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## Sanskriti School

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## Dear Parents

This is regarding the use of private cabs for ferrying children to school. As the safety of children is the topmost priority and has been compromised by the increasing flouting of norms by the private taxis, we are compelled to bring to your notice the following issues:

- The seats on these vans and taxis are modified by the drivers to ensure maximum seating capacity often in contravention of safety norms and car safety design.
- The children are seated upon CNG cylinders which can be life-threatening in case of even a slight mishap.
- The aim of the drivers is to accommodate maximum number of students beyond the permissible limit leading to discomfort and exposure to harm.
- In the front seat, along with the driver, often two or three students are seated due to
  which the seat belts cannot be put on which is illegal as well as dangerous.

It has been observed that during dispersal, the students travelling by private taxis are often left to fend for themselves once they are collected by the drivers and are out of the school gate. As these drivers aren't responsible enough to supervise the children, they are vulnerable to any crime or danger. Keeping in mind the spurt in crimes, we feel that it is not safe for girls to travel in these taxis with male drivers whose antecedents are often unknown.

Most of the taxis are not registered as commercial vehicles which make it illegal for them to run them as commercial transport for school children in such large numbers. The maintenance of these taxis is also not undertaken regularly and they are prone to breakdowns which is another potential threat to a child's safety.

Looking at the safety of children, the school urges parents to stop using private vans to send their wards to school.

Abha Sahgal Principal

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