

Cavendish P.S. Riding to School Policy

POLICY

Rationale:

Students travelling to and from school, as well as at school need to be safe. Bicycles are popular means of transport for students, but require regulation and management.

Research studies and empirical evidence strongly suggest that children do not have the requisite sensory, physical and cognitive skills to ride a bicycle unsupervised in traffic before the age of nine.

Aims:

- To provide a school environment which is safe for students, which is practical, and balances the rights of individuals with the schools duty of care toward all staff and students.

Implementation:

Bicycle Riding to and from School

Parents/carers are responsible for children riding bicycles to and from school. Many children have learned to ride a bicycle before they are nine and often ride in non-traffic situations such as on bike paths and open spaces and in low traffic situations, for example, on local roads. However, parents and care-givers should be advised of the risks of letting young children ride on the road and it is strongly recommended that such riding activities be supervised by adults.

Generally speaking, children under the age of twelve do not have the neuro-physiological and psychological development to cope with complex traffic situations on their own.

Road safety authorities recommend that before the age of nine or ten years children should not ride a bicycle in traffic without adult supervision.

Depending on their cycling skills and experience, some children over this age may still require supervision.

Children under the age of twelve may ride on footpaths as may a supervising adult. They are required to give way to pedestrians and to wheel their bicycles over pedestrian and children's crossings. Children aged twelve years or older are required by law to ride on the road.

Cavendish P.S.

Our school will provide safe storage for bicycles ridden to school by students under the following conditions:

- Students wear helmets
- Bicycles are in road worthy condition
- **Children under the age of 10 years ride to school in the company of an adult.**
- Bicycles cannot be ridden inside the school grounds at any time.
- Students who break school rules will be managed in a manner consistent with the student discipline policy.
- All parents will be made aware of these school rules, and the safety reasons supporting them.

- Students who contravene these requirements but ride bicycles to school, cannot bring their bicycles onto school property or store their bicycles at school.

Helmets

Parents and students should be reminded that the law requires that all cyclists wear an approved bicycle helmet. Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS 2063) and will be marked as suitable for cycling.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

June 2015



Cavendish Primary School is committed to Child Safety – We have a zero tolerance for child abuse.