

# Police crack down on tinted, curtained buses

A school bus was recently stopped by police in Ajman because it had curtains. Police officers then forced the bus driver to remove the curtains lest they confiscate the vehicle.

- By Bassma Al Jandaly, Senior Reporter
- Published: 00:00 April 28, 2010



Ajman: Schools must get the permission from the authorities to have curtains or have the windows of their buses tinted.

According to the Federal Traffic Law, schools must secure approval from the traffic department in the emirate where it operates.

A school bus was recently stopped by police in Ajman because it had curtains. Police officers then forced the bus driver to remove the curtains lest they confiscate the vehicle.

"We have many children on board at the time. Two police officers stopped us and [an officer] stood on the steps of the bus shouting at me why I had curtains on the window," the bus driver said.

"The bus belongs to a private school in Sharjah and we have the school logo on the body of the bus," he said.

The bus driver said the police officers shouted at him as the children aged between 6 and 14 watched.

"The police officials said to me: 'Is this a sitting room or bus?' Remove the curtains now or we will confiscate the bus," he said.

The bus driver said that children were scared as they thought the police will take them into custody.

"I parked the bus and then I removed the curtains while the children were in the bus," he said.

The bus driver said the incident triggered a delay in drop off times on that day causing parents to worry about their children.

"I have been driving this bus for the past five years and we always had curtains. We never heard that this is not allowed," he said.

He said the police should have told him to remove the curtains after he has dropped off all his passengers.

Brigadier Ali Abdullah Alwan, Chief of Ajman Police, told *Gulf News* that tinted windows are allowed only for private vehicles only. All other vehicles are not allowed to have tinted windows or curtains without permission. from authorities

### **Not a new law**

"School buses, vans or buses that belong to private or government companies or associations must have permission from the traffic department," Alwan said.

Alwan said this is not a new law.

"This is the traffic law in the country which allows tinted windows only for private vehicles for personal use only," Alwan said.

He said schools must be aware of the rules.

Alwan said the incident was due to an ongoing campaign to check on vehicles.

"If a school or charity organisation is registered and operates in Ajman , we allow them to use curtains or have tinted windows," he said.

He said that school buses or any other buses or vans will be fined if they do not have permission.

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