Before Your Child Rides To School

Your child should have developed safe skills for safe cycling both in and out of traffic. Some of these skills are listed below:

1. Can ride in a straight line without wobbling.
2. Can scan over shoulder without altering the direction of the bicycle.
3. Can apply brakes smoothly, stopping with curbside foot to the ground and roadside pedal at 1:00 o’clock.
4. Can ride bicycle slowly without wobbling or falling off.
5. Can make tight turn e.g. figure of eight formation.
6. Can ride using left hand only when required. Right hand free for signalling.

Your child should have developed safe and responsible road behaviours necessary for riding in traffic. Some of these behaviours include:

- Rides one metre from the curb.
- Uses the correct hand signal to warn the vehicles of intention to turn or pull out around parked vehicles.
- Uses a hand signal to communicate intention to turn then moves the bicycle into the correct position e.g. For left turn move to left side of road, for right turn move to centre of road.
- Is able to carry out a hook turn for right hand turns on busy roads.
- Make use of “Eye Contact” with drivers of approaching vehicles that may turn across his/her path.

Your child should be thoroughly familiar with the road rules that apply to motorised vehicles as a bicycle ridden on the road is considered a “vehicle”. Your child should be wearing a helmet which has a sticker displaying the Australian Standards Logo. The helmet should be adjusted so that it sits firmly over the forehead. Loose helmets or helmets worn on the back of the head do not provide required protection.

Your child’s bike should be checked to ensure

1. Rigid seat and handlebar.
2. Both front and back brakes operate.
3. Tyres are pumped up and have sufficient tread.
4. Both pedals are not broken and spin easily.
5. Has clearly visible reflector.
6. The bicycle is not too big or too small.
7. A bell is operational.
Responsibilities for Students

- To develop competent bicycle handling skills.
- To become familiar with behaviours expected when riding on the road e.g. keep to the left, always signal if changing position on the road, give way to pedestrians on the footpath.
- To be fully conversant with road rules.
- To ride responsibly, always mindful of other vehicles on the road.
- To wear a properly fitted helmet when cycling.
- To avoid dinking other students.
- To avoid riding more than two abreast (Only ride single file in busy traffic).
- To wheel the bicycle across the yard, not ride.
- To ride to school with one of my parents if I am not yet in Grade 5.
- To leave home in sufficient time to arrive at school by 8:40am.

Consequences

Children not obeying bike rules within the school boundaries will be given one warning and if the behaviour persists the matter will be referred to the Deputy Principal who will contact the parents. One week’s suspension from riding bike to school will then be given. If these rules continue to be broken the child will be prohibited from riding to school.

Responsibilities for Parents

- To ensure my child has a well maintained bicycle which is the correct size.
- To provide my child with a helmet which is correct size, and which adheres to the Australian standards and is securely fitted.
- To be aware that my child has developed a high standard of bicycle handling skills.
- To make my child aware of correct and courteous road behaviour.
• To make sure my child is familiar with the road rules for Victoria.
• To ride to school with my child who is currently below Grade 5.
• To make sure my child leaves home in enough time to arrive at school by 8:40am. so the teacher on duty is able to lock up the enclosure.
• To accompany child if below Grade 5 to the bike shed each morning otherwise it will be presumed the child has ridden to school unaccompanied.
• To make arrangements for the storage of bikes if child arrives after 8:50am., or take the bike home.
• To meet child if below Grade 5 at the bike enclosure by 3:35pm to collect bike.

Responsibilities for Teachers

• To supervise the morning storage of Bikes before 8:50am.
• To unlock bike enclosure by 3.35pm. For children to collect their bikes.
• To enforce the walking of bicycles through all schoolyards and along the footpath in the enclosed area of Robinson Street.
• To inform the Deputy Principal who will contact the parents if a child is observed not obeying road rules or riding in a dangerous manner.
• To ensure that children have a helmet. If not, they will not be permitted to ride their bike home. The Deputy Principal will be informed and he/she will contact the parents if the child is in Grade 5 or 6.
• To warn children of the consequences if the rules are broken.
• To inform the Deputy Principal of any child below Grade 5 riding a bike to school unaccompanied by a parent.

Evaluation of the Policy

The practice of allowing children below grade 5 to ride to school with one of their parents will be reviewed regularly. If children are riding to school without a parent, are not getting their bicycles to the enclosure on time or are observed to be creating a more congested, dangerous situation on the roads around the school then this practice will cease.