

The Telegraph

30 PAGES

CALCUTTA WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026 ₹ 6.00; with 8 pages Telekids ₹ 8.00

XXCE

www.telegraphindia.com

School cites risks of unregulated pool cars

JHINUK MAZUMDAR

Calcutta: Parents should exercise “due diligence” while engaging pool cars for their children and be vigilant about the behaviour of drivers and attendants, The Newtown School told parents last week ahead of the new academic session.

A circular issued by the principal said that the school’s security guards had reported that children were often found “unattended near the roadside or moving about while waiting for their vehicles, which poses a potential safety risk”.

“It is a reminder to parents to be more vigilant. When children are inside the school, they are in our jurisdiction, but it’s not the same when they are outside the school gate,” principal Satabdi Bhattacharjee told Metro.

A school official cited the example of a primary school student who was crossing the road to reach the usual boarding point of his pool car when he was hit by another pool car.

The school has advised parents to ensure that proper



Students get off a pool car in the Park Circus area.

File picture

child-handover protocols are followed and to be vigilant about the behaviour of drivers and attendants.

“There have been instances where issues such as worn-out tyres, absence of seat belts, unsafe driving practices in the rush to reach school quickly, and frequent incidents of bullying among students have been noticed,” the circular said.

The issues highlighted by the school are largely prevalent in other educational institutions as well. Unregulated pool cars, often the only viable transport option for children, pose multiple risks.

About 1,500 students of The Newtown School use the pool car services. The school

also operates 48 buses.

The circular also mentions that the school’s buses are equipped with active GPS tracking, enabling real-time monitoring of routes and movement.

“The drivers and helpers undergo background verification, and their licences and records are periodically checked. But our transport manager has noticed that pool car drivers keep changing frequently,” Bhattacharjee said.

Important aspects such as drivers’ backgrounds, credibility, or driving proficiency are a matter of continuous worry for the school, the principal wrote.

“...the safety of our students is not limited only to their time inside the school. It is equally important for us to be mindful of how our children are transported to and from school each day,” Bhattacharjee wrote.

“We are bringing these issues to your attention so that you can make an informed decision while arranging transport facilities for your ward,” the school wrote.