

	Policy Name:	Bicycle and Scooter Policy	Date of Approval:	2019
	Responsible:	Finance Committee	Review Date:	2024

BICYCLE AND SCOOTER POLICY

1. PURPOSE

Tyabb Primary School supports families whose children wish to ride bicycles and scooters to and from school for a variety of healthy lifestyle and environmental reasons.

Principals and Teachers have a legal duty of care to take reasonable steps to protect students in their charge from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable. This duty of care may extend beyond the actual grounds of the school and outside school hours where there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of injury of which the school knew or ought to have known.

With the location of our school on a very busy intersection and our significant parking and traffic management issues, the School recognises that there is an increased element of risk associated with the use bicycles and scooters for travel to and from school. The development and implementation of this Traffic Safety Policy is aimed at reducing this element of risk.

2. AIMS:

- To ensure the safety of students travelling to and from school.
- To facilitate a safe road traffic environment in and around the school.
- To balance the rights of individuals with the school's duty of care to all students.
- To ensure a safe environment for all staff and students.
- To raise the profile of traffic safety within the local school community.
- To provide up to date information to parents and guardians.
- To liaise with local and government authorities.
- To provide guidance and recommendations for parents and guardians in their decision making.
- To highlight to parents and guardians their responsibilities in regard to traffic safety and education.

3. IMPLEMENTATION:

Parent Responsibilities

- The responsibility for children to and from school lies with their parents and guardians.
- It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that all bicycles and scooters ridden to school are safe and roadworthy and that children have an adequate level of riding and traffic competency.

Management

- The school will make all parents and guardians aware of this policy.

- This policy will be communicated to parents and guardians by:
 - Including a copy in the Information Pack provided to new families who come to the school during the year
 - Publishing the policy on the school website
- Parents and guardians are asked to reinforce positive traffic safety practices with students.
- The School may from time to time call on the advice of external consultants (eg Bike Ed consultants, police) for advice and Professional Development.
- The school will provide a lock up area for bicycles and scooters. However, the school takes no responsibility for the security of bicycles and scooters which are brought to school.
- In the interest of safety no child is permitted to ride their bicycle within the school grounds, except on organised activities which are supervised by a teacher.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

The school aims to reduce the risk associated with the use of bicycles and scooters for travel to and from school by providing the following information and recommendations for parents and guardians

Recommendations from road safety authorities:

- Prior to year 4, children should not ride in traffic without adult supervision.
- Depending on their cycling skills and experience, some children over this age may still require supervision.
- All riders must wear bike helmets – it is the law.
- Riders should use approved helmets with the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS 2063) and marked as suitable for cycling. The approval sticker on the helmet must be clearly visible, legible and fixed in its original position on the helmet.
- 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 bicycle and scooters over pedestrian and children's crossings.
- Children aged twelve years or older are required by law to ride on the road or on a designated bicycle path.
- All bicycles and scooters ridden to school should be safe, serviceable, roadworthy and of an appropriate size.
- Children under year 4 should ride on formed pathways only and not directly on the road.

The school recommends that:

- Children under year 4 level stop and walk their bicycles and scooters across school crossings and commercial driveways (i.e. Flinders College, Cemtex Cement Factory and Tyabb Fly Inn). Visibility is a particular issue at the Mornington Tyabb Rd entrance to Flinders College and special caution should be exercised.
- Children walk their bicycles and scooters up and down Jones Rd Hill, to and from the school entrance and within the school grounds
- Children under year 4 level should not ride along the section of Mornington Tyabb Rd which is west of the school heading towards Mornington due to the lack of formed pathways. Note it is strongly recommended that no children ride along this section of road.
- Due to the dangerous location and the lack of clear visibility all children riding along Mornington Tyabb Rd from the direction of the Tyabb Township should use the crossing in Boes Rd and should not cross at the roundabout.

- Parents and guardians assess their child’s riding ability and understanding of traffic safety by asking the following questions:
 - Can the child keep their balance while riding slowly?
 - Can the child steer around sharp corners without falling off?
 - Can the child keep their balance on narrow paths?
 - Can the child brake suddenly without falling off?
 - Can the child keep their balance when dodging trees, rocks etc?
 - Does the child understand basic road/footpath safety?
 - Does the child know how to look and listen for pedestrians and traffic?
 - Can the child follow directions from an adult leader?

5. REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was reviewed on the 18th February 2019 and is scheduled for review in February 2024