any health concerns was then sent to wait in sick bay, where a trained first aider kept an eye on them until they were collected by their parents/carers who were advised to follow health guidance and go to A and E as a precautionary measure.

We are incredibly grateful to staff, students, parents/carers, Dr Hiley and to Hereford A and E for their support in resolving this situation. We spoke to Hereford A and E this evening and they have advised that parents keep an eye on students who caught the bus as symptoms may not present themselves for 24-48 hours.

We met representatives from George Young Ltd who advised that the bus had been taken out of service and would be checked. A different bus would be provided for the journey home this evening and for all subsequent journeys on this route. We have also been advised that the regular driver will be put back on the route. Herefordshire Council are responsible for providing this contract and they will be holding an investigation into the circumstances that led to this issue.

Herefordshire Council have asked us to pass on the following message to you all: Herefordshire Council takes the health and safety of children and young people across the county extremely seriously and will be carrying out checks on its school transport vehicles to ensure the continued safety of students.

Herefordshire public health team has advised that whilst diesel fumes can cause irritation to the eyes and respiratory system (lungs), these are short term effects and minimal exposure to such fumes are

unlikely to have any long term effects. If your child is suffering from red, watery / dry eyes or has a cough or chest tightness, please contact your GP or call NHS 111 for further advice and guidance.

If you have any further questions please contact Herefordshire Council or JMHS on admin@jmhs.hereford.sch.uk or by calling 01531 631012

Andrew Evans

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