



St. Monica's Parish Primary School, Moonee Ponds

Ride to School Policy

Aims

- to ensure that students have the opportunity to ride to and from school safely
- to promote riding to school to reduce traffic congestion
- to educate children and parents in safe bicycle behaviour

Recommendations

Parents/carers/guardians are responsible for their children riding bicycles (including scooters) to and from school. It is important that parents/carers/guardians ensure that every child riding a bicycle:

- Wears an Australian Standard bicycle helmet that is marked suitable for cycling, is the correct size, and fits firmly and comfortably when riding
- Wears appropriate footwear and clothing
- Keeps their bicycle in good working order, has lights and a working bell or horn and regularly carries out safety checks
- The Bicycle used is the right size for the rider
- Knows and is able to follow all road rules and rides in a safe manner.

Children under 12 years of age may ride on the footpath, and so too can adults, if they are supervising bicycle riders under the age of 12. Students are encouraged to ride on footpaths where appropriate rather than busy roads.

It is recommended that children under 12 years of age do not ride on the road without adult supervision, until they have developed the understanding, skills and experience to cope with traffic. Depending on their cycling skills and experience, some children over this age may still require supervision.

Adult supervision (regardless of age) is essential until a child can demonstrate good bicycle control, behave safely when riding and show an understanding of the road rules.

To ride on the road safely your child needs to be able to:

- Communicate with other road users and signal their intentions
- Look ahead and scan the road and surroundings for potential hazards
- Ride in a straight line, one meter out from the kerb or parked cars
- Keep both hands on the handlebar, except when signaling turns

- Plan to avoid heavy traffic areas and choose the safest route and identify any 'safe houses' throughout their route
- Keep a safe distance from other vehicles in order to see and be seen
- Understand and obey the road rules
- Wear a correctly fitted Australian Standards helmet without being reminded
- Wear light and bright clothing and suitable shoes without being reminded
- Ride responsibly with friends (not allowed to 'dink' other children)
- Look out for cars entering and exiting driveways

Responsibilities for Parents

- to ensure children have a safe, working, well maintained bicycle that is the correct size
- to provide their child with an Australian Standard bicycle helmet that is the correct size, fits firmly and comfortably when riding
- to ensure that their child has developed a high standard of bicycle handling skills
- to make their child aware of correct and courteous community orientated road behavior
- to make sure their child is familiar with the Road Rules relating to bicycles for Victoria
- to travel to school with their child who rides and is currently below Year 5
- to ensure their child leaves home in enough time to arrive at school by 8.50am and to accompany a child if below Year 5 to the bicycle enclosure (when it will be locked by a teacher – if arriving after 8.50am the parent will need to make arrangements for the safe storage of the bicycle)
- before travelling home to meet the child if below Year 5 at the bicycle enclosure by 3.35pm

Responsibilities for Students

- to wear an Australian Standard bicycle helmet that is the correct size, fits firmly and comfortably when riding
- to be aware of the Road Rules and display proper and correct behaviour both on and off school grounds at all times
- to ride to school with a parent/carer/guardian when not in Year 5 or Year 6
- to leave home in enough time to arrive at school and be at the bike enclosure by 8.50am

School Reserves Right

- the school reserves the right to review or end this policy as and when required without notice.
- the school reserves the right to suspend or prohibit a child from riding their bicycle to school.

Resources

- [vicroads.vic.gov.au/bicycles](https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/bicycles) (see also current Victorian Road Safety Rules)
(see “A Family Guide to Bike Ed” publication from VicRoads - <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-safety-education/primary-schools/bike-ed>)
- roadsafetyeducation.vic.gov.au
- bicyclenetwork.com
- Moonee Valley Council
- police.vic.gov.au –provides useful information relating to cycling safety in Victoria

Permission Slip

Permission to Ride a Bicycle or Scooter to School

I _____ parent/carer/guardian have read through the policy and have explained them to my child. We understand the Victorian Road Rules and Regulations about riding a bicycle or scooter to and from school.

I therefore give permission for my child _____ in _____ to ride a bicycle/scooter to and from school.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

The material, references and recommendations in the Policy are general in nature. It is provided on the understanding that the parent/carer/guardian of the child may wish to obtain any appropriate further information or advice relevant their particular circumstances. The reference to 'bicycle' in this policy includes a scooter.