

# **ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION POLICY**

## **GOAL**

All children make safe school journeys and undertake learning that increases their lifelong capacity to contribute to a safer road system.

## **PURPOSE**

Road safety is a shared responsibility between the school, whānau, parents, caregivers, the children, the territorial authority, the NZ Transport Agency, and the New Zealand Police.

The purpose of road safety education is to eliminate death or injury to children on or around roads. It also provides children and their caregivers with increased confidence and ability to take part in travel modes such as walking, cycling and scooting.

Road safety education is a lifelong process that continues to develop as people gain independence. At school, it takes place through curriculum-based learning and children's participation in safe road use practices, including in and around the school gate, drop-off zones, bus stops, pedestrian crossings and during school trips.

## **Our school's prevention actions**

1. The school will include a road safety unit each year as part of our school curriculum. Children will receive training in road safety procedures, including but not limited to:

- safe road crossing
- use of walkways
- safe practices in and around buses and other vehicles
- cycling (Year 5+).

For student in Years 3-8 the units will focus on inquiry into road safety practices. As a result, children will be able to demonstrate responsibility for their own safety around roads, and will seek to influence the road environment to ensure safer journeys for themselves around the community. Findings from these inquiries may necessitate adaptations to:

- this policy
- road engineering around our school community
- the enforcement of road, cycle, and walking rules.

2. Staff and adults in the school community will be encouraged to model and reinforce good road safety practices.

3. Caregivers will be consulted about, and informed of expectations, for children's travel to and from school.

4. The controlled pedestrian crossing is the only approved safe crossing point for our school. The operation of this crossing will be based on the [School Traffic Safety Team Manual](#). The crossing will be supervised by a teacher or caregiver [*morning start and finish times, and afternoon start and finish times*]. All students in the school patrol will complete training before being assigned to duty. Children and caregivers must use the pedestrian crossing when school patrols are in operation.

5. Permission from the Deputy Principal or assigned senior management person must be obtained for children who wish to cycle to and from school. For children Year 4 and under who cycle to or from school, their caregivers are advised to arrange for an adult to accompany them. Safety helmets must be used by all cyclists. Whānau, parents and caregivers are responsible for the road-worthiness of the bicycle and the riding ability of the student.

6. Students who ride bicycles or scooters to school will sign the school's safe cycling and scooting contract, which outlines the school's expectations for using their cycle or scooter near the school gate and within school grounds.

7. All staff members, adult volunteers and students taking part in the school's walking school bus will be informed of their respected responsibilities, and will follow agreed routes and procedures.

8. The approved drop off and pick up point for children transported to or from school by car is ... [*entered by each school*]. Parents will be regularly notified of this requirement.

9. Parking on the school grounds during the school day is only permitted according to [*school's procedure entered by each school*]. Parents will be regularly notified of this requirement.

10. Parents/caregivers transporting children to or from curricular and co-curricular activities must be briefed on the route to be followed, and must ensure:

- there is a diagonal shoulder seatbelt for every child carried
- children are correctly secured:
  - up to 7<sup>th</sup> birthday: in an approved child restraint
  - 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> birthday: in an approved child restraint if one is available in the vehicle (if not available, in any child restraint or safety belt that is available)
  - 8<sup>th</sup> birthday to 14 years: in a safety belt if one is available (if not available, they must travel in the back seat)
  - [*Add if your policy wants to include this point*] International best practice recommends the use of an appropriate child restraint (or booster seat) until children reach 148 cm tall or are 11 years old.
- they have a current registration, insurance and warrant of fitness for the vehicle
- they possess a current full New Zealand driver licence.

11. The school will develop a bus procedure which provides guidance on safe student behaviour on and around buses. The procedure will explain how the bus operator, the school and relevant caregivers will respond to unsafe behaviour. The school will:

- base the procedure on the Ministry of Education’s [Safe Behaviour on Buses Programme](#)
- set up and train a team of student bus wardens, based on the [School Traffic Safety Teams Manual](#)
- keep caregivers informed of safe bus procedures, including placing the Making Safe Choices leaflet ([Leaflet for Years 1-8](#) or [Leaflet for Years 9-13](#)) into welcome packs for new families.

12. The Board of Trustees and the Principal will ensure that all road safety education activities and school travel comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and the Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

13. The school will assess if road safety education offered by external providers is fit for purpose, using the [Guidelines for Assessing Road Safety Education for Young People](#).

### **Our school’s response actions**

14. If parents or caregivers, students or school staff identify illegal or dangerous road user behaviour it should be reported to the Police.

15. If parents or caregivers, students or school staff identify careless and risky road user behaviour when travelling to or from school, this should be reported to the school office. School action may include:

- enlisting the services of the Police (e.g. School Community Officer or the local community constable)
- speaking directly to the person concerned
- informing the school community about safe and appropriate road safety behaviour in the school newsletter.

### **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually and communicated to members of the school community.

### **APPROVED DATE**

Board of Trustees Chairperson: .....