

ISS School Bus Policy

ISS School Bus Terms & Conditions



International sharing school

taguspark - oeiras valley - portugal



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VISION

We are dedicated to *Learning through Sharing*

MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and open-minded lifelong learners who aspire to build a better tomorrow, through a supportive, respectful and caring environment promoting Learning through Sharing.

PURPOSE

To outline the guidelines and procedures for the International Sharing School (ISS) school bus service, ensuring the safety, efficiency, and convenience of our students.

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

- Route personalization Service: The ISS school bus service endeavors to provide route personalization based on the registered home address of the students. This may mean that there is a designated bus stop close to the students' home to allow for multiple students to be picked up/dropped-off.
- Until the established date for initial school bus registration, bus routes are defined considering the registered students' home addresses. Whenever possible, the bus will pick up students directly in front of their addresses. However, some adjustments might be necessary (opposite street, designated stop) to optimize routes and maintain a maximum duration of 1 hour. Some adjustments might be necessary (opposite street, designated stop) to optimize routes and maintain a maximum duration of 1 hour.
- Academic Year Coverage: The service operates throughout the academic year, excluding school breaks and holidays.

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

We are committed to the safety and well-being of all students using our school bus service. To ensure this, we adhere to the following rigorous standards:

- Vehicle Standards: All buses and vans are IMTT (Institute of Mobility and Transport) certified, fully insured according to national standards, and undergo regular inspections to ensure safety and hygiene regulations are in place. Buses meet all necessary safety features, including seat belts, emergency exits, first aid kits and fire extinguishers, which undergo yearly inspections. Age specific car seats are available for the students who travel with us.
- Driver Qualification and Training: All bus drivers undergo criminal record checks and hold valid commercial driver's licenses, as well as the required license for the collective transportation of children (Transporte Coletivo de Crianças).
- Real-time Tracking: To enhance the safety and convenience of our school bus service, and peace of mind to parents, we are introducing a new bus app. This app will provide real-time

tracking of school buses, allowing parents to monitor their child's journey. Parents will receive notifications regarding bus boarding and arrival times, as well as proximity alerts when the bus is approaching their child's stop. To access this service, there will be a one-time fee of €35 per child for the remainder of the 2024-2025 academic year. For the academic year (2025-2026) the one-time fee will be 45€ for the entire academic year. This fee is paid in full at the start of service.

REGISTRATION AND COMMITMENT

- **Registration:** To ensure the students' address is considered for the establishment of the bus route, registration must be complete by the 15th of August prior to the start of the Academic Year. Registration is done online in the following form [[link to registration](#)]. For registration to be complete, Parents/Guardians must also sign the [School Buses Terms and Conditions](#). Any registrations following this date will be subject to confirmation and, whenever possible, accepted within the already established bus routes. The school reserves the right to deny late registrations.
- **Minimum Commitment:** Registration requires a minimum commitment of one term.
- **Annual Registration:** Annual registration is encouraged for consistent service.
- **Cancellation Policy:** To cancel the service, parents/guardians must provide notice by the 1st of November or the 1st of March of the current academic year if they wish to cancel the school bus service for the following term. This notice must be given to the school in writing to the Office team at office@taguspark.sharingschool.org. If no communication is received by the school, it will be assumed that the service will continue for the next term, and Parents/Guardians will be invoiced accordingly.
- **No Refunds:** No refunds will be issued for unused trips or early cancellation.

COST AND PAYMENT

- **Payment Options:** Payment can be made per term or annually.
- **Fee Coverage:** The fee covers the entire academic year (36 weeks).
- **Price Adjustments:** Prices are subject to change due to external factors, with prior notification to parents/guardians.
- **Current School Bus fees:**
 - 1200€/term/student
 - Sibling discount: 5% discount on the second and subsequent siblings
 - 35€ for the bus app (Academic Year 2024/2025), and 45€ Academic Year 2025/2026

ROUTES AND SCHEDULING

- Route Establishment: Routes are established at the beginning of the academic year based on the student's addresses registered by the 15th of August of the current academic year and available fleet.
- Route Map: After the routes are established, a route map will be made available within the ISS website, with information regarding the available routes, as well as available seats within each route.
- Route Optimization: Routes are designed to minimize travel time, with a maximum of 1 hour for 20km routes.
- Schedule Adjustments: Routes and pick-up/drop-off times may be adjusted throughout the year to optimize efficiency.
- Morning Pick-up Times: Morning pick-up times vary based on zones and the number of students on the route. Pick-up times are agreed with parents/guardians prior to start of the service.
- Afternoon Departure Times: There are two possible departure times: 4:10 PM and 5:10 PM. The departure time for each route, each day, will be determined according to there being one or more students who have after-school activities on that specific day in a specific route. If there are students with after-school activities on a specific route, the bus will depart at 5:10 PM to accommodate them. The remainder students on that route will have to wait in school until 5.10PM. If the bus does not have students taking after school activities on that day, the bus will depart at 4:10 PM.

STOP REQUESTS AND AVAILABILITY

- Service Area: Service availability outside current zones is subject to confirmation.
- Address changes: If a student currently utilizing bus transportation experiences a change of address, the parent or guardian must notify the school at least three weeks prior to the change. The school will make every effort to accommodate the change in address within existing bus routes or stops. However, if the new address falls outside the current bus service area or if there are no available seats on any relevant route, the school reserves the right to deny the change of address request. In such cases, no refunds will be issued.
- Late Registrations: Requests received after the registration deadline (August 15th) will be accommodated, whenever possible, based on existing routes, published route map, and seat availability.
- The school strives to accommodate additional students who register for the service after the initial route establishment or for those on longer routes. When considering additional students, the school will prioritize safety, minimize disruptions to the overall route schedule, and ensure efficient bus utilization. Factors such as distance between stops, traffic conditions, and the number of students at each stop will be carefully evaluated, prior to accepting late registrations. Nevertheless, the school reserves the right to deny late registrations.

- The school will communicate any changes to the route schedule to affected parents in advance.

STUDENT AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Punctuality:
 - Morning service: Students must be at the pick-up point on time. Buses will wait no longer than 2 minutes in the morning routes. Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring their own means of transportation to school, should a student miss the bus in the morning.
 - Afternoon service: Students must be at the designated meeting point within their respective school building by 4:05PM or by 5:05PM (dependent on afterschool activities), to be accompanied by the bus drivers to the respective buses. Students not meeting the driver on time will remain at school until parental pick-up.
- Parental Responsibilities: Parents/Guardians are responsible for:
 - Accompanying students to the bus stop in the morning and waiting for them in the afternoon (unless students are deemed old enough to be unattended).
 - Ensuring student transport to school in the morning, should the student miss the bus.
 - Picking up students from school if they are not at the stop or designated meeting point at the designated meeting time for afternoon pick-up.
 - Informing the bus driver directly in case of unexpected situations, such as a student being absent at the last minute.
 - Informing the school (a.lopes@taguspark.sharingschool.org) of any schedule changes with at least 2 working days' notice.
 - Ensuring students treat all occupants with respect and follow the driver's instructions and always keep to the school's rules.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- Sibling Policy: Siblings must travel on the same route and at the same time (5% discount in second and subsequent siblings).
- Bus Etiquette:
 - Wearing the seatbelt during operation is mandatory. Age appropriate car seats will be provided by the School.
 - Eating, drinking, and damaging the bus are prohibited.
 - Walking around in the bus during the trip is prohibited.
 - All school rules apply during the bus service.

COMMUNICATION:

- Day to day communications and unplanned changes must be done directly with bus drivers.
- Bus drivers are equipped with school mobile phones, and the respective numbers will be shared with Parents/Guardians upon registration to bus service and assignment to a specific route.
- Alerts if any specific bus is experiencing delays due to traffic, an automatic alert will be sent via the school bus app.
- Bus drivers are not expected to take calls, read or write written texts, should they be driving.

CONTACT

For any questions or concerns regarding the School Bus Policy, please contact a.lopes@taguspark.sharingschool.org.

INTERNATIONAL SHARING SCHOOL BUS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

These Terms and Conditions ("Terms") govern your use of the International Sharing School (ISS) school bus service. By registering your child for the service, you agree to these Terms.

2. SERVICE DESCRIPTION

- **Route personalization Service:** We endeavor to provide route personalization based on the registered home address of the students. This may mean that there is a designated bus stop close to the students' home to allow for multiple students to be picked up/dropped-off. Some adjustments might be necessary (opposite street, designated stop) to optimize routes and maintain a maximum duration of 1 hour.
- **Academic Year Coverage:** Service operates throughout the academic year, excluding holidays.

3. SAFEGUARDING

We prioritize student safety through:

- **Vehicle Standards:** Certified buses and vans undergo regular inspections and meet safety and hygiene regulations. Seat belts, emergency exits, first aid kits, and fire extinguishers are available. Age-appropriate car seats are provided.
- **Driver Qualifications:** Drivers undergo criminal record checks, hold valid commercial licenses, and have the required certifications for transporting children.

4. REAL-TIME TRACKING APP (OPTIONAL)

- A dedicated app allows parents to track their child's bus journey, receive boarding/arrival notifications, and proximity alerts (available from January 6th, 2025).
- A one-time fee of €35 per child applies for the remaining academic year (2024-2025). This fee is paid in full at the start of service.
- For the academic year (2025-2026) the one-time fee will be 45€ for the entire academic year. This fee is paid in full at the start of service.

5. REGISTRATION AND COMMITMENT

- To be considered for route establishment, register by August 15th of the preceding academic year through the online form ([link](#)). Sign these Terms and Conditions electronically during registration.
- Late registrations are accommodated based on existing routes and availability.
- Minimum commitment is one term.
- Annual registration is encouraged for consistent service.

6. CANCELLATION POLICY

- Provide written notice to the school office (office@taguspark.sharingschool.org, one month) by November 1st or March 1st to cancel for the following term.
- Lack of communication means continued service and respective invoicing for the next term.

7. NO REFUNDS

No refunds are issued for unused trips or early cancellation.

8. COST AND PAYMENT

- Payment Options: Payment can be made per term or annually.
- Fee covers the entire academic year (36 weeks).
- Current School Bus fees:
 - 1200€/term/student
 - Sibling discount: 5% discount on the second and subsequent siblings
 - 35€ for the bus app (Academic Year 2024/2025), and 45€ Academic Year 2025/2026
- Payment options: per term or annually.
- Prices may change due to external factors, with prior notification. Contact Admissions (admissions@taguspark.sharingschool.org) or School Office (office@taguspark.sharingschool.org) for current fees.

9. ROUTES AND SCHEDULING

- Routes are established at the beginning of the academic year based on registered addresses until the 15th of August.
- A route map with available routes and seats will be available on the ISS website (link provided) after route establishment.
- Routes are designed to minimize travel time (maximum 1 hour routes). Routes and schedules may be adjusted for efficiency.
- Address changes must be notified to school 3 weeks prior to the change and are dependent on available seats in new route. The school reserves the right to deny the change of address request. In such cases, no refunds will be issued.

10. MORNING PICK-UP TIMES AND AFTERNOON DEPARTURE TIMES

- Morning pick-up times vary based on zones and the number of students on the route. Pick-up times are agreed with parents/guardians prior to start of the service. Buses wait no longer than 2 minutes in the morning.
- There are two possible afternoon departure times (4:10 PM and 5:10 PM). The departure time depends on after-school activities. If a specific route has students with activities, the bus will depart at 5:10 PM, remaining students in the same route wait until then.
- Drop off time at the end of the day is traffic dependent.
- Siblings must travel on the same route at the same time.

11. STOP REQUESTS AND AVAILABILITY

- Service availability outside current zones is subject to confirmation.
- We strive to accommodate late registrations and additional stops, considering student safety, route disruption, and efficient bus utilization. The school reserves the right to deny late registrations.
- The school will communicate any route schedule changes to affected parents in advance.

12. STUDENT AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

12.1 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PUNCTUALITY

- **Morning:** Students must be at the pick-up point on time. Maximum wait time at a designated stop is 2 minutes. Parents are responsible for alternative transportation if a student misses the bus.
- **Afternoon:** Students must be at the designated meeting point within the school building by 4:05 PM or by 5:05PM (dependent on afterschool activities) to be escorted to the bus. Students not meeting the driver on time will remain at school until parental pick-up.
- Treat all occupants with respect and follow the driver's instructions.
- Wearing the seatbelt during operation is mandatory.
- No eating, drinking or walking around in the bus.
- Keep to the school's rules at all times.

12.2 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Accompany students to the morning bus stop and wait for them in the afternoon (unless deemed old enough to be unattended).
- Ensure student transportation to school if they miss the bus in the morning.
- Pick up students from school if they are not at the stop or designated meeting point for the afternoon pick-up.
- Inform the bus driver directly for day to day communications or in case of unexpected situations (student absence).
- Inform the school (a.lopes@taguspark.sharingschool.org) of any schedule changes with at least 2 working days' notice.
- Ensure students treat all occupants with respect and follow the driver's instructions and always keep to the school's rules.

I agree to the above terms and conditions.

Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Signature: _____



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