



PATTERSON LAKES PRIMARY SCHOOL

No. 5190

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RIDING TO SCHOOL POLICY – BICYCLES AND SCOOTERS



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school.

PURPOSE

This policy clarifies roles and responsibilities of parents and schools in relation to students travelling to and from school, particularly in relation to riding bicycles and scooters.

SCOPE

- Parents or carers are responsible for their children travelling to and from school.
- Bicycles are not toys, they are vehicles and, under the law, cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as car drivers. Cyclists need to increase their safety, obey the road rules and maintain their bicycles properly. With this safety concern in mind, the Patterson Lakes Primary School Council recommends that parents do not allow their children to ride their bicycles to school before Year 3 without supervision.

POLICY

- Bicycles and scooters are a very popular means of transport for students, but are also often involved in serious accidents.
- It is well recognised that young children have underdeveloped motor skills, peripheral vision and judgement.
- All parents will be made aware of these school rules and the safety reasons supporting them.
- Bicycles and scooters cannot be ridden unsupervised inside the school grounds between 8:30am and 4pm.
- Approved helmets which have the Australian Standards Mark™ (AS/NZS 2063) must be worn by all riders of bicycles and scooters to and from school.
- Students who contravene these requirements cannot bring their bicycles or scooters onto school property or store them at school for up to a 10 week period or as determined by the Principal.
- Our school will provide safe and secure storage for bicycles and scooters ridden to school by students with the Bike Shed being locked between the hours of 9am and 3:30pm. Bicycles and scooters may continue to be stored outside these times but the bike shed will not be locked.
- Rollerblades and skateboards are banned as there are no regulations that can be enforced to ensure the safety of students.

VIC ROAD CYCLING GUIDELINES

1. Traffic control signals and traffic signs must be obeyed. Cyclists must stop at all red traffic lights and stop signs.
2. An approved bicycle helmet must be worn at all times when cycling. There is a fine of \$227 for not wearing an approved bike helmet. Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark™ (AS/NZS 2063).
3. Lights and reflectors must be fitted to bicycles for night riding. Rear lights must be red and front lights must be white. Both lights must be visible at up to 200 metres and both can be flashing.
4. When riding on shared footways cyclists must keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.
5. Hook turns may be undertaken at any intersection, unless a sign has been erected to prohibit a hook turn.
6. Cyclists must ride in bicycle lanes when they are marked on the roads.
7. Riding two abreast is permitted, however cyclists must ride no more than 1.5 metres apart.
8. Hand signals must be used when turning right, but are not required when turning left, or stopping.
9. An efficient brake and a warning device, such as a bell, must be fitted to a bicycle before it may be ridden.
10. Overtaking on the left of a vehicle is permitted unless the vehicle being overtaken is turning left, or indicating to turn left.
11. Riding to the left of a white edge line is permitted by cyclists.
12. Riding closer than two metres behind another vehicle is not permitted.
13. Holding onto a moving vehicle while riding a bicycle is not permitted.
14. Leading an animal while riding a bicycle is not permitted.
15. Bicycles may be parked on footpaths and nature strips.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways

- Available publicly on our school's website.
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required.
- Included as part of the school's annual parent information package.
- Included as an annual reference in the school newsletter and on Compass.
- Made available in hard copy from the school administration upon request.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Consultation	School Council – February, March & May, 2023
Approved by	Carole Mayes - Principal Mandy O'Toole – School Council President
Next scheduled review date	February, 2024