

Cab ferrying RMS children

Dear Parents,

In the recent past, several incidents involving rash and negligent driving by hired cab drivers ferrying children have been brought to our notice. In several cases, we realized that parents were not even aware that the drivers were driving dangerously. It is a matter of grave concern, since the safety of the children are of paramount importance at all times.

During our interaction with the cab drivers and further investigation we realized that there were some factors which needed immediate attention.

- The cabs are not following a fixed route and timings and are sometimes going back to fetch a child who is late and is delaying everyone.
- They are very often made to wait at a particular stop and hence need to increase their speed to reach school in time. Unlike the bus service they are required to wait till the child reaches the designated stop.
- The routes are not designed appropriately and sufficient cushion times not provided for any diversions / traffic jams.
- There are more children permitted in each cab, than the sanctioned number.
- The validity of the driver's license and road worthiness of the cabs is also going unchecked.

We also realize that parents sharing the same cab are unable to communicate with each other (very often they may not be acquainted either). We would like to suggest some measures to assist parents and ensure the safety of all children travelling in the cabs.

Suggested Actions

- Parents must check the validity of Fitness certificate, Insurance certificate of the vehicle.
- Parents must check for the Driving license of the driver and its validity.
- Parent should discuss the formation of route and it's timing with the driver.
- Appropriate speed governors & GPRS trackers could also be fixed in the cabs
- Any additions in the cab passengers could be with the consent of the existing Group.
- Parents must ensure police verification of the drivers .
- Parents must always keep latest address and contact number of drivers.

