

ES Mol Transport

The European School Mol (ES Mol) does not provide for, nor is it involved in, the travelling logistics of its pupils to and from the school premises.

The Parent's Association (PA) of the ES Mol (the School), representing the parents of pupils of the School, has as one of its objectives the facilitation of the commute between home and the School for those pupils who live further away.

Therefore, the PA maintains bus services between Antwerp, Eindhoven and ESMOL.

Transportation is offered on every official school day.

The PA wants to facilitate the commute as much as possible, but it has a legal duty to manage the whole operation on a full-cost-recovery basis.

Therefore, it has to balance facilitation with the cost of this service.

Transportation has to pay for itself and fees should be kept as low as possible.

Available seats are limited by the number of buses and their capacity.

Additional buses can only be employed if the bus can fully recover its own cost.

Also bus routes need to be as short as possible while still being near enough the homes of the users.

Irrespective of distance traveled and/or days of use, every user will pay the full bus fee.

However, in recognition of the financial burden of having siblings travelling to and from school, there will be discounts for any siblings.

Because of the above, the number of buses, and with them the available seats, and their routes and stops can only be finalized after the first month of every new school year.

Nevertheless, based on the registrations of the last school year, we definitely expect to be able to provide a minimum number of seats to the Antwerp and Eindhoven areas the number of which we will announce before the registration for the next school year starts.

In cases, where the bus is near full capacity, children who currently use the bus will be given 1st preference for the new school year. This will also apply to their sibling joining.

Obviously, our goal is to accommodate all bus requests.

For registrations in excess of those minimum numbers, the PA will not be able to guarantee transportation but will make reasonable efforts to assist in finding or suggesting alternate solutions.

The safety during transportation is of utmost importance to the PA.

Therefore, any unsafe and unruly behavior of the bus users during the bus travel will not be accepted and will have consequences up to terminal suspension from bus use.

The Board of Directors of the Parent Association will be the sole and final arbitrator of what constitutes unsafe and unruly behaviour.

Parents remain fully responsible and liable for any action of their children while they are on the bus.

Bus users are insured by the Bus Company during the transport and by the School on the way to and from the bus.

Children that haven't been registered by their parents for transport use are not allowed to use the bus. In case someone uses the bus without the permission of PA transport responsible is doing that in violation of the transport policy and therefore is not insured.

If a child is reported or found to be traveling without registration or permission from PA transport responsible, then a fine of 15% on the bus yearly price will be charged to the family of that child.

Occasional trips - when needed - can be arranged by contacting the PA transport responsible and only if there are seats available on the requested bus. In order to use this service parents need to be member of the PA and then will be charged for the price per day.

Note: Occasional trips means only a few days during a year.

Registrations for transport will be done online and will begin sometime towards the end of the old school year and will continue until shortly before the new school year.

The PA will announce the beginning of transport registration on its website (www.paesmol.eu). Therefore, parents are advised to view the PA's website regularly during this time. Just because a child has been using the bus the previous year/years doesn't mean that he/she has a guaranteed seat.

New registration is required every year.

At the end of the first month of the new school year the final number of buses and their trajectories will be announced. However in order to ensure a full-cost-recovery the PA reserves the right to introduce changes that make transport more cost efficient.

The bus fees may be subject to change during the year and they have to be paid in full regardless of the usage of the bus or the distance of travel.

In order to alleviate payment of the fee the PA allows for paying in three installments. The last installment, to be paid in the beginning of the last trimester, will be adjusted up or down to reflect any changes in the bus fee.

It must be clearly understood and acknowledged by all who avail themselves of the above service that the Parents Association and its volunteers will simply exercise their capacities in good faith with reasonable care and attention according to its statutes and "Rules and Regulations".

Use of the transport service is a privilege and not an acquired right, even when bus fees have been paid and remain payable.

From the above follows:

Registration and fees:

λ Registration for the Transport service is done online and starts towards the end of the old school year and will continue until two weeks before the beginning of the new school year.

λ A minimum number of seats are guaranteed. In cases, where the bus is near full capacity, children who currently use the bus will be given 1st preference for the new school year. This will also apply to their sibling joining.

Failure to register within the registration campaign might have as consequence that no seats will be available.

λ A tentative bus fee will be fixed before the start of the registration.

λ After all registrations have been received the actual bus fee will be announced which will not be higher than the tentative fee. The aim is that every bus should be able to cover its cost.
λ The fee will have to be paid in three installments, usually in September, in January and in April. Other payments plans are possible upon agreement.

For registrations from families which have a history of late payments (more than one second payment reminder) we reserve the right to accept registration only after full payment of the yearly bus fee.

λ The yearly fee is calculated on the basis of an average 90% utilization of available seats. If less than 70% of the seats of a bus are occupied the PA reserves the right to cancel the bus unless the bus users will cover the difference between the actual revenue and the revenue at 90% utilization.

λ The PA also reserves the right to combine buses and adjust trajectories in order to achieve cost efficiency.

λ Any such actions will be communicated as soon as possible and there will be a strong effort to give all users sufficient time to adjust to the new circumstances.

λ Registration for transportation implies a commitment to pay the fee for the full year. Refunds will only be allowed in exceptional cases and will be defined on a per case basis. There is no entitlement!

λ The last installment of the bus fee shall be adjusted up or down to fully cover actual operating and administration costs.

λ The first child of each family pays 100% of the bus fee irrespective of distance traveled and/or days used. The second child pays 75%, the third child 50%, the fourth and any subsequent child travel free (In this context first, second, third, fourth does not relate to the age of the children but merely to the fact that more than one is registered).

Discipline and safety:

λ Directives from the bus driver have to be followed at any time by all persons on the bus.

λ During the bus travel all users have to remain seated and use available seat belts.

λ The children are obliged to use the seat belt if their seat has one. Any fine given by the police for not using the seat belt will be charged to the parents of the child that was found without the seat belt on.

λ During the bus travel all conversations have to be kept at a low level so as not to disturb the bus driver.

λ Any form of violence (physical, verbal, and/or moral) is forbidden.

λ Smoking and/or handling of open flames is forbidden.

λ Use and/or transportation of drugs of abuse, including, but not limited to, alcohol, is forbidden.

λ Any violation of the above “Discipline and Safety” rules will have consequences commensurate with the degree, ranging from a first warning up to unilateral permanent suspension from access to the bus transportation arranged by the PA.

λ If a user has previously received a warning, any second infraction will have immediate suspension as a consequence.

λ There will be no refund of fees for any period of suspension during which the bus service was not used.

λ Any damages to the bus (interior or exterior) will be charged to the responsible party.

λ Food and drink on the bus are allowed as long as the interior is not spoiled. It is the responsibility of the users to leave the bus in the state they found it.

λ For each bus a person will be appointed as representative of the users towards the PA.

Other:

λ Each bus will follow a schedule which will be available on the PA website. Users and/or their parents are responsible to be at their bus stop in a timely manner (as a rule of thumb 5 min before the scheduled time) so as to not delay transportation. The PA will assume no responsibility for a missed bus due to late arrival of the user.

λ Accounts are payable net within 15 days after the posting date

λ Any amount where there is failure to pay on the due date shall automatically and without notice be subject to a modified interest rate of 10% / year from the due date.

λ If, after five working days, there has not been compliance with the demands made by registered mail, in addition to the modified interest rate, the amount of each overdue bill shall automatically be increased by 10% compensation with a minimum of €50.

λ When any dispute occurs, it is governed by Belgian law and the Courts of the District of Antwerp, Department of Turnhout jurisdiction.