

CARRICKFERGUS MODEL SCHOOL



ROAD SAFETY POLICY

**(INCLUDING PARKING, TAXI SAFETY
AND
SUSTRANS ACTIVE TRAVEL)**

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Road Safety Policy

INTRODUCTION

Carrickfergus Model Primary School is situated on the main Belfast Road which is heavily utilised by all forms of road vehicles especially during rush hour periods. The rear gate opens on to Maritime Way. Parking facilities are limited within the grounds of the School and no parents' cars enter the grounds at collection/drop off times. Because of the school's proximity to heavy traffic, road safety is a priority within the school's curricular provision and communication with home.

SCHOOL AIMS

- To promote, support and resource road safety within all Key Stages;
- To effect a reduction in the number and severity of casualties and fatalities particularly among young children in the future through Road Safety Education;
- To encourage parental responsibility and awareness; and
- To liaise with local residents; and
- To liaise with the local authorities ie PSNI, DOE, DENI and TRANSLINK.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR ROAD SAFETY

- To reduce the risk of a road traffic accident involving the children, the School is open from **8.00am** to facilitate a safe delivery of pupils by parents at their convenience. It is imperative that no child is ever left standing outside the school gates. The school's patrol person has been trained by the Education Authority and is on duty from **8.00am – 9.15am** each morning.
- The school patrol person also uses the pelican crossing to escort children and families as there are 4 lanes of traffic on the Belfast Road.
- Barriers are present at either side of the road to prevent young children running out onto the road or falling on to the road.
- There are signs for a school crossing patrol on the Belfast Road to warn approaching vehicles.
- The School is in regular contact with the DOE and PSNI in monitoring the average speed of the road and other road user issues that may affect the school.
- Dismissal at **1.55pm** and **3.00pm** is on the main Belfast Road exit and the rear gate to Maritime Way. Clear instructions have been laid down by the school and NO child should leave the premises until their pick-up arrives. Once outside the school gates, with their parents, children are no longer the responsibility of the school.
- Some of our pupils travel by bus and there are safe procedures in place for the use of public transport.
- Our primary 1 children are taken out of class each year to meet the patrol person and taught how to cross the road safely.
- Parents are consistently reminded about Road Safety Procedures through the newsletter and separate notes as required.
- The School is involved with the Sustrans Active Travel Charity.
- Primary 7 pupils take part in the Cycling Proficiency Scheme.
- Primary 7 pupils take part in the Road Safety Quiz each year.
- Road Safety Calendars are available for each class.
- Assemblies are a good way to extend and reinforce our approach to road safety. Involving pupils in presenting their work on road safety to other pupils, teachers and parents or carers encourages pupils to reflect on their learning in a wider social and moral context, as well as contributing to the development of attributes important for staying safer, such as confidence.

WHAT MAKES ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION EFFECTIVE?

Research shows that road safety education is effective, if, as well as being taught in a practical and active way, it:

- is part of a whole school, whole community, approach.
- is part of a comprehensive curriculum. Many of the skills children learn in road safety education can apply to other aspects of staying safer. For example, understanding simple rules, recognising what can cause harm, knowing who and how to ask for help.
- involves children and young people in real decisions to help them to stay safer. The more children are involved in making decisions to help them to stay safer, the more likely they are to act on their decisions.
- is based on an understanding of their needs and concerns. Some well intentioned safety education can add nothing to children's understanding or skills, while others may be too advanced or too early for them to put into practice. For example, some research suggests that children are not capable of crossing roads unaccompanied until they are around 9 years old. Children may also have other more pressing concerns, such as avoiding bullies, which can override their prior learning about road safety.
- is realistic and relevant to children's lives. Some activities and resources may seem irrelevant to children, and their parents, if they do not reflect their neighbourhood and lifestyles.
- recognises what might make children particularly at risk whether as an individual or as part of a particular community or peer group. Children from the most deprived neighbourhoods are more likely to be injured than other children. They may be more exposed to traffic on a day-to-day basis. If their first language, or their parents' first language, is not English, it can be more difficult for them to understand safety rules. Games which involve risk taking often contribute to the development of friendship groups and can influence the kinds of activities children choose.
- is a partnership. Schools, nurseries and children's centres should work with other agencies such as local authority road safety teams, the police, Fire and Rescue Services and local and national charities, as well as parents and carers by seeking their views, providing information and guidance and involving them in developing and implementing your shared plans.
- develops personal strengths such as self esteem and resilience. Building children's confidence and competence in one aspect of staying safer will help them to use those strengths in other situations, for example at home, when playing with friends.
- is positive and rewards safer behaviour. Modelling, praising and rewarding safer behaviour not only reinforces safety messages, but encourages children to ask adults for help when they feel unsafe. Criticism and indifference may make children uncertain or afraid to ask for our help.

THE CURRICULUM

Schools play an important part in ensuring effective delivery of road safety messages through the revised curriculum and to inform schools about the existing opportunities within the curriculum to highlight road safety.

At Primary level there are a number of specific references to road safety within the primary curriculum and schools should provide a range of activities and learning opportunities in fulfilling these requirements.

The issue of Road Safety is addressed mainly within **PDMU**. Road safety is highlighted within the Minimum Requirements under Strand One: *Personal Understanding and Health* and within the non-statutory statements: *Health, Growth and Change*. It is also highlighted within **The World Around Us** under the statutory requirements of *Movement and Energy*.

CCEA has produced a number of resources to help support teachers in the planning, teaching and assessment of **PDMU** and other areas of learning with refer to Road Safety. These resources include:

- **Living, Learning, Together** for Years 1 – 7;
- **Ideas for Connected Learning (ICLS)** ie ‘School’s Cool,’ ‘Safe and Sound,’ ‘Around the World,’ ‘World in Motion,’ ‘Where I live,’ and ‘Journeys.’
- **Pupil Safety Website:** www.road2safety.org and <http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/early-years-and-primary/>

Other useful websites:

- Brake www.brake.org.uk
- Bikeability www.bikeability.org.uk
- Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) www.capt.org.uk
- Cycle Training UK www.cycletraining.co.uk
- Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) www.dcsf.gsi.gov.uk
- Department for Transport www.dft.gov.uk www.dft.gov.uk/think
www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode/index.htm
<http://talesoftheroad.direct.gov.uk>
- Kerbcraft www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/child/kerbcraft
- Learning outside the classroom www.lotc.org.uk www.roadsafetygb.org.uk
- National Healthy Schools Programme www.healthyschools.gov.uk
- Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS) www.pacts.org.uk
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) www.rospa.com
- Sustrans www.sustrans.org.uk
- THINK! Education www.dft.gov.uk/think/education

CHILDREN WALKING HOME ALONE

From time to time, we are contacted by parents who live near the school or who have a relative living near the school. At Carrickfergus Model we strongly discourage children to walk home alone from school. This is mainly due to the busy Belfast Road. Whilst our patrol person is there to escort pupils and families across the road safely, he is not responsible for children once they have crossed the road. If parents wish their child to leave school unsupervised they must put it in writing to the school Principal. The Principal will then respond on behalf of the Board of Governors. However, no arrangement will be sanctioned by the school, whatever the circumstances and parents will have to consider the risks for their own child.

PARKING OUTSIDE CARRICKFERGUS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parents and visitors must adhere to the following guidelines for parking near the school:

- Parents should not park in the school car park as there are only enough car parking spaces for staff;
- Be courteous to local residents by not parking in designated car parking spaces, not blocking line of sight, not blocking a road by double parking and not blocking driveways;
- Remember that Coastguard Cottages are Private Property;
- Remember that spaces on Maritime Drive are strictly for Residents only;
- Observe double yellow lines;
- Adhere to the speed limit;
- Make sure your car is stopped before letting a child out of the vehicle;
- Use the patrol person at the front of the school;
- Please consider ‘Combo Journeys’ where you and your child could walk from a nearby carpark;
- Please do not U-turn on the Belfast Road;
- Please do not block the main school vehicle gate;

- Do not allow your child to enter school via the vehicle gate as this is very busy in the morning and it may mean that a vehicle has to stop in the middle of the road in front of incoming traffic whilst trying to avoid a pedestrian.

TAXI SAFETY

Taxis must be instructed not to turn in the entrance to the main school staff car park as this is not safe to do so. Taxis must also not block the vehicle gate or any residential entrances on the Belfast Road. The school will contact the PSNI and local taxi companies if this causes difficulty for the school.