



Bayside SNS

Policy on Pupil Use of Bikes/Scooters/Skateboards & any other similar vehicles

Introduction:

The school policy on pupil use of bikes/scooters/skateboards etc. was drafted as a whole school exercise, involving parents, pupils, staff and Board of Management. It was circulated to the entire school community and posted on the school website.

Rationale:

The need for the school to produce a policy on pupil use of bikes/scooters/skateboards etc. is primarily due to:

- Pupils are increasingly travelling to school using a variety of vehicles as we try to promote environmentally friendly ways of transport.
- Parking and traffic issues around the school make it difficult for cars to access so pupils are finding alternative ways to access the school.
- Families are aware of the importance of being active and these methods of transport are seen as good ways of keeping healthy and fit.

Relationship to School Ethos:

Bayside SNS strives to provide a child friendly, secure environment catering for all the needs of all students as far as is practicable and where respect is fostered in a culture which values diversity and difference.

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide for the welfare of all pupils while on the school premises
- To ensure a safe, child friendly school environment is available to all children
- To comply with Health and Safety legislation

Procedures

Arriving to school:

- **Electronic bikes and scooters are not permitted for pupil use.**
- Pupils must dismount from their bike/scooter/skateboard before entering the school grounds.
- Pupils must wheel their scooter/bike or carry their skateboard on entering the grounds.
- Pupils must only access the school grounds via the two gates in the laneway **up until 9.20am**. After 9.20am pupils may use the pedestrian gate at the front of the school. *Under no circumstances should pupils come into school via the vehicular entrance at the front.*
- **Pupils should wear a helmet while on their bike/scooter/skateboard and any other appropriate safety gear.**
- Pupils may use the bike racks at the front of the school. **The school and Board of Management are not liable for any property left on the premises.** We advise that anyone using the bike racks should bring a lock and make sure their bike/scooter is secured while in school. It is a good idea to note the serial number on any new bike when purchased and keep this in a safe place in case the bike is lost or stolen.

- We do not have storage inside of the school building for any of these vehicles.

Leaving school:

- Pupils should wheel or carry their bike/scooter/skateboard while on the school grounds and only mount them when they have exited via the pupil gates in the laneway.

Please note:

- Please check www.rsa.ie for the most up to date procedures around travel regulations.
- It is illegal for persons under the age of 16 to ride an MPV (mechanically propelled vehicle) in a public place. **No pupils are permitted to use any mechanically propelled bike or scooter while travelling to and from our school.** If the bike is not an MPV there is no law against children riding it in a public place. We strongly recommend that young children should always be supervised if riding in a public place.
- Parents, guardians and pupils are reminded that pedestrians have the right of way. Please exercise caution when travelling on a bike/scooter/skateboard etc. and be mindful of your own others' safety at all times and observe the rules of the road when travelling to and from school.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The use of bikes/scooters/skateboards etc. in the school place particular responsibilities on various personnel within the school chain of command;

- Positive school community feedback
- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- Maintaining a safe school environment for all staff, children and parents

Ratification and Communication:

This policy has been in operation in the school having been communicated by the then BoM by means of circular following ratification at a school BoM meeting.

Implementation and Review:

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis in light of any changes to school or legislative procedures.