



Guidelines for riding safely to and from school

Parents and carers are responsible for a student's travel to and from school. Schools take over responsibility and duty of care for the student once they enter the school premises.

Riding to and from school helps:

- reduce traffic.
- reduce our carbon footprint,
- promote physical activity,
- provide an opportunity for supervising adults to talk with their child about road safety.

As part of their overall care for students, schools often work together with their community to agree on guidelines for riding to and from school.

Primary aged students are **safest when they are supervised by an adult** when riding. Children under 16 can ride on the footpath, unless there are signs prohibiting cycling.

Key road safety messages for primary aged students have been developed to ensure consistent messages for children across NSW.

Early childhood	Early Stage 1 & Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Always wear your helmet when riding your bike or wheeled toy	Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate	Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate	Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
Always ask a grown-up where it is safe for you to play	Ride your bike in a safe place away from the road	Ride your bike in a safe place away from the road	Ride your bike away from busy roads

Schools teach students about safety on wheels as part of the PDHPE K-6 syllabus. Parents and

carers assist to reinforce what is taught and the safe, legal use of bikes, scooters and skateboards by encouraging their child to:

- wear a helmet and protective gear.
- understand and follow the road rules.
- give way to pedestrians.
- understand their responsibility for safe storage at school.

Parents and carers must consider the busy roads and conditions around the outside of our school and its impact on student safety before giving permission for a child to ride to school. Riding may not be the safest option for the pedestrians or the rider.

Safety obligations for schools, parents and carers

There are a number of safety and legal obligations for schools, parents and carers to consider when students are riding to and from school. Our school regularly reminds students, parents and carers about the importance of riding safely, wearing a helmet and storing their bike in the right place at school.

Riding safely

- Scooters, skateboards and rollerblades (wheeled recreation devices) are subject to NSW Road Rules.
- Cyclists in NSW must also follow the road rules. Children under 16 and older riders who are supervising them may ride on footpaths unless signs specifically prohibit it.
- All riders must keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.
- The Centre for Road Safety recommends children do not ride scooters, skateboards or rollerblades on roads.

Safe bikes

- All bikes must be in good safe working order fitted with working brakes, reflectors, a bell and lights if being used at night.
- A bell and brake are required by law.
- A safety check should be done before any trip on a bike and regular maintenance is recommended.

Helmets and safety gear

- Cyclists of all ages are required by law to wear a correctly fitted and fastened helmet that

meets the Australian Standard (AS/NZS 2063). Parents and carers are asked to support child safety by ensuring compliance with this law.

- Schools may advise parents or carers if a student is not wearing a helmet. The school may request the student not bring their bike onto school grounds.
- Transport for NSW recommends riders of scooters and skateboards wear an approved helmet (meets Australian standard (AS/NZS 2063) and protective gear such as knee pads and elbow pads.

Unsafe riding behaviour

- Schools must be safe places for everyone. The Principal can deny permission for a student bringing a bike, scooter or skateboard into the school if the school deems that the student is displaying unsafe behaviours when travelling to and from school, or if it considers bringing the wheeled device onto school property will affect the safety of others.
- If your child does not meet safety requirements, the school will advise parents or carers and will request the student not bring their bike, scooter or skateboard onto school grounds.

Storing bikes and helmets at school

- All bikes and scooters will be walked from the school gate to the bike racks located at the top of our school adjacent to our swimming pool. Bikes and scooters will be stored there until the end of the day. At the end of the school day, bikes and scooters will be walked to the gate. The Principal has the authority to stop students from bringing bikes, scooters and skateboards onto school property.
- Bikes and helmets need to be stored in the specified area. The school accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or theft. We recommend that students lock their bikes with a secure chain provided by the student.

Bicycle User's Contract

I have read and understand the school's **Guidelines for riding safely to and from school.**

- I will keep my bike well maintained with all component parts working correctly.
- I will wear my Standards Australia approved helmet correctly when riding a bicycle to and from school.
- I will bring my bicycle to school at my own risk and will secure it with a lock and chain in the bike rack.
- I will not ride a bike or scooter on school grounds. I will walk my bike or scooter to the rack.

Signed (child): _____

Signed (parent): _____

Date: _____