

Bicycle Policy

SOUTH OTTERINGTON PRIMARY School

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1. At South Otterington C of E Primary School we recognise both the environmental and health benefits of cycling to school and wish to promote safe cycling to school. Cycling gives children freedom as it provides an opportunity for independent travel. The school encourages cycling as a safe and affordable means of getting to and from school with minimal impact on the environment.

Parents are responsible for the safe transport of children to school. We strongly recommend that children who cycle to school are accompanied by an adult, until such time as the parent is confident the child has the knowledge and skills to be allowed to cycle unsupervised.

Our school promotes cycling in the following ways:

- All pupils are expected to undertake cycle training in Year 6. The school arranges for North Yorkshire CC to run a Bikeability course at the school

As part of the curriculum on health, safety, environment and welfare, all pupils are expected to:

- Wear a helmet
- Investigate a suitable cycle route for their journey to and from school
- Let parents/guardians know the route they will be using
- Report any problems with their route to either the school or their parents/guardians
- Dismount on arrival at the school gate (bicycles are not to be ridden on the school premises unless pupils are training with the appropriate adult from NYCC)

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Provide and be responsible for their own bicycle and lock
- Wear clothes that are visible to other road users
- Be courteous roads users and to cycle in accordance with the Highway Code.

2. Storage

In order to help with this cycle policy the school provides a safe place for bikes to be stored. (Pupils/parents/guardians are responsible for the locks for the bike). Any issues regarding pupils cycling to and from school are to be raised with the headteacher.

Partnership with parents and a clear understanding of responsibilities will help to support safe cycling. While the school provides a cycle storage area and cycle training for older children, the decision to allow a child to cycle to school rests with parents. We strongly recommend

that all children who cycle to school are accompanied by an adult, until such time as the parent is confident the child has the knowledge and skills to be allowed to cycle unsupervised.

3. Liability and insurance

Schools are not liable for property brought onto their premises, and are therefore not liable for pupils' bicycles being stolen or damaged by a third party while they are at school. The school's insurance does not cover cycles on the premises, so parents are advised to make their own arrangements. Responsibility for children while they are on their way to or from school rests with parents. The school can take no responsibility for the safety of children outside school. We recommend that cycles are clearly marked or post-coded and that all equipment is named.

4. Maintenance checks

Cycles ridden to school should be fully roadworthy and properly maintained.

Regular checks should include:

- both brakes working
- tyres pumped up, and wheels not wobbling sideways
- handlebars and saddle straight and tight
- front and rear reflectors and wheel reflectors
- both lights working

5. Safety

We strongly recommend that all children wear helmets when cycling. These should fit well and conform to current British standards. We also recommend the use of high visibility garments such as jackets or tabards. Lights should be in good working order. All cyclists should be aware of the rules of the Highway Code that relate to cycling and should follow these at all times. We suggest that parents identify the safest cycling route to school with their children and point out particular hazards and danger points.

Useful Website

www.bikeability.com www.transportforlondon.com

6. Scooters and Shoes with Wheels

Children riding scooters to school will be expected to follow the requirements of this policy. Shoes with wheels are NOT permitted at school under any circumstances.