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Dear Parents

CHANGES TO EXISTING SEATBELT RULES

Traffic Police will be introducing changes to the existing rules related to the wearing of seat belts with effect from 1 January 2012. The revised rules will ensure the safety of our school children travelling on small school buses and prevent unnecessary loss of lives through the use of child restraints or seat belts.

- 2 The review into the current legislation of wearing of seat belt rules takes into account the changes introduced by the Land Transport Authority calling for mandatory installation of retractable three-point seat belts in small school buses by 31 December 2011.
- 3 The new requirements under the new seat belt rules are as follows:
 - a) A person of any age above the height of 1.35m will be required to wear a seat belt (it was previously pegged at 1.5m) whilst those below the height of 1.35m will be required to wear a child restraint, use a booster seat cushion or approved adjustable seat belt for better protection;
 - b) Drivers, bus conductors and bus attendants¹ on board small school buses will now have to ensure the safety of school children by enforcing and helping their child passengers to wear seat belts and where applicable, use appropriate child restraints or booster seats. Failure to do so will make the driver liable for a composition fine of \$120/- with an additional 3 demerit points whilst bus conductors and bus attendants are liable for a composition fine of \$120/-; and
 - c) A person below the height of 1.35m can only ride in the rear seats of taxis to mitigate the risks involved should there be an accident. There is no need for him/her to be belted up if he/she is seated at the rear seats. However, if a person below the height of 1.35m ride in the front seat of taxis, he/she will be required to wear a child restraint, use a booster seat cushion or approved adjustable seat belt.

¹ It is not a requirement for small school buses ferrying primary school students to have bus conductors or bus attendants on board the buses. However, if there are such bus conductors or bus attendants on board the buses, they will have to ensure that the school children are belted up appropriately.

