



## Cycling to School Policy

### 1. Overview

Healthy alternatives to travelling to school by car are to be encouraged by all at Robert Miles Junior School. This is in keeping with the school's Healthy Schools status and our commitment to promoting care for the environment. This policy is intended to provide parents, carers and pupils with guidelines should they wish their child to cycle to school. The policy aims to allow pupils to cycle to school in as safe and controlled manner as we possibly can.

These are only guidelines – parents are reminded that responsibility for travel to and from school is **ultimately the responsibility of parents**. The guidelines will hopefully give all the information parents need to be able to decide for themselves if cycling to school is something that they wish their child(ren) to do.

Schools cannot legally prohibit cycling for the school journey but we are entitled to prohibit bikes from being brought onto the school grounds, which is what we will do should pupils cycle to school without due regard to this policy.

A condensed version of this policy will be available for parents to discuss with their child. If they wish their child(ren) to cycle they must sign and return a consent form. (*Child Cycle User Permission Letter*)

### 2. Unaccompanied Cycling

The Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents advises that children under the age of 10/11 have not normally attained sufficient cognitive hazard perception skills in order to cycle safely unaccompanied. We offer on road cycle training in Year 6 through the Local Authority Road Safety Team and it is only when pupils have successfully completed this that they will be allowed to cycle to school unaccompanied.

The journey to school for the majority of our children involves at least one busy road crossing and therefore we do not feel it is appropriate for children who have not been trained to cycle on their own.

Pupils who have not yet completed the training may cycle to school but only if accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult, not an elder sibling of secondary school age.

### 3. Cycling Helmets and Clothing

Although not a legal compulsion, the school believes that children should always wear a cycle helmet (that meets current safety regulations) when cycling to and from school. Pupils who do not wear a helmet will not be allowed to store their bikes on the school premises.

Pupils are also strongly advised to wear appropriate reflective high visibility clothing.

### 4. Cycle Maintenance

All bicycles must be of a suitable size for the child and in a roadworthy condition with two working brakes, reflectors and a bell. School will look at providing a basic cycle maintenance club to encourage children to look after their own cycles.

### 5. Storage

We will supply an area where pupils can lock their cycles securely to a fixed point and we will

strongly encourage cycle combination locks to be used.

Schools are not liable for property on their premises, and are therefore not liable for pupil's cycles being stolen or damaged by a third party. If we provide storage facilities we could, however, be said to have assumed responsibility for the safety of the bikes while on the premises and might be liable for damage or theft of a bike if parents/carers could prove that the school (or its employees) was negligent. Our school will avoid this liability by making clear to that we are not responsible for the safety of pupils' bicycles while they are being stored.

Each classroom will have a designated area where pupils can store their helmets.

## **6. Cycling on the School Grounds**

Cycling anywhere on the school grounds is strictly prohibited and pupils who do so will not be allowed to bring their cycle onto the grounds. Pupils must dismount as soon as they reach the school gate and push their cycle to the storage area.

## **7. Other Safety Guidelines**

It is assumed that all parents who cycle with their child(ren) to school ensure their child(ren) have a basic understanding of road rules and the Highway Code.

If it comes to the attention of the school that pupils are lending their bikes to other pupils on the way to school, or carrying passengers on their bikes they will no longer be permitted to store their cycles on the school premises.

Many of our pupils will have to cross Fairfield Street which can get very busy before and after school. As with pedestrians, we strongly advise pupils to use either the lights where Fairfield Street meets Nottingham Road or the Crossing Patrol next to School Lane.

## **8. Cycling on Pavements**

It is illegal for any cyclist, irrespective of age, to cycle on pavements. We expect parents to use their own discretion about where their child cycles.

### **Policy History**

Adopted: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (Strategic Development Committee)

Date for review: Autumn 2016



## Child Cycle User Permission Letter – Parent Copy

Any child wishing to cycle to school and store their cycle on the school premises needs both parental and school permission to do so. This will be granted when the following guidelines have been discussed with the pupil cycling and the signed consent form is returned to school. The full Cycling to School Policy can be found on the school website.

**Parents are reminded that how child(ren) travel to and from school is ultimately the responsibility of parents.**

### Cycling to School Guidelines:

- Pupils will not be allowed to cycle to school unaccompanied unless they have completed the Local Authority provided Level 2 on-road cycle training. This will be offered to all pupils in year 6.
- Pupils who have not had the appropriate training may cycle to school **but only if accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult**. An older sibling of secondary school age does not count as a responsible adult. Parents will make the decision about whether they feel their child is mature and safe enough to cycle accompanied.
- Pupils will not be allowed to store their bike at school if they do not wear an appropriate fitted cycle helmet for the entirety of their journey to and from school.
- All cycles to be stored at school must be in a roadworthy condition with two brakes, reflectors and a bell.
- Children should, where possible, wear high visibility clothing and in winter parents should consider fitting adequate front and rear lighting to cycles.
- Cyclists **MUST** dismount as soon as they approach the school gates and push their cycles to the cycle storage areas.
- The school cannot accept any responsibility for loss, theft or damage to any cycle or associated items brought to school. Cycles should be locked securely in the cycle storage area.

The headteacher reserves the right to withdraw permission to store cycles at school should the above guidelines not be adhered to.

These guidelines have been adopted by the governing body to help ensure the safety of all pupils and to promote safe practices when cycling.

November 2013



## Child Cycle Users Permission Letter – Child Copy

In order to cycle to school I will remember the following:

- I am not allowed to cycle to school on my own until I have passed the Bikeability Level 2 training in Year 6.
- I can only cycle to school if my parents/carers think I am sensible and mature enough.
- I have to cycle with a responsible adult (not a brother or sister at Toot Hill).
- I will wear a helmet for the whole journey and will only take it off when I have got off my bike.
- I will keep my bike in good condition and make sure it has good, working brakes, reflectors and a bell.
- I will wear bright clothing when at all possible so other road users can see me.
- I will ALWAYS get off my bike and push it as I approach the school gates. I will never cycle on the school grounds unless I am doing a cycle course.
- I know that my bike is my responsibility and the best way to make sure it stays safe is to lock it up.
- I know that I should not cycle in a way that puts other road users or pedestrians at risk.

If I do not follow all these guidelines I know that I will no longer be allowed to cycle and store my bike at school.



## Cycling to School Parental Consent

I consent for my child / children ..... to cycle to school.

I agree that:

- I have read and understand the guidelines provided (Child and Parent Cycle Users Permission Letter).
- I have discussed these guidelines with my child.
- I understand that should the guidelines not be adhered to the school will withdraw the privilege of bringing a cycle onto the school premises.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Relationship to child: .....

## Cycling to School Child's Agreement

My name:.....

I agree that I have read through all the guidelines and discussed them with my parents/carers.

Signed: ..... Date: .....