

Bike Education & Safe Riding to School

RATIONAL

Cycling is a popular leisure and sporting activity. Children derive pleasure and self esteem from learning to ride a bike and to ride safely in traffic in the local area and beyond. Children travelling to and from school, as well as those at school, need to feel and be safe. Bicycles are a popular means of transport for children, but their safe use requires regulation and management. Children must be taught the skills and understanding of the environment and the law.

GOALS

- To encourage students and families to adopt safe practices for cycling and when riding to and from school
- To promote an awareness among the school community of cycling as healthy activities for students and as an alternative mode of travel to and from school
- To gain knowledge and understanding of road traffic and the law so that the students will become competent to ride safely and independently on the road

IMPLEMENTATION

- Parents/carers are responsible for their children's safety when riding bicycles
- All parents and students will be made aware of the school rules, and the safety issues of bringing a bike onto school property
- Bicycles remain the responsibility of parents/carers and must be maintained in good, safe working order and fitted with a bell
- Students must dismount from their bicycles at the school entrance. Riding is not permitted inside the school grounds at any time, unless under direct supervision of a teacher
- Our school will provide appropriate storage for bicycles ridden to school by students
- Students must provide their own lock for securing their bicycle in the storage area
- Students must wear a properly fitted helmet when riding a bicycle
- In line with Department of Education guidelines and Vic Roads' advice, it is a school policy that:
 - Students in Prep to Year 3 ride to school in the company of an adult. Bicycles are a very popular method of transport for students, however it is well recognised that young children have underdeveloped motor skills, peripheral vision and judgement
 - Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 can ride to school without an adult, however they must have completed the school's Bike Education Program
- Years 4, 5 and 6 students will be offered a Bike Education program in Term 1 of each year to support the principles of safe riding in this policy
- Students who wish to ride a bicycle to school must have returned a signed Permission to Ride A Bike to School notice. Once this has been handed to the teacher-in-charge they will then be allocated a bike tag appropriate to their grade level. Students in Years Prep to 3 will be issued with numbered yellow tags and students in Years 4 to 6 with numbered blue tags. These tags must be attached to the front of their bikes. These notices will be issued to all students in Years 4, 5 and 6 on the completion of the Bike Education Program. Parents of students in Years Prep to 3 can obtain a form from the Office or the teacher-in-charge
- Infringement notices will be issued if students fail to adhere to this policy and bicycle safety rules

- **NOTE:** Scooters, skateboards and rollerblades are not permitted at Cheltenham Primary School under any circumstances
- Within the above context, cycling will be promoted as healthy activity for students and as an alternative mode of travel to and from school

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

The law requires that all cyclists must wear an approved bicycle helmet. Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS 2063) and will be marked as suitable for cycling.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

The responsibility for children riding bicycles to and from school lies with the parents/carers. Road safety authorities recommend that before the age of nine or ten years, children should not ride a bicycle in traffic without adult supervision. Depending on their cycling skills and experience, some children over this age may still require supervision. Children under the age of twelve may ride on footpaths as may a supervising adult. They are required to give way to pedestrians and to wheel their bicycles over pedestrian and children's crossings. Children aged twelve years or older are required by law to ride on the road.

ADDITIONAL RULES AND HINTS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENT COMMISSION

- Rules that apply to all vehicles must be obeyed when riding on the road. There are also some additional rules for bicycle riders. Talk to your child about these rules in simple terms that help them to understand why they are needed
- In the early stages, supervise a child closely when near parked or moving vehicles. This means being near your child, not at a distance. Set a good example and show your child safe ways to cross streets
- Encourage a child to start wearing a helmet at an early stage – with their first tricycles
- Until a child has enough experience, limit riding to places such as parks, playgrounds or school yards; children under nine years of age should not ride on the road without adult supervision
- Ensure that a helmet is always worn properly when riding a bicycle; it can greatly reduce the risk of head injury
- The helmet should cover the upper part of the forehead and sit level on the head. A helmet worn too far back or not fitted snugly will not provide good protection
- Together find the preferred routes to various destinations that provide safe crossing places, for example, intersections controlled by traffic lights; avoid places that can hide a child from a driver's view (such as curves or bushes)

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

2012