



## A day in the life of a Taxi Driver

I drive "Orange" taxi five days a week for Mater Dei. I pick up my first student from Eagle Vale about 7.15am then we travel to Kentlyn, Ruse, Bradbury and Rosemeadow before we all make our way to Mater Dei where we arrive by 8.45am. There the Teacher's Assistants (TA) start collecting the students from us, one taxi at a time. There are 15 taxis (called different colours and patterns including "Stripe" and "Spot") in total and the handover from taxi driver to the TA is completed by 9am.

At 3pm, the students start being called by taxi group from their classroom by a TA. Three taxis at a time drive up to the taxi area and wait for their passengers. The students make their way from their classroom greeting and helping each other as they make their way to their driver. The TAs hand over anything to us that needs to be sent home to the parents. Then we all proceed on our journey home in the reverse order to the morning route finishing up around 4.30pm. I have had the same seven students in my taxi

for the past three years, and during that time we have developed a nice friendship group and routine. They are Eloise 14, Amy 14, Aaron 13, Michael 12, Stephan 10, Chelsea 10 and James 8. They are usually waiting for me at their driveway with their mum, dad or carer when I arrive to collect them. I help Aaron because he has cerebral palsy but the rest get themselves on and off the taxi and they all like their set seats!

During our journey we like to listen to the music of Michael Jackson and the "Happy Feet" CD. They also like to play the game "Who can be the quietest." When we pass a school someone used to attend, they often tell us stories about their time there. When we arrive at school one of the students knows a lot of the staff number plates and always reports on who is already there. My taxi rules are simple, no eating in the taxi but they can have a mouthful of water if they are thirsty. The kids are well behaved, interesting, great company and generally very happy and I really love the time I spend with them.

