

“LET PEACE BE FOUND HERE”

St John's Primary School

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RIDING TO SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale

At St John's School we believe that the school has a duty of care to staff and students at all times. This duty of care includes promoting the safety of students, teachers and community members as they travel to and from our school and within the school grounds.

Definition

“Riding to School” means using a bicycle, scooter, ripstick, skateboard or any other wheeled recreational device.

Policy Statement

- To help ensure the safety of all concerned, children from Prep—Grade 3 should only ride to and from school with adult supervision.
- From Grade 4-6, children may ride to school unaccompanied, however this should only be allowed if the child has suitable road safety skills.
- All children must wear a helmet when riding a wheeled device.

Background

The responsibility for children riding to and from school lies with the parents/carers.

Road safety authorities recommend that before the age of 10 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 adult supervision.

Children under the age of 12 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 12 years or older are required by law to ride on the road.

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

Victoria Police state that children are at greater risk of injury when riding in traffic because:

- They are less likely to take notice of objects not directly in front of them due to under developed peripheral vision.
- They often have trouble judging the speed of cars.
- They have problems detecting where sounds are coming from
- They have a short concentration span
- They dart on and off the road without thinking
- They are unable to deal with sudden changes in traffic and
- They can't be relied upon to use consistently safe behavior especially when riding with their friends.

Implementation

To cater for students who do ride to school, St John's Primary School will provide an enclosure in which the children may store their bicycles, scooters and other wheeled devices during the school day. Within this enclosure there will be bike racks that will allow the children to use a chain lock or similar device to individually secure their wheeled device within the enclosure.

To help ensure the safety of all our students and the members of our school community, St John's Primary School does not allow any wheeled devices to be ridden within the school grounds. This includes those ridden by our students and other members of the community.

All children must dismount at the school gates and carry or walk their wheeled device to the bicycle enclosure. They must secure their wheeled device and then leave the enclosure immediately. This is to help eliminate children tampering with other children's devices. Only children who have a bicycle, scooter or other wheeled device at school are allowed within the bicycle enclosure.

Children who do not follow this rule or do not wear helmets when riding to and from school will be temporarily banned from bringing their device onto the school premises. The duration of the ban will be dependent upon the incident and any previous history of similar incidents.

Reflective Materials

Vic Roads Bicycle Road Rules

<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/RoadRules/Bicycles.htm>

Vic Roads Scooters and Wheeled Devices Road Rules

<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/SafetyAndRules/RoadRules/ScootersAndWheeledDevices.htm>

Victoria Police

<http://www.virtualbike.com.au>

Reviewed: 2013

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Next Review: