

# Macosquin Primary School



## ROAD SAFETY POLICY



**'Together as a school family, we are committed to nurturing and motivating our children, enabling them to reach their full potential and shine- today and in the years ahead!'**



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## 1. Policy statement

The responsibility for road safety for pupils is a joint role between the teachers, governors, parents/carers, and the pupils. That responsibility includes setting an appropriate example.

The school will identify and implement safe practices during school activities. Road safety education in primary schools is an important and integrated part of safety and health education taught in school as part of a planned and monitored PDMU curriculum. Macosquin Primary School will endeavour to make its contribution to community efforts to reduce road related child deaths and serious injuries through Road Safety Education. This should prepare pupils to be safer road users throughout their lives.

## 2. School Ethos

At Macosquin the pupils are at the heart of our school. Our team of dedicated staff provide a positive, caring and child-centred environment which recognises uniqueness and celebrates success in every child. We firmly believe that our approach will self-motivate, aiming to inspire a love of learning, unlocking the potential that lies within all our children; preparing them to be happy, successful and responsible citizens now and in the future.

Our school vision for every child is:

‘Together as a school family, we are committed to nurturing and **motivating** our children, enabling them to reach their full **potential** and **shine**- today and in the years ahead.

## 3. Introduction

This policy document reflects the aims of the school, and takes account of the guidance received from the DOE and from the PSNI. The school has consulted with the children, the staff, the parents and the Governors, in order to prepare and finalise this Road Safety Policy.

We value all of our pupils equally. The school will strive, in partnership with parents, to educate children in the proper and safe use of roads, promoting safe behaviour and practice, as well as an attitude which respects those dangers which will be encountered on or near roads.

The school acknowledges the diverse backgrounds of its pupils and that they will, therefore, be faced with a wide variety of risks. Since perception, expressive language and understanding are critical to this “life skill”, lessons will endeavour to meet the needs of children particularly challenged in these areas.

Given this situation, one of the focuses of the school’s Road Safety Education Programme will be to encourage all of our pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence to enable them to make critical and informed decisions regarding road safety now and in later life.

The teaching of Road Safety Education will not solve all of our community’s road safety problems but without a carefully planned programme, our children will be ill-equipped when confronting the many issues and situations which can arise on or near our roads.

#### **4. Principles and Responsibilities**

##### **Staff and Parents**

As a school, whilst we encourage children and parents to walk, cycle or scoot to school, we are aware that travel to school by car for many parents and teachers is a necessity, given the distance they may live from school. At Macosquin Primary School, there is a car-park owned by the housing Executive that the school uses for members of the school staff, parents dropping off and collecting their children and authorised visitors e.g. delivery vehicles and contractors only. The following rules and responsibilities should be carefully monitored:

- It is expected that those who use the school car park will park considerately, mindful of leaving enough space for other cars to manoeuvre and exit.
- All staff and visitors must be vigilant at all times when entering, exiting and manoeuvring around the car park.
- A speed limit of 5mph applies in the car park.
- Cars should not be parked on, or driven onto the pavement.
- Cars must not park across entrances/ exits.
- Parents may bring their car into the school car park if they are dropping off a child to breakfast club, dropping off or collecting a child when school starts, ends or for an extra-curricular club.
- This must, however, be done punctually to avoid traffic congestion. Your child's teacher will ensure all parents are aware of the time slot for their child to be dropped off and collected. Parents should not use the carpark for meeting and conversing with each other.
- Similarly, if a parent is collecting a child during the school day because the child is unwell or has an appointment they need to attend, the parent can access the car park to allow them to collect their child from school.

##### **Pupils' Road Safety Rules and Responsibilities**

- No child is permitted in the car-park without a parent or teacher being present.
- The opening of the main gate by children is not allowed.
- The wearing of seatbelts is compulsory on all school related outings in buses, teachers or parents' cars.
- On school outings (trips, swimming and the walking bus) no child is permitted to go ahead of the leading teacher or fall behind the rear guard.
- Balls, hoops, bean bags etc. escaping to the road or neighbouring property, must only be retrieved by a member of staff.
- Any child wishing to bring a bicycle on to school grounds must be wearing a suitable cycle helmet.
- All cyclists must dismount their bicycles upon entering the school carpark and walk them through the front or back gate depending on their year group. Cyclists will repeat this procedure when leaving school.
- All school children will be escorted by a member of staff on to the school bus or taxi.

##### **School's Responsibilities**

Although aspects of Road Safety are built into our Health and Safety Policy, it is important that aspects of Road Safety be discussed and reinforced regularly, particularly if there have been any incidents where a pupil's safety has been put at risk.

The following aspects of Road Safety will be included in the curriculum:

- How to use a zebra crossing safely
- Safety at play in and round the school
- How to cross the road safely (The Green Cross Code)
- Boarding and behaviour on school buses/taxis
- Reinforcement of wearing of seat belts while on school transport

- Cycle Safety and encouragement of wearing helmets
- Rules for school journeys made by class groups on foot
- Awareness of all types of traffic – including farm traffic
- Cycle training for Year 7 children.
- Dealing with accidents – how to summon help, etc.

## **5. Safe Practices**

### **School Transport**

The school buses have a designated drop-off and pick-up point. Waiting areas are clearly explained to all new pupils and safety issues discussed. The designated staff will collate a daily register of the pupils who are using the school bus/taxi and will supervise the bus/taxi area at the end of the school day.

### **School Trips**

Safety procedures are recognised as a factor when planning a school visit and specific practices are identified as appropriate for each trip. Safe pupil behaviour is expected. Parental consent for all trips must be obtained.

### **The School Gates/ Carpark**

The school clearly communicates entrances and exits to the school community. All new pupils and parents are made aware of collection/drop off times and how to enter and exit the school. Parents are informed of where to park when visiting the school both during the day and during events such as parents' evenings and fund raising events. Staff and pupils who assist with parking at school events will wear reflective/fluorescent clothing.

### **Bicycles**

Pupils are strongly advised to wear safety helmets. Depending on key stage the child will be shown by their teacher where to park their bicycle.

### **School Uniform**

For safety purposes, pupils are allowed to add reflective safety aids to their school uniform. Children are advised to wear their reflective vest when taking part in the Walking Bus on Fridays.

### **School Premises**

The school is kept secure to prevent children leaving the premises and to monitor visitors. All entrances- including the double carpark gates and the Foundation Stage back gate will be locked from 9am. The main entrance to the school office will be locked from 9am. You can only access by ringing the door bell and speaking to office staff before permission is granted to enter the school.

## **6. Aims of the Road Safety Education Programme**

- To place the pupils at the centre of a programme, which helps them to understand the impact of road safety upon their lives.
- To equip children with the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour as pedestrians, passengers or cyclists on or near roads.
- To encourage parental responsibility.
- To make children aware that actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this.
- To help children develop respect for themselves and others by encouraging positive role modelling within the school environment through peer support strategies; e.g. Circle Time, Drama Workshops etc.
- To enable children to communicate their views and feelings about road safety using appropriate language.
- To develop self-confidence and awareness in pupils so that they can give correct information and cope adequately with inaccurate information and detrimental peer pressure.

- To engage children in risk assessment exercises relating to road safety issues in hypothetical and real, locally based situations.

## **7. Organisation of the Road Safety Programme**

Road Safety Education will be taught across the curriculum, but mainly through Thematic learning and Health Education. The Road Safety material used in Macosquin will form part of the school's Personal Development and Mutual Understanding scheme. The Northern Ireland Curriculum provides a range of opportunities for schools to highlight road safety.

Although specific topics will be addressed, Road Safety is best addressed through a combination of subject specific and cross curricular approaches. This approach will ensure that Road Safety Education is a regular and integral part of a child's education at Macosquin Primary School.

Staff will use a variety of teaching strategies and approaches which incorporate the use of all of the children's senses. Tasks and experiences will reflect the maturity of pupils whilst taking particular account of the mobility and the visual and auditory needs of all pupils in practical situations.

Class teachers will deliver most of the Road Safety programmes. Occasions will arise, however, when the expertise of outside agencies and other professionals will be used. For example: Road Safety Education Officers for cycling proficiency and pedestrian skills; and PSNI officers. Assemblies are scheduled and planned to focus on Road Safety messages and the Sustrans Programme associated events which also support key messages.

Normal classroom arrangements will prevail during road safety related activities. Where it is necessary to alter this, the consent of parents will be sought. For example: An educational visit related to a Road Safety Education topic; or A pedestrian training observation walk. Teachers are encouraged to base as much Road Safety teaching as possible on existing schemes and topics and to include practical sessions in the locality.

## **8. Staff Training**

As issues and opportunities are identified, staff will engage in training in Road Safety Education.

## **9. Equal Opportunities**

The school will seek to ensure that the Road Safety Education programme is relevant and accessible to pupils, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, religion or social class. In respect of Road Safety Education, we will ensure that children from rural/farming locations and those from residential areas have all got valuable lessons to learn from our programme. All children will be taught together through lessons appropriate to their age and development.

## 10. Road Safety Education Programme Overview

Road Safety Elements	Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
<b>Pedestrian Skills</b>	<p>That it is always best to hold hands with a known adult.</p> <p>The importance of staying well away from machinery on farms, building sites, grass cutting, bin lorries etc.</p>	<p>The language and skills necessary to co-operate with adults who help keep us safe on roads.</p> <p>Know Be Safe. Be Seen and the Stop Look Listen and Think Sequence.</p>	<p>Know how to best apply the "Green Cross Code"</p> <p>About the challenges they might meet on rural and urban roads.</p>
<b>Passenger Skills</b>	<p>Know how to behave safely in cars and buses.</p> <p>The importance of seatbelts when travelling on transport.</p>	<p>The skills necessary for safe travel in cars and buses.</p> <p>Why tractors, large machinery are unsafe.</p>	<p>Safe ways to board and disembark from home-School transport independently.</p> <p>To be able to exercise appropriate road crossing.</p>
<b>Risk Identification/ Hazard Control</b>	<p>Understand that roads and traffic can be very dangerous and that there are safer places to play.</p> <p>That there are special people who help us keep safe on roads.</p> <p>What is meant by dangerous. Identify safe places to play.</p>	<p>That it is best to have help when crossing roads.</p> <p>The importance of wearing a suitable cycle helmet.</p> <p>That they can spot dangers by themselves by looking and listening.</p>	<p>How conspicuity might reduce collisions.</p> <p>The basic safety rules of machinery on farms, roads and railways.</p> <p>What hazards and risks are, able to carry out simple risk assessment.</p>
<b>Cycle Training</b>	<p>How to with assistance put on a helmet. Which are the safest places for riding bikes.</p>	<p>Which are the safest places for riding skateboards and mini scooters etc. Importance of wearing a helmet.</p>	<p>How bicycles are best maintained and ridden. Primary 7 cycling proficiency.</p>

### Monitoring and Evaluating

Children will be given opportunities to discuss, question, predict, describe and explain Road Safety learning and put it into practice. A review of the Road Safety Education Policy, procedures and scheme provision will take place every two years and amendments will be made where necessary.