



ROAD SAFETY POLICY

Date Ratified by Board of Governors: 11/9/23

Date of Review: 11/9/25

The position of our school on a roadside means that there will always be a considerable risk of a road accident occurring. The amount of traffic on the roads, in general, has increased dramatically over recent years. As a result, too many accidents involving children occur nationally on a daily basis. Often, these accidents concern children during their home to school journeys. By developing this policy the school community acknowledges that we have a duty to help prevent such tragedies and will ensure to meet our educational responsibility to contribute to the effective road safety education to all pupils in its care.

AIMS

- To establish and maintain a school ethos that incorporates:
 - Safer journeys to school
 - Walking to school as the preferred means of travel
 - Congestion free school gates
 - Investigating and encouraging other forms of transport for school journeys
- To educate children and families in road safety issues and make them aware of the dangers of road traffic around the school environment
- To encourage children to take the road safety issues that they have learnt from school and adopt them in other areas of their lives i.e. around their home environment etc. so they may become confident with these skills
- To ensure the road safety skills that have been taught to children at an early age can be used as building blocks that can be built on as they get older
- To encourage a healthy attitude and walking culture amongst the school community that will lead to a healthier lifestyle
- To link with our Active Travel plan which covers aspects of school travel and related health and environmental issues

WALKING JOURNEYS

We encourage families to walk to school wherever possible. This will be done by:

- Regular reminders of the school ethos being made in the school's newsletter, road safety education to illustrate importance of walking to school, whole school Active Travel challenges and regular participation in national events such as Walk To School Week etc.
- Children to learn safe walking skills and road safety in accordance with the relevant sections of the Highway Code
- Families and children to be encouraged to either wear bright or reflective clothing or carry something of that description on their school journey especially in the winter and poor conditions
- Families to be encouraged to use the appropriate school crossing where school patrol is assisting

CAR JOURNEYS

If the use of the car is considered unavoidable for the journey to and from school:

- Families should park on the correct side of the road for drop off and pick up and adhere to the instruction of the school crossing patrol
- Families should then be encouraged to walk the final part of the journey to adhere to the school's walking ethos. Parents can park in the GAA club grounds for safe parking
- Families of new children to the school will be provided with information about the local area highlighting the parking areas which are deemed appropriate by the school
- Car drivers should be reminded to approach the school community with caution, drive at a sensible speed and be aware of other road users and pedestrians
- All car passengers should be restrained by seat belts and child locks should be used if appropriate and booster seat legislation must be adhered to
- The school will promote car sharing amongst those who live in the same vicinity and rely on the car as their only viable means of transportation

BUS JOURNEYS

- Children are to be reminded that they should enter and depart from the bus in an orderly and sensible manner with due regard for their environment and the carriageway
- Bus drivers must adhere to the school crossing patrol instruction and drop children off at the correct point on the road so that they can be safely crossed
- Bus drivers will be regularly advised to approach the school with caution and pay due care to other pedestrians and vehicles within the school environment

CYCLING AND SCOOTING

- Children are encouraged to cycle or scoot to school as long as they have prior consent from their families and wear a cycling helmet and safety gear made to relevant Standards specifications

ROAD SAFETY IN GENERAL

- Families are encouraged to notify the school of any road safety issues within the school community that they believe has the potential of causing an accident
 - Feedback should be given to the parent once the matter has been investigated
- The school will attempt to make and maintain links with relevant local authorities and work in partnership to ensure road safety best practices are upheld.
- Constant reminders of best road safety practice will be communicated to our families

ROAD SAFETY IN THE CURRICULUM

- Time is to be devoted within PDMU lessons for the topic of road safety and school travel
- Road safety issues will be raised during school assemblies
- Road safety will also be introduced to children through class work, specialist events, visiting speakers and national campaigns